

# PORTAGER

*A Natural Place to Move*



## A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

With some misinformation circulating about the new single-hauler waste collection contract, it's important to set the record straight. Here are the facts:

The City Council voted unanimously to accept a cost-effective "single-hauler" bid for garbage, yard waste and recycling from Waste Management (WM). The factors and timeline of how we arrived at this decision are important.

Contracting with a single-waste hauler to service every residential home within a community is not a new concept. In fact, according to a 2023 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) study, 64% of the people in Michigan live in a community using a single hauler. Ironically, private developments in Portage, such as condominium associations, have long used a single hauler, as they recognized the many benefits and bargaining power they collectively had.

For decades the Portage City Council has been considering various options for managing garbage. Our City Charter clearly states "Collecting and disposing of garbage and rubbish" falls under the city's authority. Voters approved a millage for recycling in 1990. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and five companies bid on that new curbside recycling program. The first contract was awarded to Michigan Disposal. Over the course of 35 years, the city issued nine contracts or extensions for recycling. Numerous companies won and lost the bids including Michigan Disposal, BFI, Allied Waste, Republic Services, and Best Way Disposal. All but one were three-year contracts with the option of renewal, based on satisfactory service. In 2015, Best Way Disposal was awarded a nine-year contract with the city. The duration of

the contract was debated by the City Council as it was three times the duration of any prior contract. Best Way insisted on the extended contract to cover their start-up costs.

Garbage companies exercise a common practice known as "the variable pricing model." This basically means they can charge a different price for the same service. In 2023 the city conducted a study and discovered massive disparity in pricing. Residents were paying between \$12 and \$99 a month for garbage pick-up! How can this be fair?

So, in October 2023, the City Council amended the Code of Ordinances to require waste haulers to publicly disclose the fees they charge. This was met with tremendous push back by the companies. In the end, new customers benefited, and existing customers did not. The great disparity of pricing was not addressed.

Which brings us to January of this year: The city issued an RFP for a single hauler for ALL waste (trash, yard and recycling) collection for the entire city. Each of the three waste hauling companies that responded already serves as the single hauler in other communities, so they understood the concept and the importance of submitting their most competitive bid. These are the numbers we received.

Single Hauler Waste Collection Bid Tabulation			
Monthly Charges	Best Way	Republic	WM
Garbage	\$17.12	\$14.95	\$14.04
Yard Waste	\$21.84	\$20.06	\$10.50
Recycling*	\$5.46	\$4.61	\$4.69
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$44.42</b>	<b>\$39.62</b>	<b>\$29.23</b>

\*Residents pay for recycling through property taxes and will not receive a bill from WM.

As with any RFP, whether a traffic light installation, engineering, mowing, plowing, printing or paving, we look at each bid in its entirety to secure the maximum benefit

for the public dollar. Note: the city does not have a "local preference" clause in selecting bids, and if we did, it would only allow for a very limited weighting in favor of local businesses.

WM will begin as our single hauler for all trash, yard waste and recycling starting on March 1, 2026 with a five-year contract, with price increases limited to 4% annually. Garbage for ALL households will be \$168.48 annually (billed quarterly). For those wanting the yard waste service, the cost is \$84 annually. Recycling will be paid as it has since 1990, through the voter-approved millage. (See page two to learn how the city will manage the transition of services.)

Not only will residents collectively save millions of dollars annually, other significant benefits include:

- » Free pick-up of one bulk item every week, year-round.
- » All city dumpsters will be serviced for free.
- » Fewer garbage trucks (up to 80 tons when full) will extend the life of our roads.
- » Less noise and safer streets on pick up days

There will be no charge for your old containers to be picked up or new ones delivered. Your City Council is well aware that this is a major change and is focused on maintaining the same quality of service residents are accustomed to. We are committed to making this a smooth transition. I recognize that change can be hard, but the RFP process the city used was no different than in the three and a half decades prior.

In summary, a single-hauler waste collection program will save residents money, reduce road wear, lower environmental impact, improve efficiency, and provide a uniform and fair service for all.

I call that a big win-win for our community.

– Patricia M. Randall

## A Permanent Home for the Portage Farmers Market



Since its start in 2016, the Portage Farmers Market has grown into one of the city's most popular community gathering spaces. What started with just 12 vendors and about 5,000 visitors each season now draws over 30 vendors and more than 30,000 patrons annually.

Every Sunday, May through October, the Portage Farmers Market brings together local farmers, specialty food producers and artisan entrepreneurs offering fresh produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, cheese and dairy, flowers, handmade crafts, gifts, and prepared foods. The market not only supports local growers and small businesses but also helps build community connections. It participates in four state and federal food assistance programs, provides live music at every market, and continues to expand its role as a vibrant gathering place where neighbors meet and families spend time together.

To support this remarkable growth, the City of Portage is investing in a permanent home for the market. On September 23, 2025, City Council approved the purchase of three open-air pavilion structures through a cooperative purchasing agreement. This \$1.39 million purchase represents a significant savings from the original \$2 million estimate. As part of the project, the city acquired a .03-acre parcel from Comerica Bank for \$1. While not essential to construction, this .03-acre parcel will provide a more efficient site

layout, enhance the market experience for visitors, and simplify property boundaries for both parties.

Construction will be completed by a contractor selected through the city's sealed bid process, ensuring both fiscal responsibility and quality craftsmanship. The new market will be located on East Centre Avenue, just west of the Portage Zhang Senior Center and will feature:

- » 50 covered vendor stalls
- » ADA-compliant pedestrian walkways
- » A performance space for musicians
- » Picnic tables and eating areas
- » Space for three food trucks

Once complete, the new space will allow the market to operate more efficiently, protect vendors and customers from the elements, and provide additional amenities to enhance the overall visitor experience.



Funding for the project includes \$1.75 million from the State of Michigan, a pledged \$1 million gift from a local philanthropist (pending City Council approval of a naming agreement), and \$750,000 from

the city's Capital Improvement Program. The combination of state support, local philanthropy, and city investment demonstrates broad community commitment to the long-term success of the market.

Construction will begin this fall, with the new Portage Farmers Market scheduled to open in spring 2026. This project ensures

that a beloved community tradition will not only continue but also thrive in a permanent home designed to serve residents and visitors for decades to come.



## Have Your Say! Environmental Board Survey

The Portage Environmental Board wants to hear from you! The volunteer board dedicated to:

- » Promoting sustainable practices
- » Protecting natural resources
- » Shaping environmentally conscious policies



Your input is vital! Whether you care most about clean energy, recycling, green spaces, or environmental education, this quick survey is your chance to weigh in.

Scan the QR Code or visit [surveymonkey.com/r/2662CVX](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2662CVX) and take the survey today. It only takes a few minutes!

Your feedback will guide future initiatives and programming, and build a greener, healthier Portage.



## POCKET PAY Merchant Spotlight

**Michiganders Windycity Dawghouse** is a family-owned, family-run restaurant specializing in Chicago style street food. Being from Chicago, we're loud, a bit chaotic, and ready to make you family the minute you walk through the door.

Everything we serve is made in house or brought from Chicago in order to deliver a true authentic taste. We are Southsiders (Go White Sox!) and have based several of the items on our menu off our favorite places from the city including Riccobene's and Jim's original. We are open from 11 AM to 7 PM Tuesday through Sunday and are located at 8712 Portage Road.



[portagemi.gov/pocketpay](https://portagemi.gov/pocketpay)





# City Council Approves Single-Hauler Waste Collection Program

## New Service to Launch March 1

Beginning March 1, 2026, the City of Portage will transition to a single-hauler waste collection system for residential services – trash, yard waste, and recycling. This new program is designed to lower costs, keep pricing more predictable, transparent, and consistent for residents, improve service, and reduce heavy truck traffic on neighborhood streets.

This change does not apply to commercial services. Apartment complexes and condominium/duplex associations with private contracts for waste hauling (that use steel dumpsters vs. individual carts) will continue their current service without interruption.

WM will serve as the exclusive provider of trash, yard waste, and recycling services in Portage. Households will be charged \$14.04 per month for trash service (billed directly to the resident by WM quarterly at \$42.12 per quarter). Those who subscribe to yard waste service will be charged \$10.50 per month, (billed directly to the resident by WM seasonally at \$84 for the service period of April 1 – November 30). Recycling services will continue to be funded through the

voter-approved millage and are included in property taxes.

Trash and yard waste will be collected weekly, while recycling will be collected every other week. No changes to existing neighborhood collection days are expected, however some minor adjustments may need to be made. Service will not be interrupted.

One large bulk item (such as furniture or appliances) may **NEW!** be set out once per week at no additional charge. To ensure service, residents are asked to schedule a pickup with WM before the normal collection date.

### What’s Next?

In mid-to-late February 2026, WM will deliver one 96-gallon trash cart and one 96-gallon recycling cart to each household. Smaller 64-gallon trash carts will be available, which can be exchanged for the larger 96-gallon carts starting May 1, 2026.



Best Way Disposal, the city’s current recycling vendor and trash and yard waste provider for many households, along with Republic, will collect their empty carts after the final collection the week of February 22, 2026.

Residents who wish to subscribe to yard waste service must sign up with WM between March 1 and March 31, 2026, and prepay for the full season. Residents who miss this window must wait until next year to enroll; only new residents will be able to sign up after March 31, 2026.

### What Residents Will Need to Do

In the months leading up to the program launch, residents will need to take a few simple steps to prepare for the transition:

**Watch for Cart Delivery:** New trash and recycling carts will arrive in mid-to-late February. Begin using them on your assigned collection day the week of March 1, 2026.

**Sign Up for Yard Waste:** Contact WM by March 31, 2026.

**Leave Existing Bins at the Curb:** Following collection the week of February 22, 2026, leave your existing empty bins at the curb for collection by the service provider.

The City of Portage and WM are committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the new system. As details are finalized, the city will continue to share updates and resources to help residents prepare. For answers to common questions, visit [home.wm.com/portage-mi](https://home.wm.com/portage-mi).

# Fire Prevention Week 2025

## Charge into Fire Safety

Fire Prevention Week is right around the corner – October 5–11, 2025 – and the Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division invites the community to focus on an issue impacting households everywhere: lithium-ion battery safety.



This year’s national theme, announced by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home. The campaign highlights safe practices for buying, charging, and disposing of lithium-ion batteries – the power source behind many of today’s everyday devices.

“Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they’re just about everywhere,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy. “Making sure the public knows how to handle them safely is critical to minimizing the potential risks they present.”

### Why Lithium-Ion Safety Matters

From smartphones and tablets to e-bikes, power tools, and even children’s toys, lithium-ion batteries

keep modern life running. But if damaged, improperly charged, or discarded incorrectly, they can overheat, catch fire, or even explode. Fire Prevention Week 2025 aims to raise awareness of these dangers and share simple steps for safer use.

### Safety Tips

- » **BUY smart.** Choose products that display a certification mark from a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- » **CHARGE with care.** Always use the manufacturer’s charger, follow the instructions, avoid charging on beds or couches, and unplug once fully charged.
- » **DISPOSE safely.** Never toss lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycle them at battery collection sites ([call2recycle.org](https://www.call2recycle.org)) or through the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center ([kalcounty.gov/287](https://www.kalcounty.gov/287)).

“Fire Prevention Week reminds us that small actions can save lives,” said Fire Marshal Steve Tanner. “We invite everyone to join us at our F.I.R.E. Open House to learn, connect, and enjoy time with Portage firefighters.”

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, visit [fpw.org](https://www.fpw.org). Additional fire safety resources for children and educators are available at [sparky.org](https://www.sparky.org) and [sparkyschoolhouse.org](https://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org).



### F.I.R.E. Open House - October 11

Get fired up for a day of family fun and safety! The Portage Fire Division invites you to the annual F.I.R.E. (Fire Safety, Information, and Risk Education) Open House on Saturday, October 11, from 9 AM to 1 PM at Fire Station No. 1, 7830 Shaver Road.

This free, family-friendly event is your chance to meet Portage firefighters, climb aboard fire trucks, tour the station, and pick up life-saving fire safety tips. Kids and adults alike will enjoy:



- » Fire truck & facility tours
- » Hands-on fire extinguisher demonstrations
- » Live puppet shows & children’s activities
- » Safety information from local experts
- » Refreshments and a food truck on site

Plus, students can capture a special memory with photo sessions at the Fire Station between 9:15 AM and 12 PM (times vary by school – check the Facebook event [@PortageMIPublicSafety](https://www.facebook.com/PortageMIPublicSafety) for details).

Come learn, explore, and celebrate Fire Prevention Week with your hometown heroes!



## Fall Leaf Pickup

Oct 27 – Dec 5, 2025

- » 3 pickups in each neighborhood zone (weather permitting)
- » Have leaves at the curb by 7 AM on your collection date
- » Paper bags OK – no plastic

### Find your dates

[portagemi.gov/282](https://www.portagemi.gov/282)

### Questions?

Call the Department of Public Works at 329-4444

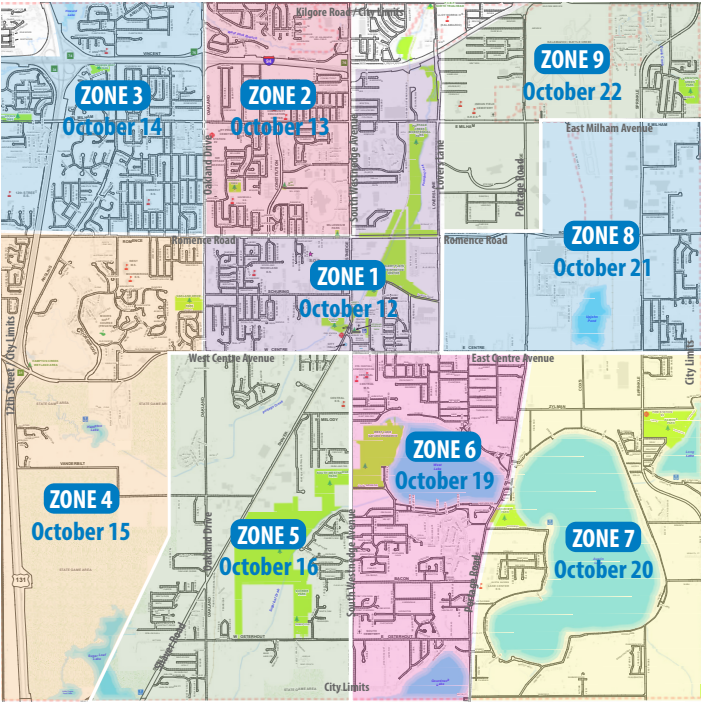
## Hydrant Flushing: October 12–23

The city’s utility contractor, Veolia, will begin the semi-annual fire hydrant flushing program on the evening of Sunday, October 12, continuing through Thursday, October 23.

Hydrant flushing is an important maintenance activity that improves water quality by removing sediment from the system. Flushing ensures fire hydrants and the water pumping system are working properly

- » Check the map for hydrant flushing date.
- » Most hydrants will be flushed overnight (10 PM - 6 AM).
- » Some water discoloration may occur. Water is safe to use, but check for discoloration before doing laundry.
- » Large amounts of water will be discharged from hydrants.

Motorists are asked to use caution, watch for workers, and reduce speeds when driving through flushing areas. Call Veolia at 324-9235 with questions or concerns.



## Shake Your Mailbox Before Winter

Fall is in the air, and so are the fall leaves. But before the snow flies, take a few minutes to give your mailbox a good shake. If it wiggles, the post or box may not survive the weight of snow pushed aside by plows. Tighten screws, fix loose hinges, and replace worn parts now to avoid problems later.

City of Portage snowplow operators work hard to avoid mailbox damage, but sometimes the heavy snow coming off plow blades can cause issues beyond their control. That’s

why the city offers a Mailbox Repair Program.

**Repair or Replacement:** If your mailbox is damaged by city plows, staff will repair it when possible. If it cannot be repaired, the city will install a standard replacement mailbox and/or post that meets U.S. Postal Service specifications. Standard replacements are black or white, measure 6.5” x 19” x 8.5”, and come with a hinged door and flag. Posts are replaced with a standard 4” x 4” wooden post.

**Reimbursement Option:** If you prefer a specialty mailbox or post, you may opt to receive a \$44 reimbursement

instead of the standard replacement. You would then be responsible for purchasing, installing, and covering any additional cost for your preferred mailbox.

To report a damaged mailbox, visit [reportit.portagemi.gov](https://www.reportit.portagemi.gov). Questions? Call the Department of Public Works at 329-4444.





# YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK



## I Love Portage Essay Contest

Students, do you love living in Portage? Here’s your chance to tell us why – and to help kick off the holiday season in a big way! The Mayor and Portage City Council invite Portage students to submit a short, one-paragraph essay sharing what makes Portage special. Tell us why you enjoy living here, your favorite places to visit, and what makes Portage *A Natural Place to Move!*

From all entries, City Council will select one (or more) students to take center stage at the 2025 Traditional Holiday and Tree Lighting Celebration on Saturday, December 6, at Portage City Centre. The winner(s) will read their essay and help the Mayor “flip the switch” to light the Mayor’s Tree and the dazzling holiday display.

- » Write a one-paragraph essay answering the prompt above.
- » Include your name, mailing address, phone number, your parent’s email address, your grade, and school.
- » You must live in Portage or attend a Portage school.
- » Submit your entry by Sunday, November 2, at 5 PM to:

Portage Parks & Recreation  
320 Library Lane  
Portage, MI 49002  
Or by email: [mypark@portagemi.gov](mailto:mypark@portagemi.gov)



## Wildlife Presentation Series

Engage your curiosity and learn about animal ambassadors from the Blandford Nature Center’s Wildlife Presentation Series. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a chaperone. Seats are limited to 30 per session.

- » Session 1: 11 AM - 12 PM
- » Session 2: 12 - 1 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$5 per seat (Registration required)

### Blandford’s Wildlife

Learn about Blandford’s wildlife ambassador animals and why they live at the Blandford Nature Center. This presentation includes a variety of animals, including a turtle, rabbit, falcon, and owl. This presentation is appropriate for all ages.

- » Friday, October 10
- » Registration required by October 9

## 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](https://mypark.portagemi.gov) and click



REGISTER NOW!

### Story Time with the Animals

Enjoy a few stories with special animal guests and their natural artifacts. Meet a turtle, rabbit, and owl. This presentation is designed for Pre-K through Kindergarten, though all ages are welcome.

- » Monday, October 20
- » Registration required by October 17

## Portage Culinary Academy

### Pumpkin Shell Soup

Spice up your fall menu with a savory dish that blends seasonal vegetables, pumpkin, and the irresistible flavor of bacon. Chef Chauncey will guide you step by step in creating a fall medley that’s comforting, crave-worthy, and guaranteed to impress. The Portage Culinary Academy offers hands-on cooking classes designed for everyone – from seasoned home cooks to beginners. Your program fee covers all supplies, ingredients, and take-home meals. Space is limited to just 10 participants per class, and spots fill quickly, so register today!

- » Thursday, October 16, 5:30 - 7 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$45 per participant, per class (Registration required)



### Home-Based Food Businesses, Cottage Food Law 101

Transform your ideas into reality with IdeaWorx business development programs. These small group classes are designed to help entrepreneurs learn the skills necessary to transform their dreams into thriving business ventures. Thinking about starting a food business? Many people start right in their home kitchen, and you can, too! Rules and laws are in place to keep consumers safe, and it is important that you know them.

Join Kellie Jordan from the MSU Extension in this interactive class, where you’ll learn the ins and outs of running a food-based business from your home using the Cottage Food Law. Class participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from the MSU Extension.

- » Thursday, October 16, 6 - 8:30 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$15 per participant, per class (Registration required)

## Monster Mash

### & Ghostbusters (1984) Movie

There’s something strange in the neighborhood. Strap on your Nuclear Accelerator and grab your Proton Pack, there are ghosts loose in Ramona Park that you need to trap at this year’s Monster Mash! Show off your favorite Halloween costume at this family-friendly event, where you will find Halloween-themed decorations, a spooky trail hayride, merry-not-scary magic shows, pumpkin carving demos, a live DJ, food trucks, and more. After the festivities, enjoy a drive-in-style movie featuring the 1984 classic *Ghostbusters* starting around dusk. Parking for the movie begins at 5:30 PM on a first-come, first-served basis.

- » Saturday, October 18, 3 - 7 PM
- » Ramona Park (8600 South Sprinkle Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)



## Halloween-Themed Farmers Market: So Good, it’s Scary!

Mid-October marks the end of the season at the Portage Farmers Market. Until then, we’ll be serving up pumpkins, apple cider, fall flowers, decorative corn stalks, and all your autumn favorites. Come stock up on local produce, artisan-crafted bakery items, and pasture-raised meats and eggs. Or just come for the live music, tasty meals and refreshing beverages.



On October 12, our last day for the season, we hope you’ll join us for an early Halloween celebration. After all, shopping at the farmers market is just a grown-up version of trick-or-treating where you go from booth to booth buying all sorts of delicious treats. Dust off your favorite family-friendly costume and come shopping in style!

The Portage Farmers Market is open, rain or shine, every Sunday through October 12 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue). Live music starts at 11 AM. For more information, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @PortageMarketMI, or visit our website at [farmersmarket.portagemi.gov](https://farmersmarket.portagemi.gov).

# YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW

## A Case for “Love in Action”

This three-part series, presented by Marvinetta Woodley-Penn, is designed to examine “Love in Action” as a transformative force in personal, relational, and societal contexts. Through an exploration of effective communication, compassion, empathy, and altruism, participants will investigate how love can be actively practiced and expressed to create meaningful impact. We will combine theoretical perspectives with practical applications, empowering you to better understand, experience and implement “Love in Action” as a powerful agent of change in your own life.



Marvinetta Woodley-Penn

- » Wednesdays, October 15, 22 & 29, 10 AM - 12 PM
- » \$20 Members / \$25 Non-Members (Registration required)

## 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.

## Navigating Medicare’s Open Enrollment: Making Informed Choices

Join Miranda Pearson, MiOptions Program Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 3A, for a practical and informative presentation designed to help you confidently navigate Medicare’s Open Enrollment Period (October 15 through December 7). Review your current coverage or explore new plan options with clear guidance on evaluating Medicare Advantage and Part D plans, understanding coverage changes, and avoiding common pitfalls.

- » Friday, October 17, 11 AM - 12:30 PM **OR** Wednesday, October 22, 4:30 - 6:30 PM
- » FREE (Registration required)

## Get to Know Your Transit Options

Join us for an informative session with Kalamazoo Metro Transit as they highlight two valuable community



transportation services: Metro Connect and Metro Link. Learn how these programs can help you stay active, independent, and connected – whether you need curb-to-curb service, ADA-accessible rides, or convenient connections across the region.

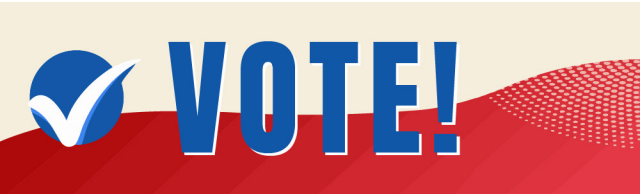
- » Wednesday, October 22, 10:30 AM – 12 PM
- » FREE, Open to the public (No registration required)

## Beastly Bash - Halloween Costume Dance Party

Mark your calendars, it’s time for our annual Halloween Costume Dance Party! Enjoy a night of music, costumes, and dancing with DJ Hurricane spinning your favorite beats. We’ll have snacks, pizza, cocktails for purchase, and of course—a costume contest with prizes! Come solo, with friends, or in costume duos for a festive night out.

- » Thursday, October 23, 5 - 7 PM
- » \$15 Members / Non-Members, Open to the Public (Registration required)





## Upcoming Election: Tuesday, November 4

The City of Portage will have elections for City Council and Mayor, as well as several millage questions, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.



Important Dates	
Now through Election Day	Return your completed and signed absentee ballot in person, by mail, or placed in one of the secure drop boxes at Portage City Hall, Fire Station No. 2, or Fire Station No. 3.
Monday, October 20	Deadline to register to vote via mail or online.
Tuesday, October 21 through Election Day	Last 2 weeks to register to vote IN PERSON ONLY at the City Clerk’s Office.
Friday, October 31 (5 PM)*	Deadline for receiving an absentee ballot via postal mail.
* To help ensure timely delivery, voters are strongly encouraged to request an absentee ballot by Monday, October 13.	
Saturday, November 1	Portage City Clerk’s Office open from 8 AM - 4 PM
Now through Monday, November 3	Request an absentee ballot in person at the City Clerk’s Office. Deadline is 4 PM on November 3.
Tuesday, November 4	<b>ELECTION DAY!</b> Polls are open 7 AM - 8 PM.

### What’s On the Ballot?

To view a sample ballot or information regarding the ballot, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote) or the city website at [portagemi.gov/236](https://www.portagemi.gov/236)

### Precinct Locations

The City of Portage has 13 voting locations, some of which were updated in March 2025. Where you vote depends on where you live. All precinct locations will be open on Election Day. If you are unsure of your polling location, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [mi.gov/vote](https://www.mi.gov/vote) or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4511.

### No Early Voting Sites in 2025

Under Proposal 22-2, early voting in Kalamazoo County is only offered for state and federal elections. Since 2025 includes only local elections, there will be no early voting sites this year.

### Absent Voter Ballots

All Michigan voters can vote using an absent voter ballot. Voting with an absentee ballot allows you to vote before Election Day in the comfort of your home. Absent voter ballots can be returned in person, by mail, or in one of the city’s three secure drop boxes. Absent voter ballots must be returned by 8 PM on Election Day.



### Snowbirds & College Students

Do you vote by absentee ballot? If you'll be away from home, be sure to notify the City Clerk of your temporary mailing address. Absentee ballots are not automatically forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service. You must request this with the Office of the City Clerk.

Questions? Call the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4511 or e-mail at [elections@portagemi.gov](mailto:elections@portagemi.gov). Follow the [@CityofPortageMI](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPortageMI) on social media for timely election updates.



It’s that time again, Portage! Are you ready to get into the Halloween spirit again this year? Enter your Halloween-themed house in our *Tricked Out Home 4 Halloween Decorating Contest*. To enter, find the post on our Facebook page [@CityofPortageMI](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPortageMI) and upload a photo(s) of your “tricked out home” along with your address. Or email your photo(s) and entry to [publicinformation@portagemi.gov](mailto:publicinformation@portagemi.gov). The entry deadline is Wednesday, October 22, at 11:59 PM EST. This year, YOU will be the judge and vote from Friday, October 25 at 12:01 AM to Monday, October 27 at 11:59 PM. Please remember: only one vote per household (IP address).

Each house that enters will be added to the interactive map so that everyone can experience the HORROR of the season. The first-place, second-place, and third-place winners will be selected and announced on Facebook on Wednesday, October 29. The winners will also be awarded a special certificate and prize, in person, at the Wednesday, November 5, 2025 Portage City Council Meeting at 6 PM.

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

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

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



**The City of Portage does not set official trick-or-treating hours.**

**We encourage you to talk with your neighbors or neighborhood association and use your best judgment.**

**Have a fun and safe Halloween!**

## 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).

### OCTOBER 2025

2	7:00 PM	Planning Commission
7	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
13	7:00 PM	Zoning Board of Appeals
18	7:00 PM	Planning Commission
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 West Lake Nature Preserve.

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