



AUGUST 2025

# PORTAGER

*A Natural Place to Move*



## A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

Any idea what Presidents Calvin Coolidge, Grover Cleveland and Andrew Johnson all have in common? The answer is that each started their political careers as Mayors. Who knew?

Calvin Coolidge served as Mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts in the years 1910-1911. He became president when President Harding died of a heart attack in 1923. From Mayor to President took him only thirteen years. Grover Cleveland served as the Mayor of Buffalo, New York from 1881-1882. In three short years Cleveland catapulted to being the President in 1885. He was both the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, becoming the first president to serve nonconsecutive terms. Andrew Johnson served as Mayor of Greenville, Tennessee from 1830-1833.

He succeeded President Lincoln immediately following his assassination on April 15, 1865.

As with so many journeys, connecting with others on a similar path is helpful. This includes being a Mayor. The Michigan Association of Mayors (MAM) is a nonpartisan organization of Michigan’s chief elected officials. It represents over 120 Michigan cities, townships and villages. The organization facilitates and promotes Mayors connecting with one another to share ideas, advance interests and work towards common goals. MAM also works with the Michigan Municipal League advocating for local issues at the state and federal levels through additional political channels.

The City of Portage will host the annual MAM Summer Workshop, August 6 to 8 at the Portage Zhang Senior Center and the Air Zoo. Food will be provided by locally owned restaurants, with entertainment at our Portage Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series. We will showcase our

new senior center and present how Portage embraces our elderly as an “age-friendly” community. We do it well and hope that our success will jumpstart similar projects and policies in other communities throughout the state.

Other topics include addressing housing needs and emergency response plans. All communities are dealing with housing shortages and the tornado taught us much about being prepared for emergencies. I will share how Portage dealt with the aftermath of the 2024 tornado and our rebuilding process. In just one year we have made great progress!

I am proud of our city and the many things we have achieved. Showcasing our list of successes here in Portage with Mayors from across the state should bring us all pride. The path from the Mayor’s office to the White House seems a longer journey today. And, frankly, I am not interested.

– Patricia M. Randall

## Portage Road 360 Final Open House

Online Feedback Due August 14



The Portage Road 360 project is entering its final phase, and community feedback continues to play a vital role in shaping the future of this important corridor.

Residents are invited to review the latest preliminary design plans and share their input online through August 14. Comments collected during this period will help project engineers refine the next round of designs ahead of the final Portage Road 360 Open House.

Submit your feedback and explore the interactive map at [portagemi.gov/PR360Comments](https://portagemi.gov/PR360Comments) by Wednesday, August 14.

### Final Open House: September 25

The final Portage Road 360 open house will take place on Thursday, September 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Portage Zhang Senior Center, 203 East Centre Avenue. The event will showcase updated concepts for all three sections of Portage Road (North, Core, and South) and mark the last major opportunity for public input before the design process concludes.

### Highlights from Open House #4

The most recent open house, held on June 18, welcomed more than 70 residents who explored draft plans and visited

interactive stations focused on multi-use paths, intersection improvements, green infrastructure, landscaping, lighting, and other design strategies.

Community members expressed strong support for:

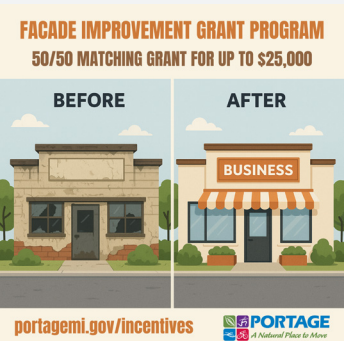
- » Shared-use paths for pedestrians and cyclists
- » Lower speed limits and safer crossings for people and cars
- » Improved lighting and district identity features
- » Enhanced landscaping
- » Green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioretention for storm drainage
- » Amenities like benches, bike racks, refuse containers, and public art.

All feedback – both in person and online – is helping shape a safer, greener, and more connected Portage Road.

## New Grant Funds Available for Business Landscaping Improvements

The City of Portage has expanded its Facade Improvement Grant Program to now include landscaping as an eligible expense. This enhancement to the program allows commercial property owners an additional opportunity to improve the appearance and curb appeal of their businesses while contributing to the overall vibrancy of the city.

The Facade Improvement Grant Program is available to retail, restaurant, service, and office businesses throughout Portage. The competitive grant provides a 50/50 matching reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for qualified street-facing



our commercial corridors,” said Jonathon Hallberg, Deputy Director of Economic Development. “Adding landscaping as

improvements. In addition, up to \$2,500 in architectural fees may be reimbursed without a match requirement.

“This expansion helps us better support business owners who are investing in their properties and, by extension, the vibrancy and appeal of our commercial corridors,” said Jonathon Hallberg, Deputy Director of Economic Development. “Adding landscaping as

an eligible expense gives property owners even more tools to create inviting, high-quality commercial spaces.”

The program is designed to support exterior upgrades that enhance the visual character of Portage and strengthen its economic base. Projects may include new facade materials, signage, windows, lighting, and now, landscaping that improves street presence.

Funds are limited, so interested businesses are encouraged to apply soon. Program guidelines and applications are available online at [portagemi.gov/incentives](https://portagemi.gov/incentives). For additional information, contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4474.

## Help Shape Plans for Housing and Community Needs in Portage

The City of Portage is launching a six-week public survey to gather input for an update to its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Five-Year Consolidated Plan. This plan guides how the city invests federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support affordable housing and community development needs.

The Consolidated Plan helps the city assess local needs – such as housing affordability, services for people experiencing homelessness, and support for residents with special needs – and use that information to make data-driven decisions. Topics addressed in the plan include lead-based paint hazards, public and assisted



housing, and access to services.

Public input is critical to ensuring the plan reflects real community priorities. The survey will be open from July 28 to September 6, 2025, and can be accessed at [surveymonkey.com/r/D2XTH9L](https://surveymonkey.com/r/D2XTH9L) or by scanning the QR code.

After the survey period ends, a draft version of the Consolidated Plan will be created and shared for public comment. Two public hearings will also be held to gather feedback. All residents are encouraged to participate in this important process.



For more information about the City of Portage CDBG Program or the Consolidated Plan, contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

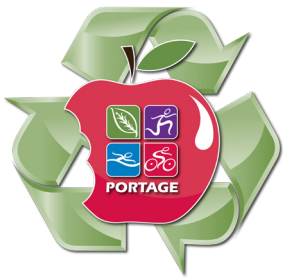


## POCKET PAY Merchant Spotlight

Love Muffins is a women- and family-run bakery rooted in Portage, offering premium, handcrafted muffins and cakes made from scratch using real, locally-sourced ingredients. Our signature recipe for our OG Carrot Cake was created by my late mother and serves as the heart of our brand. Every batch we bake is a tribute to her legacy and a reflection of the values she instilled in us: love, excellence, and community. You can find our products in stores near you by visiting [lovemuffins.us/locations](https://lovemuffins.us/locations) or place a custom order by clicking “Shop Now!”

Portage Pocket Pay BOGO 50% in Bonus Value through October 31. Visit [portagemi.gov/pocketpay](https://portagemi.gov/pocketpay) to purchase your eGift cards.





# Food Scraps Recycling Pilot Program: Midway Update

Can you believe it’s already been six months since the City of Portage launched the Food Scraps Recycling Pilot Program on January 6, 2025? Thanks to your overwhelming support and participation, the program has expanded beyond expectations. Due to high usage, additional bins were added at several park locations, and collection frequency increased from bi-weekly to weekly (every Friday). Your efforts are making a real difference!

Here’s how much organic material has been diverted from the landfill so far:

Park Location	Total Weight (Average)
Oakland Drive Park	7,268 lbs
West Lake Nature Preserve	4,110 lbs
Portage Creek Bicentennial Park	4,108 lbs
Schrier Park	4,108 lbs
Westfield Park	4,108 lbs
Lakeview Park	4,108 lbs
Harbor West Park	3,950 lbs
Marlow Street/Haverhill	3,793 lbs
Lexington Green Park	3,636 lbs
Ramona Park	2,370 lbs

That’s over 41,500 pounds of food scraps composted – reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extending the life of landfills, and helping build healthy Michigan soils. Your composting efforts are equivalent to NOT driving 41,226 miles.

**Reminder:** “When In Doubt, Leave It Out!”

To keep the program successful, please avoid placing the following in the bins: Plastic, metal, cardboard, glass, condiment packaging, bleached paper, and pet waste.

The Food Scraps Recycling Program will be evaluated at the end of 2025 to determine its long-term future.

To learn more, including what’s accepted, where to drop off scraps, and how composting helps the environment, visit [portagemi.gov/993](https://portagemi.gov/993).

## Keep Portage Safe – Dispose of Meds Responsibly

Have unused or expired medications? Don’t toss them in the trash or flush them. Improper disposal can harm the environment and contribute to prescription drug misuse, addiction, and overdose.

Instead, safely dispose of your medications in the Red Med Box, located at the Portage Public Safety Headquarters (7810 Shaver Road). The Red Med Box is available Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 4 PM. All collected items are securely incinerated to ensure safe destruction.

### Accepted Items

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



### Unaccepted Items

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

## WE RECYCLE LEFTOVER POOL CHEMICALS.

**For more information visit our website:**  
**[kalcounty.com/hhw](https://kalcounty.com/hhw)**  
**or call 269-373-5211.**

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
Health & Community Services Department

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

# 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](https://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.

### Travel Presentation

Ready to plan your next adventure? Join Tracey Schenk from **Premier World Discovery** for an exciting look at upcoming trips for 2025 and 2026. Tracey will showcase memorable 2025 highlights like the scenic Sierra Snow Train and the iconic Rose Parade New Year’s celebration. Then, get inspired by the 2026 lineup, featuring destinations such as Ecuador & the Galapagos, Arizona Spring Training, Athens & the Greek Islands, West Virginia Rails & Williamsburg, Utah’s National Parks, and the stunning Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park. Whether you’re looking for a domestic getaway or an international escape, Premier World Discovery has something for everyone.

- » Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 10 AM
- » FREE (Registration required)

### The Stories Behind the Hits Songs: 1957-67

Every hit song has a story – how it was written, how the artist was chosen, how it skyrocketed to success. Join Randy Shau in this lively presentation to explore the fascinating backstories of about 15 memorable songs, featuring legends like Elvis, Ricky Nelson, The Chiffons, The Beach Boys, and The Beatles. Along the way, you’ll hear stories that connect to other iconic tracks, bringing the total to 35 different songs played throughout the session. To keep things fun and interactive, test your musical memory with a few lighthearted quizzes. This event is open to the public!

Note: This is a brand-new version of the class originally presented in 2022, featuring an entirely different lineup of songs.

- » Wednesday, August 13, 2 - 4 PM
- » \$3 Members / \$5 Non-Members (No registration required)

### Ukulele Class

**Instructed by: Josh Holcomb**

Learning a new instrument is good for your health and has many health benefits including increased eye-hand coordination, lower stress levels, improved brain function, focus, and mental clarity. Join us for a six-week ukulele class for **all levels** – beginners and those who have previous ukulele experience. Learn chords, and techniques and learn to play ukulele songs. All materials, including ukuleles, will be provided for students during the class. Participants are welcome to bring their own ukulele; however, ukuleles are available for use on loan if needed. This event is open to the public!

\*Financial assistance for members is available - call 329-4555 to learn more.

- » Thursdays, August 21- October 2 (No Class 9/18), 12:30 - 2 PM
- » \$80 Members / \$90 Non-Members (Registration required)

NEW!

### Trivia Night

Join us for a fun and laid-back Trivia Night where it’s all about good times and friendly competition! Whether you bring a crew or come solo, everyone’s welcome – no team required. Test your knowledge across a mix of categories, from pop culture and history to random facts you didn’t know you knew. It’s the perfect chance to challenge your brain, meet new people, and maybe even win a prize or two. Come for the trivia, stay for the fun! Light snacks and water provided. Cash bar and pop available for purchase. This event is open to the public!

- » Thursday, August 28, 4 – 6 PM
- » \$10 Member / Non-Member (Registration required)

### Grief Support Group

**Death of a Spouse or Partner**

This four-week series is for anyone mourning the death of a spouse or significant other. Led by Mary Beckley-Clark, MSW, a licensed grief support counselor, this series provides an opportunity to learn how to cope with grief and begin the process of healing in a small group setting. Centrica Care Navigators is partnering with the Portage Zhang Senior Center to provide a comfortable and accepting environment where you’ll find support and meet others who are making a similar journey. Space is limited.

- » Mondays, September 8 - 29, 10:30 AM - 12 PM
- » FREE (Open to the public, Registration required)



### Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office

The Secretary of State Mobile Office is coming back to the Portage Zhang Senior Center! This convenient mobile office can help you with all sorts of transactions, like getting your State ID, taking care of driver and vehicle services, renewing your license plates, and registering to vote. If you’re looking for a quick and friendly experience, we’d love for you to schedule an appointment with us!

- » Thursday, September 18, 10 AM - 3 PM
- » FREE - SOS fees apply (Registration required)



# YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

## Summer Concert Series

Headliner: The Windbreakers

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of live music at the Overlander Bandshell! The Windbreakers take the stage at 7 PM, bringing their signature blend of high-energy yacht rock, classic rock anthems, pop favorites, and modern hits that are guaranteed to get you dancing. Kicking things off at 6 PM is local favorite Mike Talbot, delivering a soulful set of Americana and timeless classics to set the mood.

Come hungry – Top Shelf Catering and Coffee Rescue will be on site serving a variety of mouthwatering eats. Don’t forget your lawn chair or blanket for the perfect spot on the grass.

Enjoy beer and wine provided by the Portage Parks Foundation, with all proceeds supporting our city’s park system. It’s the perfect way to spend a summer evening in Portage. Don’t miss it!

- » Thursday, August 7, 7 - 9 PM
- » Overlander Bandshell (7810 Shaver Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Portage Cornhole League

Join the fun in this lively, low-impact, recreational cornhole league. Over eight weeks, players will rotate partners and opponents, ensuring every game stays fresh and exciting. This league is limited to 20 participants, ages 18 and up.

- » Thursdays, August 7 - September 25, 6 - 8 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » \$40 per participant (Registration required)

## Adult Softball League: Fall Ball

Step up to the plate and join our adult slow-pitch softball league where friendly competition, fun, and community spirit come together for a great time on the field. We offer co-ed teams on Mondays and Tuesdays, and men’s teams on Wednesdays and Thursdays, providing a fantastic opportunity for players of all skill levels to enjoy friendly competition in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Experience the fun of softball in the heart of our city. Sign up today at [CityBallSports.com](#) and be part of the excitement!

- » August 18 - September 29
- » South Westnedge Park (9010 South Westnedge Avenue)
- » Registration required by August 4



## 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!

## Yoga in the Park: Gentle Flow Yoga

Join us for this four-week yoga class in collaboration with **Intentional Yoga**. Focus on building strength, stamina, and balance while improving flexibility, endurance, long-term health, and stress reduction. Bring your own yoga mat and wear comfortable exercise clothing. Suitable for all skill levels, ages 14 and up.

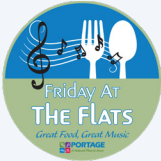
- » Thursdays, August 21 - September 11, 10 - 11 AM
- » Central Park (7810 Shaver Road)
- » Rain Location: Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$65 per participant, per session (Registration required)

## Friday at the Flats

“Where great food, music, and community come together!”

Come join the fun at Celery Flats for a rousing evening of food, music, and community! Gather your crew and savor the mouthwatering offerings from our food truck lineup while dining alfresco as local musicians set the mood. Peruse the local vendors on the historic side of Celery Flats while touring the historic buildings. The August line-up includes Dog Patch Lullaby playing bluegrass at 5 PM and Feel Frieda, an electric and eclectic fun mix cover band at 6:45 PM.

- » Friday, August 22, 5 - 8 PM
- » Celery Flats (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



## Movies in the Park

A *Minecraft* Movie

Settle in under the twinkling stars for a delightful summer evening filled with fun, relaxation, and a touch of movie magic. Bring a blanket or some comfy chairs to spread out on the lawn and feel free to come dressed as your favorite character. The first 240 kids get a MineCraft Mini Activity Pack and the first 400 people get a pair of Pixel sunglasses!

- » Friday, August 22 at dusk (approximately 9 PM)
- » Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



## Kingpins Drumline Performance

Feel the Rhythm with the Kingpins Drumline! Don’t miss the Kingpins Drumline as they deliver a high-energy LIVE percussion performance for family,



friends, and fans! Celebrate the incredible talent of these inspiring performers with special needs as they take the stage for their grand finale following a five-week drumming program. Stick around after the show and enjoy local musicians and food trucks at Friday at the Flats.

- » August 22, 4:30 - 4:50 PM AND 6:15 - 6:45 PM
- » Celery Flats (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Beach Bonfire & Movie at the Beach

This beloved summer tradition includes s’more-making supplies for a sweet ending to a perfect night. Beginning at dusk (approximately 8:30 PM), relax under the stars with the heartwarming movie, **Finding Nemo**. Bring a blanket or chair for comfortable beach seating.



- » Saturday, August 23, 8 PM
- » Ramona Park Beach
- » FREE (No registration required)

## Ranger Hike

Bat Bonanza

Join Portage Park Rangers for an evening hike to explore the wonderful world of bats. Observe young bats in flight, uncover how they navigate their environment, and learn the secrets behind their night-flying abilities. Become a bat detective and experience the thrill of listening to supersonic bat calls!

- » Friday, August 29, 7:30 - 9 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » FREE (Registration required by August 28)

## Stewardship Day

Roll up your sleeves and gain hands-on experience in land stewardship by removing invasive species like Glossy Buckthorn. Your efforts will help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) create space for native plants to thrive. Bring your work gloves and gear and come ready to make a difference! Close-toed, waterproof footwear, waders, and waterproof pants are highly recommended. Be prepared to work outdoors for at least three hours. Lunch and all necessary supplies for invasive species removal will be provided.

- » Saturday, August 30, 9 AM - 12 PM
- » Gourdneck State Game Area off Centre Avenue
- » FREE (Registration required)

## Celebrate the Bounty of Summer at the Portage Farmers Market

August is peak season at the Portage Farmers Market, and the stalls are overflowing with the freshest produce of the year! Visit every Sunday through October 12, from 9 AM to 1 PM at Portage City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue.



This is the best time for Michigan-grown favorites like sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, peaches, blueberries, and melons, perfect for grilling, snacking, and summer recipes. You’ll also find fresh bread, honey, jams, sauces, meats, eggs, cheese, flowers, and handcrafted goods from local vendors.

Each market day features LIVE music, food trucks, family fun, and a welcoming community vibe. Soak up the summer atmosphere – and if you’ve got a reusable bag, bring it along for a more eco-friendly market trip. (Note: Dogs are not permitted in the market due to State of Michigan food safety regulations.)

Whether you’re a regular or a first-time visitor, August is the perfect time to explore all the market has to offer!

## Oktoberfest

In the spirit of the German culture, break out the lederhosen and prepare to *tanzen* (dance)! Oktoberfest, presented by the Portage Parks Foundation, is back and better than ever on Saturday, September 13, at South Westnedge Park. Savor the flavors of mouthwatering German cuisine that will have your taste buds yodeling, then raise your stein and sip an authentic German beer that’s as crisp and refreshing as an Alpine breeze.



Get your dancing shoes on to groove to the Bruce Packard Polka Band with some familiar favorites! Be sure to hit up the cornhole boards and challenge your friends to some epic matches and be the first to make a cornzizzle. Don’t miss this unforgettable celebration of food, drink, music, and fun! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring your appetite and your party spirit! Mark your calendar for THE event of the season! *Prost* (cheers) to an evening of fun!

Proceeds from this event directly support the maintenance, improvement, and beautification of local parks, trails and green spaces for all to enjoy.



- » Saturday, September 13, 2 - 7 PM
- » South Westnedge Park (9010 South Westnedge Avenue)
- » FREE (No registration required)

## New Recreation Management Software Launching September 1

Big changes are coming to how you interact with Portage Parks & Recreation! Beginning September 1, the City of Portage will transition to a new Recreation Management Software: CivicRec. This user-friendly system will replace the current platform, Active Network, and will be used to reserve rental facilities, register for programs and events, and manage your Parks & Recreation account more efficiently than ever before.

CivicRec will offer a modern, streamlined experience, making it easier to browse activities, complete reservations, and track your participation, all from your phone, tablet, or computer.

In the coming weeks, we’ll be sharing more details to help you get started, including how-to guides, helpful tips, and reminders. Be sure to follow us on social media, check the City of Portage website, and look for updates in the September issue of the *Portager* and the Fall/ Winter Parks & Recreation Guide.

Stay tuned as we roll out this exciting upgrade, just in time for a new season of activities, events, and adventures in Portage Parks!



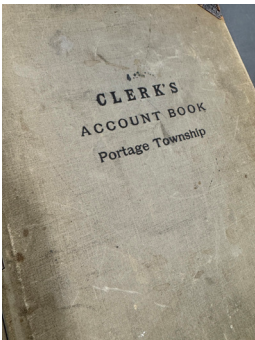
## Historic Portage Documents Find Permanent Home at Library

City of Portage history has a new home on Library Lane! For decades, some of the city’s most important historic documents have lain idle in the Office of the City Clerk, including commemorative issues of the now defunct Portage Gazette, handwritten notes taken by the 1963 Charter Commission, and even township board minutes from the 1840s.



Recently, the City Clerk donated a collection of these documents to the Portage District Library. These important artifacts of Portage’s past will be accessible in the Portage District Library’s Historical Room for readers, researchers, and anyone curious about the development of our city’s government. Stop by and travel through time during normal library hours.

Want more information on city records, or looking to make history yourself as part of our Advisory Boards & Commissions? Contact the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4511 or visit [portagemi.gov/158](http://portagemi.gov/158).



## Portage Public Safety Foundation Seeks Sponsors for Annual Golf Outing

The Portage Public Safety Foundation will host its Annual Golf Outing on Monday, September 15, 2025, at Angels Crossing Golf Club in Vicksburg. Team slots are full, but sponsorship opportunities remain available ranging from \$100 Hole Sponsors to \$5,000 Elite Event Sponsors.

**Family Hole Sponsorships – Show Your Support!**  
Want to honor a loved one, recognize a first responder, or simply show your family’s support for public safety? Family Hole Sponsorships are available for just \$100! Sponsor, donate, or learn more at [birdease.com/PPSF](http://birdease.com/PPSF) or visit [portagepsfoundation.org](http://portagepsfoundation.org).

The Portage Public Safety Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supports the Portage Department of Public Safety by funding essential, unfunded equipment and program not covered by the general fund budget.



## One City, Two Teams, Endless Pride

Friday nights in the fall mean one thing in Portage – high school football under the lights! This season, show your community pride by cheering on the Portage Central Mustangs and the Portage Northern Huskies. Whether you’re a lifelong fan or new to the stands, there’s nothing like the energy of a hometown game.

The highlight of the season? The annual “cross-town rivalry” game between the Mustangs and Huskies, happening on Friday, October 10. It’s more than just a football game – it’s a Portage tradition that brings neighbors, students, alumni, and families together for an unforgettable night of school spirit and community unity.

It doesn’t matter which team you root for – what matters is supporting our student-athletes, marching bands, cheer squads, and everyone who makes these Friday nights so special. So, gather your friends, don your school colors, and be part of the excitement!

**A friendly challenge is coming your way tied to the October 10 rivalry game – watch for details in the September *Portager*!**

**Portage Central Mustangs**  
**2024 Varsity Football Schedule**  
**All Game Times: 7 PM**

- » Thursday, August 28 vs East Lansing
- » Friday, September 5 @ Forest Hills Central
- » Friday, September 12 vs Lakeshore
- » Friday, September 19 @ Battle Creek Central
- » Friday, September 26 vs Mattawan
- » Friday, October 3 @ Kalamazoo Central
- » Friday, October 10 vs Portage Northern
- » Friday, October 17 vs Lakeview-Battle Creek
- » Friday, October 24 @ St. Joseph (Senior Night)

**Home Field: McCamley-Knight Field, 8142 S. Westnedge Ave.**

**Portage Northern Huskies**  
**2024 Varsity Football Schedule**  
**All Game Times: 7 PM**

- » Thursday, August 28 vs Orchard Lake St. Mary’s
- » Friday, September 5 @ Midland
- » Friday, September 12 vs Mattawan
- » Friday, September 19 @ Lakeview-Battle Creek
- » Friday, September 26 @ Gull Lake
- » Friday, October 3 vs St. Joseph
- » Friday, October 10 @ Portage Central
- » Friday, October 17 vs Loy Norrix
- » Friday, October 24 @ Lakeshore

**Home Field: Huskie Stadium, 1000 Idaho Ave.**

**PORTAGE**  
*A Natural Place to Move*

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
KALAMAZOO, MI  
PERMIT NO. 33

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



### City Closing Notices

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

**Labor Day**  
» Monday, September 1

**Employee Training**  
» Wednesday, September 3  
Closed: 7:30 AM - 12 PM  
Open: 12 PM - 5:30 PM

**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](http://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://portagemi.gov/205).

### AUGUST 2025

7	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
12	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
21	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
26	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 Fish Camp at Ramona Park on Long Lake.

PORTAGER Editor  
Mary Beth Block | [blockm@portagemi.gov](mailto:blockm@portagemi.gov)