

# PORTAGER

*A Natural Place to Move*



## A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

As we enter August and the lazy days of summer I'd like to highlight our focus on the values we hold dear as a community and the allocation of your tax dollars to maintain them. Our determination to ensure that your city remains a safe place to live and raise a family directly influences the spending of your tax dollars. Of course, "safety" comes at a price and the investment in our Portage Department of Public Safety is proof of our commitment.

Of the total dollars in our Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund, almost half – \$17.5 million – is spent supporting your Department of Public Safety. Our Police Division, comprised of 76 people, accounts for two-thirds of the Public Safety budget. The Fire Division which employs 42 full-time employees and two paid-on-call firefighters, consumes the remaining third. Two Chaplains support these 96 men and 24 women, for a grand total of 122 employees. All are led by Director of Pubic Safety Nick Arnold.

Our Fire Division responded to over five thousand calls last year. Most were for rescue/emergency medical services. Fighting fires is a critical aspect of this department and the trucks needed to support them are extremely expensive. For example, a ladder truck costs \$2 million and has a life span of 20 to 25 years. Our most recent purchase, which is still on order, will include a 100' extension ladder and will allow our firefighters to reach multiple floors. The investment in a new Fire Station No. 2 enables us to offer critical on-site training for confined spaces, rope rescues, standpipe operations, and ladder use. Our Fire Division is part of the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. This is a statewide agreement that

allows us to receive and provide mutual aid to other fire departments throughout Kalamazoo County.

Our Police Division responded to almost 40,000 calls last year. The majority of those calls were the result of property crimes, retail fraud, larcenies and stolen vehicles. Our department is accredited by the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, a comprehensive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performance. The foundation of the accreditation lies in the voluntary adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Through self-analysis, we review our existing operations and adapt them to meet the highest standards. When the procedures are in place, an independent team verifies that the procedures have been successfully implemented.

Each of our officers is fully committed to participating in continuous training with firearms, search and rescue, deescalation, and virtual reality APEX simulation throughout the year. Our vehicles are purchased on a rotating basis; each patrol car is retired after three years (the equivalent of 120,000 miles). To help protect citizens and emergency responders, all Public Safety personnel now use the newest and latest 800 MHz radio system, which allows for state-of-the-art communication. Each officer is also now wearing new "Axon Body Worn" and employing "In-Car Camera Systems" purchased this year. They replaced the technology purchased in 2016, which is now outdated.

Quietly – and loyally – supporting our first responders in the shadows is our "Triple R Trio" K-9 unit. Each is a Hungarian-born, Belgian Malinowski/Sheppard mix and is bilingual (German and English). Riggs, the most senior canine officer, is now six years old. Rhett is three years old. I'm also proud to announce the addition of our newest addition to the

K-9 force: Ronan, who is but one year old. All of the canines are "dual-purpose K-9s," meaning they are trained in both narcotics detection and patrol work. Their skills include article searches, and tracking within an area and inside buildings.

Each canine officer is assigned their own handler; they live together and work the same shifts. The cost of each dog is \$9,300 and the training is an additional \$4,800. They earn their keep by assisting in the apprehension of criminals, detection of drugs, and through the overall support of our entire police division. Their reputations are built over many years and they are retired between the ages of six to nine, depending upon the health of the animal.

Please join me in thanking local Portage business Hounds & Co. Pet Supply for coordinating with a supplier to provide all of the food for our canine officers at no cost to the city!

Of course, I also wish to thank each of the retired men and women who have served within our Portage Public Safety Department. They dedicated their careers to building the solid foundation upon which our officers continue to follow and benefit from. The professionalism within our Public Safety Department is demonstrated throughout each and every day. Each has made a solemn pledge to uphold the law, protect citizens, and serve with integrity and courage. Per their ethics pledge, their badge is not a sign of authority, but rather a symbol of trust. Whether it is an officer who independently buys food for a family living in their car, offers a teddy bear to a traumatized child, or replaces a stolen bike, our officers are second to none.

Thank you, Public Safety Officers and staff, for doing your part each and every day to keep us safe and support the foundation of our healthy community!

– Patricia M. Randall

## City Council Updates Sign Ordinances

The City of Portage recently adopted significant amendments to the city's sign ordinances, aimed at enhancing community aesthetics and safety. These changes, approved by the City Council, address the proliferation of yard signs and extend the allowable period for election-related signage. Here's a breakdown of what these changes mean:

### Prohibition of Signs on Public Property

The City Council amended Chapter 66 of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit the placement of signs on public property and impose fines for entities and individuals who repeatedly violate the ordinance. This measure was introduced to address the increasing number of yard signs that clutter public spaces, particularly along busy roads and intersections. These signs detract from the visual appeal of our community and pose safety hazards for city staff tasked with removing them.

#### Key Points:

- » No person or entity may place – or cause to be placed – any sign within a right-of-way (street, curb lawn, easement), public park, or any other public property.
- » Enforcement will start with a warning letter. Fines will be imposed for repeat offenders: \$50 for the first offense within a year, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.
- » This amendment aims to maintain the cleanliness and safety of our public spaces, reducing the risk to city staff and preserving the community's aesthetic appeal.

### Extension of Sign Display Period

In a separate amendment to Chapter 42 of the Land Development Regulations, the City Council extended the period during which temporary yard signs can be displayed. Previously, such signs could be installed up to 30 days before an election. The ordinance revision extends this period to 45 days, aligning with the absentee ballot mailing schedule.

#### Key Points:

- » Temporary signs can now be installed on private property 45 days before an election and must be removed within five days following an election.
- » The change accommodates the state's absentee regulations, which allow ballots to be mailed 40 days before an election for the general public and 45 days for military personnel.
- » This adjustment helps residents participate in the democratic process by allowing earlier promotion of candidates and issues, ensuring ample time for community engagement.

The City Council, Planning Commission, and City Administration have carefully considered these amendments, taking into account the needs of the community and the operational challenges faced by city staff. These changes reflect the City of Portage commitment to maintaining a safe, clean, and vibrant environment for all residents.

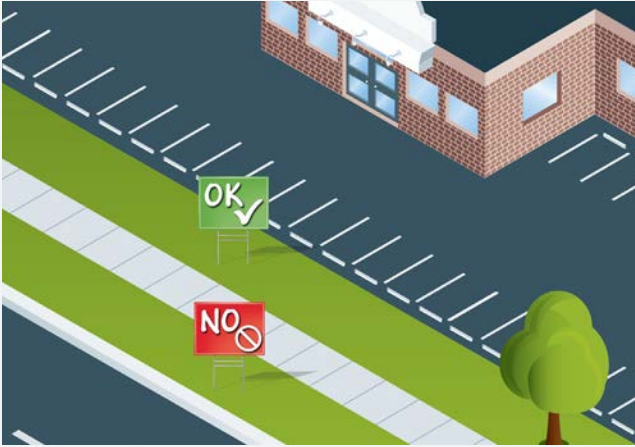
### Temporary Sign Placement and Size

- » Temporary signs cannot be placed in the right-of-way or project into it. This generally means you cannot place signs on the street side of the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, the right-of-way generally extends 33 feet from the center of the street, although this may vary depending on the road.
- » Temporary signs must be placed on private property and only with the permission of the property owner.
- » Temporary signs in **residential districts** cannot exceed six square feet in total. A permit **is not** required for this signage.
- » Temporary signs in **commercial districts** cannot exceed 40 square feet in total. A permit **is** required for this signage.
- » During an election period, temporary signs in **all districts** cannot exceed 40 square feet in total and are allowed 45 days before an election and up to five days after an election. A permit is **not** required.

Signs placed outside of these guidelines may be removed by the city without notice and will be immediately disposed.



Temporary signs in residential districts cannot be placed in the right of way and cannot exceed six square feet. During an election period, signs can total up to 40 square feet, are allowed 45 days before an election and must be removed within five days following the election.



Temporary signs in commercial districts cannot be placed in the right of way and cannot exceed 40 square feet. During an election period, signs are allowed 45 days before an election and must be removed within five days following the election.

To report an illegal sign, visit [reportit.portagemi.gov](https://reportit.portagemi.gov) or use the **MIPortage** app; select the "Illegal Sign" category. Upon receiving a report of an illegal sign, the city will schedule and inspection, remove the illegal sign, and determine if enforcement is warranted.

Questions concerning sign placement can be directed to the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.



# City Council Approves Lakefront Neighborhood Zoning Amendment

In 2023, the Portage City Council set a priority to “...provide specific relief to land use challenges in lake neighborhoods.” In response, the City Administration introduced the Lakefront Neighborhood Ordinance Amendment, which was approved by the City Council on July 9, 2024. The amendment implements key changes to zoning regulations for lakefront neighborhoods, addressing identified land use challenges and aiming to enhance the living environment for residents. Following extensive community engagement and research, the amendment introduces several key modifications to the current zoning code.

## Overview of Changes

### Lake Viewsheds and Flexible Yard Setbacks

**Previous Regulation:** Most lakefront houses could have a rear yard (lakefront) setback of 40 feet. Substandard lot sizes were allowed a reduced rear yard setback of 30 feet.

**New Amendment:** The rear yard setback reduction for substandard lot sizes has been eliminated, maintaining a consistent 40-foot setback for all lots. This establishes a consistent viewshed (the area of the lake visible from

a location) for all along the lake. To offset that increased setback for those substandard lots, buildings may now be allowed closer to the street, with a 20-foot minimum front yard setback instead of 25 feet. Additionally, the amendment prohibits the artificial raising of grades which has led to cases of new houses creating a shadow or canyon effect on adjacent houses and affecting the viewshed of neighbors.

### Detached Garage Setbacks

**Previous Regulation:** Existing detached garages could not be rebuilt if they were closer than 25 to 27 feet to the road, depending on the lot size.

**New Amendment:** The amendment introduces flexibility, allowing garages to be rebuilt at least 20 feet from the front property line if rebuilt with the door facing the street, or at least 15 feet from the front property line with the door not facing the street.

### Driveway Regulations

**Previous Regulation:** Driveways had a maximum average width of 24 feet for lot widths of 100 feet or less, and 30 feet for wider lots. And all driveways could not exceed 50% of the front yard area.

**New Amendment:** Driveway width is now standardized to a maximum average of 30 feet and may exceed the

previous 50% rule. In some cases, additional drainage plan requirements may apply. The changes allow for the use of alternative materials like pervious pavers to allow greater flexibility in material choices and help lessen drainage problems which can be caused by wider driveways.

## Community Engagement

The amendment process began in the fall, with city staff researching past variance requests and development patterns. A public meeting was held in January, along with an open house and a survey, to gather input from lakefront property owners. The feedback received was instrumental in shaping the proposed changes.

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment during a public hearing on May 16, 2024, and voted unanimously to recommend its adoption to the City Council. The council’s approval marks a significant step forward in addressing development challenges and improving living conditions in Portage’s lakefront neighborhoods. These changes reflect the city’s commitment to balancing residents’ concerns with sustainable growth and development in lakefront areas.

Please contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 with questions concerning the Lakefront Neighborhood Ordinance Amendment.

# Stanwood Crossings, a New Workforce Housing Development

In the Lake Center District, the City of Portage and its development partner, AVB, are planning to create a new neighborhood called Stanwood Crossings. The 14-acre parcel owned by the City of Portage is located between Woodbine Avenue and Stanley Avenue and will consist of 45 owner-occupied detached single-family homes. The project’s focus is to develop a first-class middle-income neighborhood thoughtfully designed to create a sense of place and encourage community. The Stanwood Crossings workforce housing community is one way the city can address the lack of homes that teachers, police officers, and firefighters, and many others in our community can afford.

Tracy Cross & Associates, Inc., a professional market research group, completed the development’s housing market study, which recommends four floor plans:

- » Two ranch-style floor plans will range from 1,200 to 1,350 square feet consisting of two- or three-bedrooms with two bathrooms
- » Two 2-story floor plans will range from 1,500 to 1,640 square feet consisting of three bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms.



Photos for illustrative purposes only.

All four plans feature attached 2-car garages. Tree-lined entry roads will create a welcoming atmosphere, with access from both Stanley and Woodbine avenues. Stanwood Crossings will connect to Lakeview Park and Lake Center Elementary via a walking trail and bike path along Portage Road.

The anticipated cost to build each home will fall in the \$300,000 range. Homes will sell to households earning 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The formula for pricing units will accommodate annual mortgage costs of not more than 30% of the owners’ annual income. The AMI range is adjusted by the number of people living in a household. For example, the target 2024 AMI for a single person is from \$56,480 (80%) up to \$84,720 (120%), while a two-person household would make between \$64,560 (80%) up to \$96,840 (120%). A four-person household would make from \$80,640 (80%) to \$120,960 (120%). The price reduction

will be mainly offset by the Homes for All millage, passed in 2020 by Kalamazoo County voters. Already, the county has awarded a \$3 million millage grant for this project. The use of a long-term community land trust will preserve the affordability of the community for future homeowners.

Stanwood Crossings will be developed over several phases with tentative start in 2025. The first home sites will be on Stanley Avenue, which is already served by existing infrastructure. The intent is to release 12 new homes on a rolling basis until completion. AVB and city staff are working on the application to be submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council for rezoning, from R-1B to Planned Development. The project will be subject to upcoming public hearings.

The City of Portage remains committed to ensuring that the housing supply in Portage will meet local demand and is safe, attractive, and well maintained. The 2022 Attainable Housing Plan defines the role the City of Portage will play in the coming years to meet housing expectations and attract investment, with a focus on three ideals; 1) the people who work in Portage should be able to live in Portage, 2) Portage citizens should be able to age in Portage and remain in stable housing, and 3) affordable housing should be promoted up to 120% of AMI.

## Master Plan Public Hearing

The City of Portage is in the final stages of updating its Master Plan, which will serve as a dependable policy guide for future land uses and development. As the final step, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 15, 2024, and vote on the formal approval of the draft Master Plan. Portage residents are urged to attend the public hearing.

The draft **Portage Forward Together 2045 Master Plan** includes an updated future land

use plan, among other planning elements, and is intended to respond to the current and future needs of the city. Throughout the 18-month pro-

cess, residents and stakeholders communicated their vision for the city and identified what issues are most critical to address in the future. The 63-day comment period will close on August 6. View the draft plan and submit comments at [ForwardTogether.portagemi.gov](https://ForwardTogether.portagemi.gov). You may also email comments to [feldte@portagemi.gov](mailto:feldte@portagemi.gov).

Please contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 for more information.



## Portage Public Safety Foundation Golf Outing



### Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Help us help our hometown heroes! The Portage Public Safety Foundation (PPSF) is excited to announce its annual golf outing on September 16, 2024, at the beautiful Angels Crossing Golf Club in the Village of Vicksburg. We invite you to participate through sponsorship and donation opportunities, with various levels of support available.

Last year’s Inaugural Golf Outing raised more than \$11,000 through 24 amazing sponsors and 88 golfers! Don’t miss your chance to support the mission and efforts of the Portage Public Safety Foundation. Available sponsorships range from a \$100 hole sponsor to a \$5,000 elite event sponsorship.

For registration, sponsorship, and donation information, scan the QR code or visit [www.birdease.com/PPSFCALF](https://www.birdease.com/PPSFCALF).

Learn more about the PPAF at [www.portagepsfoundation.org](https://www.portagepsfoundation.org).



## Drop Unwanted Meds in the Red Med Box

Do you have unused or expired medication? Please do not dispose of it in the trash or flush it down the sink or toilet. Instead, contribute to safeguarding the environment from contaminates and the community from prescription abuse, addiction, and overdoses. You can do this by depositing your medications into the Red Med Box, situated at the Portage Public Safety Headquarters on 7810 Shaver Road. You can access the Red Med Box from Monday to Friday, between 8 AM and 4 PM. The contents of the Red Med Box are incinerated for destruction.



### Accepted Items

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| » Expired and unused medications  | » Medication samples                 |
| » Over the counter medications    | » Pet medications                    |
| » Antibiotics and steroids        | » Medicated ointment, lotions, drops |
| » Cold and flu medication         | » Unopened Epi-Pens                  |
| » Vitamins and herbal supplements | » Liquid medications                 |

### Unaccepted Items

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| » Needles, lancets, syringes               | » Empty containers                      |
| » Thermometers                             | » Personal care products                |
| » IV bags                                  | » Used Epi-Pens                         |
| » Bloody or infectious waste               | » Aerosol cans                          |
| » Hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, etc. | » Electronic devices (diabetes testers) |
| » Business waste                           | » Inhalers                              |

The Red Med Box program is a collaboration between local law enforcement agencies, the Kalamazoo Household Hazardous Waste Center, the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force, and other community partners. To learn more about the program, call the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center at 383-8741 or the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force at 388-4200.

The Red Med Box is for use by individuals. Commercial business use is strictly prohibited due to limited available space.



# YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK



## An Ode to Summer at the Farmers Market

*Sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, potatoes,  
What’s not to love about summer?  
Early apples, green beans, cucumbers, salad things  
Lots of things to love about summer.  
Cantaloupe, carrots, beets, zucchini great for homemade treats,  
That’s what we love about summer.  
Sundays are fun days, with music, art and the sun’s rays  
What’s not to love about summer?*

All these items and more are available at Portage Farmers Market, bringing you the best of summer every Sunday from 9 AM – 1 PM at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue), now through October 13. Follow us on Facebook @PortageMarketMI or Instagram @PortageMarket.

## Geo Mystery Tour: Nature Invaders

Invaders are infiltrating our natural areas, and we need your help to stop them. Join the Geo Mystery Tour to uncover the secrets of Portage. Each session reveals a new mystery, and it’s up to you to solve it. Adventures can be joined at any time but must be completed by the end of the month. An Apple or Garmin device is highly recommended. GPS coordinates and instructions will be emailed to registered participants at the start of each session or within a week of registration.

- » August 1 - 31
- » Portage Parks
- » FREE (Registration required)

## Creative Corners

This art program is tailored to students with special needs. Participants follow the lead artist while adding their artistic flare. The one-hour session will explore a different theme or artistic medium to develop participants' artistic expression and voice. Space is limited. Please wear clothing that can get messy, as students will be exploring with differing mediums. The program fee covers art supplies and tools.

- » **Tie Dye:** Thursday, August 1, 6 - 7 PM
- » **Rock Painting:** Thursday, August 15, 6 - 7 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$5 per participant, per session (Registration required)

# YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW

## Zen & Zest: Yoga & Spirits

Unwind and indulge in our Yoga & Spirits class in the serene PZSC Courtyard. Enjoy an hour of gentle yet invigorating yoga, perfect for all levels, followed by a complimentary alcoholic beverage. Join us to stretch, relax, and raise a glass to your well-being!

- » Friday, August 9, 11 AM - 12 PM
- » \$10 Members / \$15 Non-Members (Registration required)

## Gratitude: A Path To Grace

Unwind with uplifting stories and songs at our special event featuring local author and musician Annie Rettic. She will share a chapter from her new book, Gratitude: A Path to Grace, and sing songs from her album Heartstrings. The event concludes with a Q&A and gratitude sharing. Experience positivity and grace in a welcoming atmosphere.

- » Tuesday, August 20, 2 – 3:30 PM
- » FREE (Registration required)

## Portage Parks & Recreation Events, Camps & Classes

1,000 Acres. 20 Parks. One City.

To find out more and register online, visit [mypark.portagemi.gov](http://mypark.portagemi.gov) and click the REGISTER NOW! button.

REGISTER NOW!

## Summer Concert Series

Make memories with your friends and family at the Summer Concert Series. Bring a chair or blanket for lawn seating and leave yourself a little room to dance! Admission is FREE to the Summer Concert Series, thanks to our series sponsor, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

### The Motortown All-Stars: A Motown Tribute

This show is jam-packed with impeccable harmonies, dazzling choreography, and those timeless Motown grooves that everyone knows and loves.

- » Thursday, August 8, 7 PM
- » Overlander Bandshell (7810 Shaver Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)

### Kanin Wren’s Taylor Swift Experience

Kanin Wren showcases her versatility and talent as she flawlessly navigates through Swift’s extensive catalog and 4+ costume changes to guide you through the Eras.

- » Thursday, August 29, 7 PM
- » Overlander Bandshell (7810 Shaver Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Movie at the Beach

Put your feet in the sand and stretch out under the stars for *Finding Nemo*, a FREE family-friendly movie, at Ramona Park Beach. The movie begins at dusk. Bring a blanket or chair for beach seating. Stop by the Beach Bonfire for s’mores.

- » Saturday, August 10, Dusk (approx. 9 PM)
- » Ramona Park Beach (8600 South Sprinkle Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Kingpins Drumline

Students with special needs are invited to participate in a five-week drumming program tailored for performers of different abilities. Drumming provides a thrilling outlet for each participant. Students learn to listen and follow suggestions, and how to work together. Students are guided through each one-hour session.

- » Tuesdays, August 13 - September 10, 6 - 7 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » FREE (Registration required)



Finding Nemo



## Friday at the Flats

Join us for the last Friday at the Flats of the summer. Enjoy dinner from a variety of food trucks and live, local musicians. Seating is limited, but lawn space is plentiful, so bring a blanket or chair. Connect with your family and friends at Celery Flats through food, live music, and fun.

- » Friday, August 23, 4:30 - 8:30 PM
- » Celery Flats Pavilion (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Movies in the Park

Unwind with your family at the Celery Flats Historical Area for a FREE evening of family entertainment under the stars! Join us as we screen *The Lego Movie* at dusk. Bring a blanket or chair for lawn seating. Before the movie, stop by the Friday at the Flats event from 4:30 to 8:30 PM, where you can enjoy delicious food from local food trucks, or feel free to bring your own snacks.

- » Friday August 23, Dusk (approximately 9 PM)
- » Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## School of Fish: Fishing with Rangers

Join Portage Park Rangers for a fishing session at Lakeview Park! Suitable for all levels, from beginners to seasoned anglers. Enjoy boardwalk and dock fishing. Participants under 17 must be with an adult with a valid Michigan fishing license; those 17 and older need their own. Bring your fishing pole; live bait is provided.

- » Sunday, August 25, 2:30 - 3:30 PM
- » Lakeview Park (9345 Portage Road)
- » \$10 per participant (Registration required)

## Oktoberfest! Hosted by the Portage Parks Foundation

Grab dinner and a German beer, enjoy LIVE music from local Polka musicians, and participate in a one-mile Family Fun Run. The biergarten opens at 4 PM with non-alcoholic options also available. Enjoy “Scoop the Balloonatic” balloon artist, a kids inflatable obstacle course, and more. Your support of Oktoberfest benefits the Portage park system with ADA accessible swings, bike repair stations, scholarship programs, and trail endowments.

- » Saturday, September 14, 4 - 9 PM
- » South Westnedge Park (9010 South Westnedge Ave)
- » FREE - Purchase food and drink on site



The Lego Movie



## Portage Zhang Senior Center Events, Activities & Classes

Explore More. Have Fun. Live Well.

Find us at 203 East Centre Avenue | [mypzsc.portagemi.gov](http://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.

## Modge Podge Terra Cotta Pots

Join us for an exciting make-and-take craft class! You’ll use decoupage techniques, decorative paper, and a 6” clay pot to create a unique, personalized planter. Each participant will receive an herb or small plant with soil to complete their creation. All materials are included in the registration fee.

- » Tuesday, August 20, 1 - 3 PM
- » \$25 Members / \$30 Non-Members (Registration required)

## Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office

The Secretary of State Mobile Office is returning to the Portage Zhang Senior Center! The mobile office can process many transactions, including State IDs, driver and vehicle transactions, license plate renewals, and voter registration. Schedule your appointment today.

- » Wednesday, August 21, 10 AM - 3 PM
- » Registration required



## ThinkFirst to Prevent Falls

Join us for “ThinkFirst to Prevent Falls,” a free two-hour presentation on fall prevention for older adults. Topics include overcoming fear of falling, home and community safety, and exercise. Attendees will receive resources for advanced classes, exercise programs, and community support. Sponsored by Bronson Methodist Hospital.

- » Thursday, August 22, 1- 3:30 PM
- » FREE (Registration Required)

## The Golden Age of Building in Kalamazoo

Join us at the PZSC as Lynn Houghton, Director of The Zhang Legacy Collections Center at Western Michigan University, gives an interesting and educational presentation on the building boom in Kalamazoo during the 1920s and the people behind it.

- » Thursday, August 29, 2 - 3:30 PM
- » FREE (Registration required)





AUGUST 2024

# PORTAGER

## State Primary Election – August 6

The Office of the City Clerk is preparing for the State Primary Election to be held on August 6, 2024. This state primary election lets registered voters select a candidate to be a political party’s candidate for elected office to run in the General Election in November. Voters can visit the Michigan Voter Information Center website to view a sample ballot at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“What’s on the Ballot?”**

On Election Day, all City of Portage polling places will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM. The City of Portage has 19 voting locations.\* Where you vote depends on where you live. If you are unsure of your polling location, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“Your voter information”** or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4511.

\*Reminder: Polling locations formerly located at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church and any Portage Public Schools locations have been relocated to new sites.

Michigan Voter Information Center



[mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote)

## You Graduated! What’s Next?

### Be Part of the Next Voting Wave

Did you graduate from high school this year? If so, you are likely eligible to vote in Michigan. The State Primary election will be held on August 6, and the nationwide General (Presidential) Election is November 5, 2024.

Voting is a powerful way to make your voice heard, and registering to vote is easy. Just follow these five simple steps:

1. **Meet the Requirements**
  - » **U.S. Citizen:** You must be a U.S. citizen.
  - » **Age:** You must be at least 18 years old by Election Day.
  - » **Residency:** You must be a resident of Michigan and the City of Portage.
2. **Check Your Registration Status**
  - » **Already Registered?** Confirm your status at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“Your voter information”**.
3. **Register to Vote Online**
  - » **Not Registered?** Register online at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“Preregister or register to vote online”** (see registration deadlines to the right).

#### 4. Be Aware of Important Dates

- State Primary Election:**
- » **Election Day:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024
  - » **Registration Deadlines:**
    - By Mail/Online: **Deadline passed.**
    - In-Person at City Clerk’s Office: Now through Election Day on August 6.

- General (Presidential) Election:**
- » **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024
  - » **Registration Deadlines:**
    - By Mail/Online: Monday, October 21, 2024
    - In-Person at Clerk’s Office: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, through Election Day on November 5.

#### 5. Go Vote!

- » **Find Your Polling Location:** Your voting site is listed on your voter record once you register at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“Your voter information”**.
- » **Learn About the Ballot:** Visit [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote); select **“Your voter information”**. Visit [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to get details on the candidates and questions you’ll see on your ballot.

Make your mark and let your voice be heard in the upcoming elections. Your vote matters!

## Root, Root, Root for BOTH Teams!

Friday nights in the fall can mean only one thing – local high school football! This season, kick off your fall weekends by supporting the Portage Central Mustangs and the Portage Northern Huskies. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 11, when the annual “cross-town rivalry” game takes place.

It doesn’t matter who you root for; just showing up and supporting our local youth is what counts. So, grab your friends and family, wear your school colors, and head out for a night of fun, camaraderie, and unforgettable football moments.

Portage Central Mustangs

2024 Varsity Football Schedule - All Game Times: 7 PM

- » Thursday, August 29 @ East Lansing
- » Friday, September 6 vs Forest Hills Central
- » Friday, September 13 @ Lakeshore
- » Friday, September 20 vs Battle Creek Central
- » Friday, September 27 @ Mattawan
- » Friday, October 4 vs Kalamazoo Central (Homecoming)
- » Friday, October 11 @ Portage Northern
- » Friday, October 18 @ Lakeview-Battle Creek
- » Friday, October 25 vs St. Joseph (Senior Night)

Home Field: McCamley-Knight Field, 8142 South Westnedge Avenue



Portage Northern Huskies

2024 Varsity Football Schedule - All Game Times: 7 PM

- » Thursday, August 29 @ Orchard Lake St. Mary's
- » Friday, September 6 vs Midland
- » Friday, September 13 @ Mattawan
- » Friday, September 20 vs Lakeview-Battle Creek
- » Friday, September 27 vs Gull Lake (Homecoming)
- » Friday, October 4 @ St. Joseph
- » Friday, October 11 vs Portage Central
- » Friday, October 18 @ Loy Norrix
- » Friday, October 25 vs Lakeshore (Senior Night)

Home Field: Huskie Stadium, 1000 Idaho Avenue





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

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## City Closing Notices

Non-emergency city offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Employee Training Day**
- » Friday, August 30
- Labor Day**
- » Monday, September 1

**Regular Business Hours**

- » Monday - Thursday, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- » Friday: 8 AM - 12 PM

## 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.

## 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](https://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](https://www.portagemi.gov/205).

### AUGUST 2024

12	7:00 PM	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
13	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
15	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
27	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 Friday at the Flats in the Celery Flats Historical Area.

PORTAGER Editor  
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