

PORTAGER

A Natural Place to Move



A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

The month of January starts with a holiday celebrated around the world. Fireworks, popping corks and celebrations center on the hope of good things to come. As we flip the calendar, the symbolic act of ending one year and starting another offers everyone a fresh start.

Many use this month to set personal goals to become healthier and to better themselves. Common resolutions include losing weight, getting more exercise and sleep, saving money by spending less, becoming more organized and sharing more quality time with family. We all want to make the most of our lives and the coming year.

Your City Council also sets goals. We strive to continue to deliver the high level of services you expect and deserve while responding to the changing needs of our community. The wheels of government turn slowly, so many of the New Year's goals have rolled forward from the last.

Housing continues to be a priority for both our country and our community. Your City Council is working hard to maintain what we already have, as well as to responsibly construct new units at all price points. Newly approved developments

include Stanwood Crossings, McConley Cove, Oakland Farm, Oakland Crossings and River Caddis. Combined, these projects will offer 321 new housing units. They range in scope from apartments to senior living and even single family homes. Each will sell at fair market value with subsidies available for those meeting the criteria for eligibility.

Plans for the Portage Farmers Market are well underway. The permanent location will surround the Portage Zhang Senior Center. There will be stalls for 50 vendors, eight food trucks and an entertainment area. To preserve your tax dollars, we are not duplicating costly amenities: restrooms and parking already in place at the Portage Zhang Senior Center will be open and made available to visitors to the Farmers Market. The local architect who designed the Senior Center is creating this complementary structure for the summer market, which will also be available year-round for public events.

Revitalization within the Lake Center District is moving forward fueled by an \$11 million investment. This project will improve safety for motorized and non-motorized traffic and support area businesses. This year we will focus on installing a new four-way traffic signal at Forest and Portage Road while making improvements to the Lakeview Park boardwalk. We have also launched a Façade Improvement Program to encourage small businesses along this corridor to invest in their streetscape.

Of course, The Crossroads mall remains a priority despite the fact that it is privately owned. The fourteen acres that housed Sears was sold to Zap Zone last September. That new recreational facility will occupy the entire space. We're continuing to monitor compliance with zoning regulations in this area to encourage future redevelopment.

New in 2025 is the renewal of the street millage originally approved in 2006. This spreads the cost of maintenance and improvements by shifting the financial burden from just individual property owners to everyone. This system has worked well as we continue to pave, chip seal, mill and fill miles of local streets each and every year.

Our system of parks and trails continues to be enjoyed by both residents and non-residents alike. We continue to explore extending our trails to connect area businesses to neighboring communities. As we monitor our parks' usage and offerings, we recognize and acknowledge the potential need for additional pickle ball courts. As trends continue to shift from commercial retail as a destination, we are researching the benefits of embracing recreation-based tourism.

It will be a busy and productive year for our city. Now, as to my personal goals...

Happy New Year, Portage!

– Patricia M. Randall

Portage Road 360

The Portage Road 360 Plan is a comprehensive planning and engineering process focused on celebrating the businesses, neighborhoods, and public spaces along Portage Road. Our goal is to create a safe, walkable, and thriving corridor that offers multiple transportation options for residents and visitors alike.



Isn't there already a plan in place?

Yes! The Lake Center District Corridor and Placemaking Plan, completed in 2021, laid the foundation for improvements, such as adding a traffic signal at Forest Drive, enhancing Lakeview Park, and rezoning the area to encourage a mix of uses. While many of these recommendations are being implemented, creating a truly multi-modal and walkable corridor requires

additional community input to refine the design and focus on roadway improvements. This phase will specifically explore opportunities for transforming the roadway area.

What will we discuss?

A design team has been hired to collaborate with the community to shape a unified vision for Portage Road, spanning from East Osterhout Avenue to East Centre Avenue. Your input is vital! We want to know what works, what doesn't, and how we can make this corridor a destination people want to travel to and within – not just pass through.

How can I get involved?

We need your ideas! Participate in a community event, complete our survey, visit a pop-up event, or join a focus group. Over the next six months, there will be plenty of opportunities to share your input. Remember, we aren't mind readers – if you don't participate, your amazing ideas won't be heard!

January Events

Open House #1: Kick off the discussion with us at our first public engagement event:

- » When: Friday, January 17, 4 - 6 PM
- » Where: Presidential Brewing Company, 8302 Portage Road

Enjoy a casual atmosphere during happy hour while participating in activities like mapping key locations on Portage Road, playing a vocabulary game, and giving feedback on past ideas with a thumbs-up/down exercise.

360 Survey: Share your thoughts by completing our survey!

- » Access the survey here: survey.alchemer.com/s3/8132282/portage-rd-360-survey

- » Or scan the QR code using your phone to get started.

Join us in shaping the future of Portage Road!

Scan to Take the Survey



City to Launch Update to Zoning and Development Regulations

The City of Portage is embarking on a major initiative to modernize zoning, subdivision, and condominium development codes. Over the next 18 months, the city will work to consolidate and streamline regulations into a Unified Development Code (UDC). This update will create a cohesive framework to guide growth and development in Portage for years to come.

The UDC aims to implement key recommendations from the recently adopted Portage Forward Together 2045 Master Plan. Approved by the Planning Commission in August 2024 following an extensive community engagement process, the Master Plan reflects input from scores of residents and sets the vision for Portage's growth over the next two decades.

This ambitious project will address the challenges posed by the city's current patchwork of development ordinances, some of which date back to the 1960s. The new code will help:

- » Preserve neighborhood character while enabling

- thoughtful redevelopment.
- » Expand housing options, including attainable choices like duplexes and town homes.
- » Remove barriers to redevelopment and promote vibrant mixed-use developments in key commercial areas.

Kickoff Events and Community Involvement

The city is partnering with Kendig Keast Collaborative (KKC), a nationally recognized planning and zoning consulting firm, to lead the UDC update. From January 7 to January 10, the KKC team will host a series of events to introduce the process and gather input:

- » City Council Kickoff Presentation: January 7 at 6 PM, City Hall Council Chambers.
- » Planning Commission Overview: January 8 at 6 PM, City Hall Council Chambers.

KKC will also meet with the city's Community Development team, who will oversee the project, as well as key stakeholders familiar with Portage's current regulations.

Portage residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in shaping this vital update. To learn more or express your interest in participating, email damep@portagemi.gov.

City of Portage Prioritizes Housing-Focused Programs in 2025

The City of Portage is continuing its commitment to housing-focused initiatives in 2025. The Human Services Board is reviewing 31 program applications from 20 agencies, with \$216,000 in funding recommendations expected to go to City Council soon.

Planning for the 2025-26 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is also underway, with \$300,000 in anticipated funding. These funds will support critical programs like home repairs for low-to-moderate-income homeowners, neighborhood improvements, and transportation assistance through the Portage Community Center.

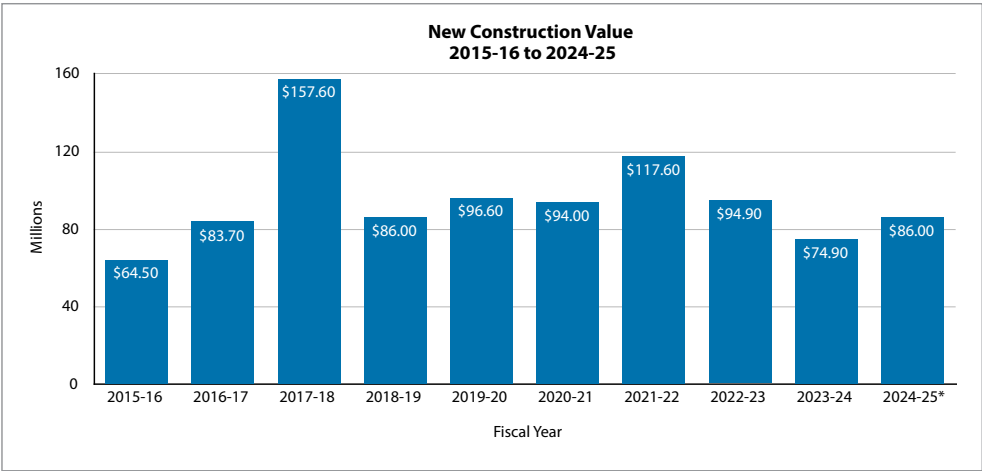
The city is preparing its final Annual Action Plan under the current Consolidated Plan and invites public participation in drafting a new five-year plan. Public comments on the proposed Annual Action Plan will open on February 1, 2025 and can be made by calling the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 or emailing perryt@portagemi.gov. Visit portagemi.gov/260 to view the current Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Investment in the Portage Community Remains Strong

Location, location, location. An often-used cliché, but one that speaks volumes to investors, developers, and the construction industry. The strength of a community can be captured by the opportunities it provides for growth and investment. Portage continues this trend with positive new residential, commercial and industrial reinvestment and development.

Construction activity associated with new and expanding residential, commercial and industrial growth not only identifies a strong economy, but also that of a strong community. Construction activity continues to reinforce economic investment in Portage since FY 2015-16. Between FY 2015-16 and FY 2023-24, construction value averaged over \$96.6 million per year. In 2017-18, the \$157.6 million construction valuation recorded was a record for Portage. Through the first six months of FY 2024-25, over \$42.6 million of new community investment has already occurred.

With a fundamental understanding of common objectives, Portage remains a leading destination for businesses and families to call home. The city’s leadership strives to ensure that the values and goals of the community are successful through civic visioning, long-term planning and implementation direction. Continued large scale construction investment by several entities affirm the continued confidence in the area and its citizens. In turn, these



investments provide for enhanced local employment, diverse housing choices, and a variety of restaurants, retail establishments and recreation facilities that Portage residents have come to appreciate.

For additional information, please call the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

Community Risk Reduction Making Portage Safer for Everyone

Every 23 seconds, a fire department in the United States responds to a fire. Fires claim thousands of lives, cause life-altering injuries, and result in billions of dollars in property damage each year. In 2023, fires led to 3,670 civilian deaths and 13,350 civilian injuries, with nearly 80% of these tragedies occurring in homes.

But fire emergencies aren’t the only risks facing communities. Medical emergencies now account for over 80% of fire department call volumes in many areas, and wild land/urban interface (WUI) fires are an escalating threat, causing multibillion-dollar losses nationwide.

To tackle these growing challenges, fire departments – including the Portage Department of Public Safety – are embracing Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs. CRR is a proactive, data-driven approach that identifies and addresses local risks through strategic resource investments. At its heart, CRR seeks to prevent emergencies before they happen, focusing on five key strategies known as the Five E’s:

- Education • Engineering • Enforcement • Emergency Response • Economic Incentive

By targeting these areas, we aim to reduce the frequency and impact of emergencies, from fires to medical incidents, to make Portage a safer place for all.

CRR Accomplishments This Year

This year, the Portage Department of Public Safety achieved remarkable milestones in Community Risk Reduction:

- » **School Fire Safety Programs:** Educated over 3,700 elementary students with age-appropriate fire safety lessons, teaching them how to stay safe and respond during emergencies.
- » **Smoke Alarm Installations:** Partnered with Michigan’s MI Prevention program to install free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in high-risk Portage homes.
- » **Senior Safety Initiatives:** Conducted disaster preparedness workshops for older adults, providing emergency kits and resources to help them plan for severe weather and other risks.
- » **Pedestrian Safety Campaigns:** Promoted visibility efforts



to ensure safe routes to school, reducing risks for students walking and biking.

- » **Public Education Events:** Hosted the F.I.R.E. Open House, where families learned about fire prevention, emergency response, and careers in firefighting.

These accomplishments were made possible thanks to the unwavering support of our community and partners who share our vision for a safer Portage.

Why CRR Matters to Portage

CRR goes beyond fire safety – it’s about addressing the unique risks that threaten our community. From educating children about fire prevention to equipping older adults for emergencies, CRR helps us proactively safeguard lives and property.

Throughout January, the Portage Department of Public Safety will spotlight CRR initiatives on social media, sharing valuable resources and tips for home safety and emergency preparedness. Each week, we’ll highlight a different element of CRR to empower residents to take small, proactive steps to reduce risks in their homes and neighborhoods.

Together, we can create a safer, stronger Portage. Let’s educate today for a safer tomorrow.

Turning Scraps Into Sustainability

The City of Portage, in partnership with My Green Michigan, is excited to announce the Food Scraps Recycling Program! Designed to convert your food scraps into nutrient-rich compost, this program is a win for the environment and the community.



When you participate, your food scraps are collected and taken to a composting facility where they undergo a natural decomposition process. Over time, microbes break down the organic material, transforming it into dark, crumbly compost that enriches soil, supports plant growth, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. By recycling food scraps, you’re not only creating a valuable resource but also helping reduce pollution, landfill waste, and methane emissions.

Collect your food scraps in a container that works for your home – a lidded bowl, compostable bag, countertop bin, or even a 5-gallon bucket. When you’re ready, drop off your scraps at one of ten conveniently located lime-green bins throughout the

city. My Green Michigan collects the scraps every other Tuesday, turning your waste into valuable compost.

Drop-Off Locations:

- » Westfield Park: 4500 West Milham Avenue
- » Harbor West Park: 3458 Summersong Path
- » Marlow Street Cul-de-sac (near Haverhill Elementary)
- » Portage Creek Bicentennial Park: 910 East Milham Avenue
- » Lakeview Park: 9345 Portage Road
- » Oakland Drive Park: 7600 Oakland Drive
- » Ramona Park: 8600 South Sprinkle Road
- » West Lake Nature Preserve: 9001 South Westnedge Avenue
- » Schrier Park: 850 West Osterhout Avenue
- » Lexington Green Park: 4750 Pittsford Street

Curious about the journey from scraps to soil? Visit mygreenmi.com for an in-depth look at the composting process. For more information, visit portagemi.gov or call 329-4444.

*This pilot program will run through December 2025, after which the city will evaluate results and determine the future of the program.

January Brush Collection & Christmas Tree Recycling

The Curbside Brush Collection Program starts January 6 in Zone 1 and includes whole Christmas trees (free of tinsel and decorations). Place brush and trees at the curb by 7 AM on Monday of your collection week. Each street is cleared once during the designated week. Please clear snow from brush and trees to ensure collection.

Drop-Off Day

The City of Portage Compost Facility at 10905 Oakland Drive will accept brush, leaves, and Christmas trees on Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 9 AM – 1 PM.

Find full details at portagemi.gov/280 or call 329-4444.

Portage Pocket Pay eGift Card



The City of Portage is excited to offer a new, easy-to-use electronic gift card that can be used to SHOP. DINE. PLAY. exclusively at participating Portage businesses.

The Portage Pocket Pay eGift card will keep local dollars in Portage at a growing list of participating merchants. This nonreloadable eGift card is a great option for any celebration and allows you to customize your gift ranging from increments of \$5 to \$250 per eGift card (with an e-delivery fee of \$1 + 5%). Send a digital card instantly to a friend, family member, or colleague and let them explore local favorites, including retailers, restaurants, service providers, and entertainment venues. There is also a Volume Discount

Program for Organizations (businesses, governments, schools, hospitals, or any organization with an EIN) available with special discounts.

To learn more and purchase your Portage Pocket Pay eGift card, visit portagemi.gov/pocketpay. If you would like to sign up your Portage-based business as a participating merchant, contact the Office of City Manager at (269) 329-4404 or email citymanager@portagemi.gov to learn how.

Start using your Portage Pocket Pay eGift cards today at one of the local businesses below.

Participating Portage Pocket Pay Merchants		
Air Zoo	Franco's Italian Pizzeria	Schuring Greenhouse
Alibi	Jac's Cekola's Pizza	The Pantry on Tap
Art Bayou	Liberty Square Furniture	Trove
A'Vie Salon Spa	Monelli's	
ChocolaTea	Presidential Brewing Co.	

NEW TV?

RECYCLE! We accept all types of televisions. Bring us your old ones, projection TVs, and flat screens.

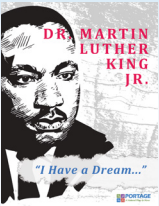
For more information visit our website:
kalamazoo.gov/hhw
or call 269-373-5211.

This service is provided by Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center through a City of Portage dedicated, voter-approved millage.

YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Exhibit

Explore the life and influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and honor his lasting legacy. Visit City Hall in January to celebrate MLK's birthday. View an exhibit dedicated to his work, and explore little-known facts about his influence and work in today's world.



- » January 1 - 31, during normal business hours
- » City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue)
- » FREE (No registration required)

Zoo To You: Animal Habitats

Let the zoo come to you! Explore the wild side of Michigan and learn about animals that might be in your backyard. Remember...your backyard is bigger than you think! Meet ambassador animals from John Ball Zoo in these exciting sessions, each session featuring different animals. The presentation begins at 11 AM; arrive by 10:45 AM to be seated. A chaperone must accompany participants under the age of 18. Children ages 3 or younger may attend for free.

- » Saturday, January 4, 10:45AM – 12 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$5 per person (Registration required, including chaperones)

Stewardship Day

Join the MDNR and Michigan United Conservation Clubs to support the Gourdneck State Game Area, a vital public game area in the heart of Portage that fosters wildlife and vibrant ecosystems. Participate by volunteering to remove invasive plants to create space for native plants to thrive. Supplies for invasive species removal will be provided. Bring weather-appropriate clothing, work gloves, waders, and waterproof boots for working in the wetlands. Be prepared to work outside for a minimum of three hours. Lunch will be provided.



- » Saturday, January 11, 9 AM - 12 PM
- » Gourdneck State Game Area (Hampton Lake Trail entrance off Centre Avenue)
- » FREE (Registration required by January 10)

YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW

AARP Tax-Aide Preparation

AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers will provide free tax preparation and filing services for individuals aged 50 and older, with a focus on assisting low-income taxpayers and individuals with disabilities. This service is open to PZSC members and non-members. Appointments will be available every Tuesday from February 4 through April 15, between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Registration opens on Monday, January 6, at 8 AM. To schedule your appointment, call 329-4555.



Bourbon Brawlers: Men's Self-Defense

This self-defense class empowers men with essential techniques and confidence for real-life situations. Learn skills like striking, blocking, grappling, and situational awareness while mastering threat assessment and conflict de-escalation. The hands-on training provides a supportive space to practice safely. Celebrate your progress with a cheer and a glass of bourbon included in the registration, plus access to a cash bar for additional beverages.



- » Wednesday, January 8, 1 - 2 PM
- » \$15 Members / \$20 Non-Members (Registration required)

Portage Parks & Recreation Events, Camps & Classes

1,000 Acres. 20 Parks. One City.

The Portage Parks system is multi-faceted with activities and opportunities for families and people of all ages. To find out more and register online, visit mypark.portagemi.gov and click



REGISTER NOW!

Easy-Intermediate Line Dancing

Join in on the fun and learn the latest country line dances from instructor Debra Snell. No partner is necessary. Start with basic steps and progress to popular routines. Space is limited to 40 students per session, so sign up today! Participation in Beginning Line Dancing or an equivalent course (as determined by the instructor) is recommended.

- » Thursdays, January 16 - February 27, 6 - 7 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » \$50 per person (Registration required by January 15).

Social Dancing for Couples

Learn to dance together with instructor Debra Snell! These classes cover a variety of dance forms and techniques, helping you and your partner dance with confidence in no time. Each session is limited to 18 couples, so reserve your spot today!

- » Thursdays, January 16 - February 27, 7:15 - 8:15 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » \$50 per person (Registration required by January 15).

Fitness for All Ages

This all-ages fitness course, taught by Debra Snell, is a great exercise for your heart, mind, and body! Try out low-impact aerobics, stretching, and strengthening. **Students must supply their own equipment, such as weights and stretch tubing.** Maximum of 25 participants per session.

- » Thursdays, January 16 - February 27, 4:45 - 5:45 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » \$50 per participant (Registration required by January 15)

YAC Winter Snow Party!

Join the Portage Youth Advisory Committee for some wintertime fun! Bring your own decorated cardboard sled and see if it's the fastest on the hill. Build and dress up a snowman. Prizes will be awarded the fanciest snowman, best sled, and fastest sled. The cardboard sled contest will begin at 1 PM, with the snowman judging following immediately after. Hot cocoa, tea, and snacks will be available.

- » Saturday, February 1, 12 – 2 PM
- » Oakland Drive Park, 7650 Oakland Drive
- » FREE (no registration required)

10th Annual Black History Month Celebration

Jackie Joyner-Kersey: A Trailblazer in Track and Field



In celebration of Black History Month, the City of Portage will host a speaker at the Portage Zhang Senior Center. Our special guest is Jackie Joyner-Kersey, one of the greatest track and field athletes in American history. She is the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the long jump and to compile more than 7,000 points in the seven-event heptathlon. In 1999 she was named the greatest female athlete of the 20th century by Sports Illustrated for Women.

Join the City of Portage as we discover the life journey of Jackie Joyner-Kersey. A question-and-answer session and book/autograph signing will take place after the presentation. A copy of her book, *A Kind of Grace*, can be purchased at the event (limited quantities available; cash only) or you may bring your own copy.

- » Saturday, February 1, 6 PM
- » Portage Zhang Senior Center (203 East Centre Avenue)
- » FREE (No registration required)

Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10K, 5K

Join us for the 13th Annual Winter Blast Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K, organized by the Kalamazoo Area Runners Club and the City of Portage, celebrating community health and wellness. The event takes place on Sunday, February 23, 2025, showcasing the scenic Portage trail system, with a mix of paved bike trails and roads. All races start and finish at Loy Norrix High School (606 East Kilgore Road), where ample parking is available. Enjoy post-race refreshments, entertainment, and awards in the Loy Norrix Gymnasium Atrium. Registration for the Half Marathon will close once it reaches the cap of 1,500 participants.



Scan to Sign Up



- » Sunday, February 23
- » Half Marathon - 8 AM; 5K - 8:10 AM; 10K - 8:20 AM
- » Loy Norrix High School (606 East Kilgore Road)
- » Registration required at runsignup.com/Race/Events/MI/Kalamazoo/WinterBlastHalfMarathon10K5K

Portage Zhang Senior Center Events, Activities & Classes

Explore More. Have Fun. Live Well.

Find us at 203 East Centre Avenue | 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 adult. **Membership and participation 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.

Memory Café

The Memory Café offers a welcoming space for individuals with memory loss and their care partners to connect, share experiences, and enjoy activities that support cognitive health. These gatherings provide a safe, supportive environment where participants can bond with others facing similar challenges. Activities may include arts and crafts, music, games, and storytelling, all designed to encourage engagement and creativity. By fostering socialization and reducing isolation, the Memory Café aims to enhance the well-being of both individuals with memory loss and their caregivers. This program, presented in partnership with the **Memory Care Learning Center**, is led by skilled staff and dedicated volunteers.

MEMORY CARE
LEARNING CENTER

- » Wednesday, January 8, 10 - 11:30 AM
- » Free and open to the public (Registration required)

American Red Cross Blood Drive

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, January 17, 12 - 6 PM
- » Register at 353-6180 or redcrossblood.org

Beat the Chill! Winter Warriors Dance Party

Get ready to turn up the heat at our Winter Warriors Dance, where the chill of winter meets the warmth of a tropical fiesta! Swap your winter layers for flip-flops, Hawaiian shirts, and summer vibes as we bring the tropics to life. Dance the night away to upbeat music, soak in the lively atmosphere, and enjoy delicious drinks and snacks. It's the perfect opportunity to shake off the winter blues, make memories with friends, and celebrate in sunny style. We can't wait to see you there – let's make it a night to remember!



- » Thursday, February 6, 4 - 6 PM
- » \$10 Members / Non-Members (Registration required)

Changes to the Absentee Voter Application Process

Michigan voters now have the option to request absentee ballots for all future elections with a single request, thanks to Proposal 22-2, passed in November 2022. This eliminates the need for the previous “Permanent Absentee Voter Application List,” which allowed voters to receive absentee ballot applications before every election.

Starting January 1, 2025, the Portage Office of the City Clerk will no longer mail absentee ballot applications for each election. However, voters can still apply for absentee ballots for individual elections as needed.

To join the Permanent Absentee Ballot List and receive ballots automatically for all future elections, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at mi.gov/vote or stop by the Portage Office of the City Clerk.

Please call the Portage Office of the City Clerk at 329-4511 if with any questions.

THANK YOU to Our Election Poll Workers!

Now that the busy election year of 2024 is behind us all, the city would like to take a moment to extend its heartfelt thanks to the dedicated citizen election workers who ensured its success. The year featured three elections in the City of Portage and the smooth execution of this important democratic process is no small feat. The hard work, professionalism, and unwavering commitment of poll workers to our community deserve recognition and appreciation.

On Election Day, poll workers rise early and work long hours, greeting voters, assisting them with the voting process, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. Their dedication ensures that our elections remain accessible, transparent, and secure. In the face of long hours and, at times, difficult situations, these workers consistently demonstrate patience, professionalism, and a sense of civic duty that we should all aspire to and admire.



2025 Dog License Renewal

Renewing your Kalamazoo County dog license just got easier! In partnership with the City of Portage, Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement now offers a [convenient online option for purchasing or renewing your 2025 dog license](https://www.kalcounty.com). Visit [ase.kalcounty.com](https://www.kalcounty.com) to:

- » Update your contact information
- » Submit proof of sterilization and rabies vaccination
- » Upload a photo of your pet
- » Make payments securely online



In-Person License Purchases

For those who prefer to handle renewals in person, the City of Portage Treasury Office (7900 S. Westnedge Ave) will continue to sell dog licenses. Please note that City of Portage staff can assist with processing license sales but cannot answer detailed questions about the licenses. For specific inquiries, contact Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement (KCASE) at 269-383-8775.

Fees for dog licenses (set by Kalamazoo County Animal Control):

- » \$16 for spayed/neutered dogs or dogs under one year old
- » \$46 for dogs that are not spayed/neutered and over one year old

To renew your dog’s license:

- » Bring your pre-printed renewal form from Kalamazoo County Animal Control.
- » Provide a current rabies vaccination certificate (vaccination receipts are not valid).

For first-time licenses, bring:

- » A current rabies vaccination certificate
- » Proof of spaying/neutering from your veterinarian
- » Payment Options

Accepted payment methods include:

- » Cash
- » Check (payable to the City of Portage, subject to electronic funds transfer)
- » Credit/debit card (with a 3% convenience fee, minimum \$2.95, charged by Invoice Cloud)

Treasury Office Hours

- » Monday through Thursday: 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- » Friday: 8 AM - Noon
- » Closed, Monday, January 20

The last day to purchase or renew your 2025 dog license at the City of Portage is February 28, 2025.

7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160
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 the following dates:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
» Monday, January 20

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.

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 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.

JANUARY 2025

2	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
7	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
13	7:00 PM	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
16	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
21	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.

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