

PORTAGER

A Natural Place to Move



A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

As we enter the holiday season, expectations run high. Life gets busier. Days get darker. Temps get colder.

Whatever your holiday traditions may be, it is my hope that they include others who may not be as fortunate. Adopt a family, pick an ornament off an angel tree, donate a toy in the box, drop a bill in the kettle, and/or deliver nonperishables to a food pantry. The need is year-round, yet seems more evident during the holiday season, as the divide widens between the haves and the have nots.

In the past two months, two food drives hosted by the City of Portage have shown how much Portage residents truly care for their neighbors. The first, created by Councilwomen Jihan Young and Nicole Miller, was a friendly competition between our two high schools and raised two tons of

food. The second, a "Stuff the Bus Campaign," partnered with Metro Transit to help offset food shortages due to the disruption in SNAP (Supplemental Food Assistance Program) benefits. Both efforts helped to restock the shelves at Twelve Baskets, a food bank in Portage. This demonstrates how powerful our impact can be when we work together.

Here are a few upcoming changes in your City Hall:

Nick Arnold, Director of the Portage Department of Public Safety, will retire this month after leading our police and fire fighters for a dozen years. At the helm, Chief Arnold has embraced technology and best practices to keep our community safe throughout his tenure. The Chief will be taking his last patrol ride through the city on December 16. He will then dispatch his final "out of service" radio call from the First Reformed Church. It's a tradition which recognizes the end to a noble career. Please join us for a reception at the Portage Zhang Senior Center immediately following.

Councilmember Terry Urban will call an end to 42 years of serving Portage residents, 28 years as a Councilmember. During his years of service, Terry has attended thousands of meetings, both in the city and county wide, representing the residents of Portage. We thank him for his record setting years of service.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Kathleen Olmsted, our newest Councilmember. Women now outnumber the men on the Portage City Council for the first time in the history of our city. Expect great things!

As we wrap up yet another year this December, I hope that, upon reflection, it was a great one for you. For me, I appreciate good health, a growing family, and all that Portage has to offer. I am also happy the election is in the rear view mirror. I am grateful to all who supported me. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. Happy Holidays, Portage!

– Patricia M. Randall

Portage City Council Welcomes New and Returning Members

In the City of Portage, elections are held every two years to select the Mayor and members of the Portage City Council. The Mayor serves a two-year term, and the six Councilmember seats are four-year terms, with three seats appearing on the ballot every two years.

The 2025 City General Election was held on November 4, 2025. Mayor Patricia M. Randall was re-elected to another two-year term. Incumbent Councilmembers Vic Ledbetter and Jihan Young were re-elected to new four-year terms. Kathleen Olmsted was elected to her first four-year term on the City Council.

The 2025–2027 Portage City Council, the 31st City Council, was officially seated at the November 18, 2025 City Council meeting, during which Councilmember Jim Pearson was selected as Mayor Pro Tem in accordance



with the City Charter. The Mayor serves as the presiding officer of the Council, and the Mayor Pro Tem performs the duties of the Mayor in her absence.

This election also marks the departure of Councilmember Terry Urban, who concluded 28 years of distinguished service on the Portage City Council. Prior to his tenure

on the Council, Mr. Urban devoted more than 42 years to serving Portage residents through various boards and commissions, contributing over seven decades of public service in total. The City of Portage extends its sincere gratitude for his exceptional commitment to the community.

The City Council meets twice each month at Portage City Hall. The public is encouraged to attend meetings or follow council actions online at portagemi.gov/610. Residents with questions or concerns about city services may contact the City Administration by visiting reportit.portagemi.gov or calling Complaint Resolution at 329-4404.

2026 Portage City Council Meetings

Portage City Hall

7900 South Westnedge Avenue

» Tuesday, January 13	» Tuesday, July 7
» Tuesday, January 27	» Tuesday, July 21
» Tuesday, February 10	» Tuesday, August 11
» Tuesday, February 24	» Tuesday, August 25
» Tuesday, March 10	» Tuesday, September 8
» Tuesday, March 24	» Tuesday, September 22
» Tuesday, April 7	» Tuesday, October 6
» Tuesday, April 21	» Tuesday, October 20
» Tuesday, May 12	» Wednesday, November 4*
» Tuesday, May 26	» Tuesday, November 17
» Tuesday, June 9	» Tuesday, December 1
» Tuesday, June 23	» Tuesday, December 15

*Meeting moved to Wednesday to avoid conflict with Election Day.

Single-Hauler Waste Collection Program Transition

Starting March 1, 2026, the City of Portage will transition to a city-wide single-hauler system for residential trash, yard waste and recycling collection. Under a new five-year contract, Waste Management (WM) will become the exclusive service provider for all households in the city.

What Residents Need to Know

- » No sign-up is required for the standard trash and recycling cart service. Every household will receive a 96-gallon garbage cart and a 96-gallon recycling cart during the roll-out.
- » Cart delivery is planned for mid-to-late February 2026.
- » If you prefer a smaller cart, 64-gallon trash carts will be available for exchange after April 30, 2026.
- » If you choose not to use the service (i.e., haul your own waste), you may contact WM to request the trash cart be removed after the roll-out.
- » Yard-waste collection is optional. Residents who wish to subscribe must sign up with WM between March 1 and March 31, 2026, and prepay for the full season (April 1 through November 30).
- » Recycling service remains funded through the voter-approved millage and is included via property taxes; households are not billed separately by WM for standard recycling service.

Fees

- » Trash service: \$14.04/month for year one (billed quarterly at \$42.12).
- » Yard-waste service (seasonal): \$10.50/month for the 8-month period (April 1 - November 30) in year one.
- » Recycling: funded via property tax millage, no monthly fee billed by WM.
- » Annual rate increases: capped at 4% per year through the contract's five-year term.

Key Service Details

- » Weekly trash collection for all households.
- » Weekly yard-waste collection for subscribers during the April - November season.
- » Every-other-week recycling collection.
- » As part of the program, WM will also offer one curbside bulk item pickup per week at no extra charge, beginning March 1, 2026. Schedule online at home.wm.com/portage-mi.
- » A "Smart Truck®" program on WM trucks will include cameras and route-monitoring to improve service and accountability.

What if I Don't Want Service From WM?

Since the City of Portage is moving to an exclusive hauler contract, all households will be under WM's service for standard trash and recycling starting March 1, 2026. If you plan to haul your own waste, you may contact WM to have your assigned cart removed (if you choose not to use it) after the roll-out.

Contact information

For questions or to arrange service, cart exchanges or subscriptions:

- » Phone: 1-877-814-2328
- » Website: Visit home.wm.com/portage-mi or scan the QR code.



Why Is the City Making the Change?

The city reviewed options and chose to offer an exclusive contract to achieve:

- » Lower, predictable rates (average savings of about 44% on average for households).
- » Uniform service standards and accountability for one provider rather than multiple haulers with varying schedules and rates.
- » Reduced truck traffic, fewer overlapping routes, less wear and tear on neighborhood streets and a smaller environmental footprint.

Frequently Asked Questions

To view a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions and answers – like "What if I want a smaller trash cart?" or "Do Fewer Garbage Trucks Really Mean Less Street Damage?" – visit home.wm.com/portage-mi and look for *What You Need to Know About Service in Portage* in the Helpful Resources section.

Keeping Portage Moving

How Our Crews Tackle Winter Storms

Winter weather can arrive quickly, and the City of Portage is prepared. Beginning as early as 3:30 AM, snowplow crews head out to maintain more than 221 miles of city streets, working to keep roads clear and safe throughout the season.

Street Priorities

Streets are plowed based on traffic volume to ensure the greatest benefit to motorists:

- » **Priority 1:** Major roads, such as South Westnedge Avenue and Oakland Drive.
- » **Priority 2:** Primary feeder roads serving residential neighborhoods and schools.
- » **Priority 3:** Interior neighborhood streets.

During an active snowstorm, crews work continuously to keep Priority 1 and 2 routes clear. These streets are typically completed within 4 - 8 hours. Once major and feeder roads are

passable, crews move into neighborhoods. Clearing Priority 3 streets usually takes 24 - 48 hours, depending on conditions.

De-icing materials are applied throughout a storm, with added attention to major streets, bridges, intersections, hills, and curves. Crews work around the clock during major weather events to maintain safe travel conditions. Snowplowing progress updates during major storms are available on the PortageTraxx app (see article below).

How Residents Can Help

To improve efficiency and safety, please follow these city ordinances and state laws:

- » Basketball hoops are not permitted in the city right-of-way.
- » No on-street parking is allowed from 2 - 6 AM between December 1 and March 15.
- » On trash and recycling days, keep carts on the curb, not in the roadway.
- » Michigan law prohibits placing snow from driveways, sidewalks, or parking lots onto public streets.

Overnight On-Street Parking Rules Keep Portage Streets Safe in Winter

Winter in Portage means snow, ice, and the need for safe, clear streets. To help our snowplow crews keep roads passable during snow events, the City of Portage has an overnight on-street parking ordinance in effect from December 1 through March 15.

What Residents Need to Know

- » No parking on city streets from 2 - 6 AM during this period.
- » The restriction applies to all city streets, ensuring snowplows can safely and efficiently clear roads.
- » Vehicles parked on the street overnight during these hours may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.



Why This Matters

Removing vehicles from streets allows snowplow crews to:

- » Clear snow completely from curbs and intersections.
- » Maintain safe driving conditions for everyone.
- » Reduce ice buildup along edges of the roadway.

Tips for Residents

- » Use driveways and off-street parking whenever possible.
- » If you have overnight guests, make them aware of the ordinance.
- » Keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice to help pedestrians stay safe.

By following this ordinance, residents help ensure streets remain safe and accessible throughout the winter.

For questions, contact the Department of Public Works at 329-4444.

Pretreating Roads

Before some winter events, Public Works may pretreat streets with liquid calcium chloride to reduce snow and ice bonding, making plowing more effective. Crews consider temperature, humidity, dew point, and precipitation when deciding if pretreatment is appropriate.

Mailbox Repair/Replacement Program

Snowplow operators in the city of Portage make every effort to minimize damage to mailboxes during their operations. However, due to the weight of the snow coming off the plow blade, it is often beyond the operator's control to prevent damage to mailboxes. Visit portagemi.gov/290 to learn about the Mailbox Repair/Replacement Program and to report a damaged mailbox.

The City of Portage is committed to clearing and maintaining streets as efficiently as possible throughout the winter season. For questions, contact the Department of Public Works at 329-4444.



PortageTraxx

An Updated Way to Track Snowplows in Real Time

This winter, the City of Portage is making it easier than ever to stay informed during snow events with PortageTraxx, an updated version of the previous SnowPaths app. The new app gives residents clear, real-time insight into snow removal operations across the City of Portage with:

- » Improved real-time tracking of snowplow crews and their progress.
- » Updated mapping features showing which streets have been plowed and which are still pending.
- » Streamlined interface for easier use on both mobile devices and desktop.

Visit portagemi.gov/290 to launch PortageTraxx or open the MI.Portage App on your phone to link directly to the updated snowplow map and other city services.

Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection

The Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection begins on January 5 in Zone 1 (see map to the right). The January collection includes the pickup of whole Christmas trees (free of tinsel and ornaments).



To ensure collection, place brush and Christmas trees at the curb by 7 AM on the Monday of your scheduled week. Each street will be collected once, and each zone will be cleared during its designated week. Crews cannot return for late set-outs.

If snowfall occurs, please clear snow from brush piles and Christmas trees so crews can easily locate them. Complete program details are available at portagemi.gov/280.



Leaf and Brush Drop-Off Day

Saturday, January 31

Residents can also drop off brush, leaves, and whole Christmas trees (free of decorations and tinsel) at the City of Portage Compost Facility on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 9 AM to 1 PM. The facility is located at 10905 Oakland Drive, just south of West Osterhout Avenue. Department of Public Works staff will be on-site to direct residents to the proper drop-off areas.



Please call the Department of Public Works at 329-4444 with any questions.

Deck the Halls!

Enter your festive, decorated-for-the-holidays home in the "Decked Out Home 4" Holiday Decorating Contest, sponsored by Consumers Energy!



How to Enter

Upload up to five photos of your decorated home with your address in the comments on our Facebook post @CityofPortageMI or email publicinformation@portagemi.gov by Tuesday, December 16, 11:59 PM EST.

Voting

An interactive map and voting link will go live Wednesday, December 17. Vote for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place through Monday, December 22 (one vote per household).

NEW! A secret community judge will pick their favorite home for our new "Judge's Choice" prize!

Prizes

Winners will be announced on Facebook on Tuesday, December 23 and recognized at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 6 PM. Cash prizes are courtesy of Consumers Energy.

- » 1st Place: \$250
- » 2nd Place: \$200
- » 3rd Place: \$150
- » Judge's Choice: \$150



Addresses will be shared so everyone can drive by and enjoy the displays.

Rules

- » Entries must be submitted by the homeowner via Facebook comment or email by 11:59 PM, December 16.
- » No commercially decorated homes, please.
- » Participation is FREE and open to any residential Portage address (zip codes 49002 or 49024).
- » One entry per address (primary residence).
- » Entrants must be 18 or older with a valid email address.



POCKET PAY Merchant Spotlight

Don's Card Hut, a local, family owned and operated card and gift shop, has been serving the Portage community for 56 years! Don's

has a wide variety of Holiday gifts and specializes in Hallmark items, including the popular Keepsake Ornaments and Holiday Cards. The store has many other wonderful gifts like socks, blankets, pajamas for women and jewelry. You'll also find puzzles, sports items and Willow Tree figurines and gifts for the kiddos too – Warmies and other stuffed animals! There is something for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

Don's Card Hut is located at 6294 South Westnedge Avenue in the Southland Mall and is open from 9:30 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Saturday and 11 AM - 5 PM on Sunday. Don's Card Hut looks forward to helping you with your Holiday shopping!



YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Traditional Holiday & Tree Lighting Celebration

Celebrate the magic of the season at the annual Portage Traditional Holiday and Tree Lighting Celebration at the Mayor's Tree in the City Centre. This cherished event begins with the reading of the winning "I Love Portage" essay by Portage students. The festivities continue with Portage Northern High School choir heralding the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Stuart Manor will host Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will greet children and listen to their holiday wishes while spreading festive cheer. The 1856 one-room Schoolhouse hosts letter writing to Santa. Listen to *Proclamation Brass* while warming your hands by a toasty fire and marvel at the ice sculpture demonstrations. Enjoy complimentary milk and cookies in the Hayloft Theatre and take part in the children's crafts. Pick up some gifts while you browse Santa's Village Boutique Market while being serenaded by the Portage Northern High School Choir.

- » Saturday, December 6, 6 PM
- » The City Centre & Celery Flats Historical Area
- » FREE (No registration required)



Opening Day - Ice Rink at Millennium Park

The Ice Rink at Millennium Park is set to open for the season on Friday, December 12, weather permitting. This spacious outdoor refrigerated rink offers a premier skating surface along with skate rentals, skate sharpening, snack concessions, restrooms, and lockers. Ice resurfacing occurs from 3 - 4 PM when rink hours are 12 - 8 PM.

Ice Rink Hours

December 12	Opening Day	3 - 9 PM
December 13 - 14	Opening Weekend.....	12 - 8 PM
December 15 - 18	Monday - Thursday	CLOSED
December 19 - 23	Winter Holiday Hours	12 - 8 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve.....	12 - 5 PM
December 25	Christmas.....	CLOSED
December 26 - 30	Winter Holiday Hours	12 - 8 PM

YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW

Area Agency on Aging Assistance

A representative from the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging IIIA will provide information, referrals, and assistance for aging at home. The agency's mission is to help adults aged 60 and older live independently and with dignity. While priority is given to those with the greatest economic or social need, anyone with questions about aging or available resources is welcome to attend.

- » December 10, 11 AM - 2 PM
- » FREE, Open to the Public (No registration required)

All New Weekend Escapes

For the past 50 years, Spark Magazine publisher Steve Ellis has explored Michigan and its neighboring states, uncovering unique and out-of-the-ordinary destinations. In this lively photo presentation, Steve will share highlights from his journeys, weaving together stories, history, and stunning images. You'll leave with plenty of inspiration and fresh ideas for your next weekend getaway or summer travels.

- » Wednesday, December 10, 2 - 4 PM
- » \$3 Members | \$5 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!

Santa Skate

Lace up your skates and celebrate the season with a magical afternoon on the ice! Join Santa Claus on the ice for holiday music, cheerful fun, and unforgettable photo opportunities. Bring your camera to capture special memories with family and friends - Santa can't wait to see you!

- » Saturday, December 20, 1 - 3 PM
- » \$5 Open Skate | \$3 Skate Rental (No registration required)
- » Ice Rink at Millennium Park (280 Romence Road)

New Year's Eve Skate Party

Glide into the New Year with a family-friendly celebration on the ice! Spend your New Year's Eve with upbeat music, party lighting after dark, and a special countdown at 7 PM to coincide with New Year's at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, UK. Ring in the New Year together with friends and family!

- » Wednesday, December 31, 5 - 8 PM
- » \$5 Open Skate | \$3 Skate Rental (No registration required)
- » Ice Rink at Millennium Park (280 Romence Road)

Qigong: Five Animal Frolics



Wu Qin XI (五禽戲) or the "Five Animal Frolics," is a traditional Chinese exercise system that mimics the movements and characteristics of five animals: tiger, deer, bear, monkey, and crane. Instructor Tao Ping teaches students about the qualities each animal represents and aims to strengthen specific areas of the body while promoting energy (qi) flow. This program is designed for children, ages 5 and up, and adults.

- » Tuesdays, January 6 - March 10, 10 - 11 AM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$75 per participant (Registration required)

Introduction to Tai Chi

This is your year to improve your physical and mental health with instructor and Tai Chi Master Cheng Tao, visiting professor of the Hainecke Institute with Western Michigan University. Try out this ten-week program, often described as meditation in motion. Tai Chi is a traditional Chinese martial art, originally developed as a self-defense technique,

which has evolved into a gentle exercise program and is suitable for people of all ages and physical conditions. It does not require special equipment and can be performed either standing or seated, making it an excellent activity for participants who want to maintain their mobility, strength, and mental clarity.

- » Tuesdays, January 6 - March 10, 9 - 9:50 AM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$75 per participant (Registration required)

Ping Pong Clinic

Looking to sharpen your table tennis skills, meet new people, and enjoy some fast-paced fun? This program is for beginners wanting to practice the basics and intermediate players looking to improve their skills. Practice drills, games, and strategies are tailored to your skill level. Ages 18 and over.

- » Monday, January 5, 6 - 7:30 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$10 per participant (Registration required)

Ping Pong Recreational League

Relax after work with friends and join this ten-week Ping Pong league! This newly designed program gives you a chance to practice singles and doubles ping pong in a relaxing and uncompetitive format. Learn to keep score and hone your skills in a stress-free environment. Ages 18 and over.

- » Wednesdays, January 7 - March 11, 5:30 - 6:30 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$50 per participant (Registration required)

Ping Pong Competitive League

Pick up your paddle and compete for a chance to win a league trophy! Participants in this league will be competitive, so be sure to bring your A-game. There will be opportunities to play singles and doubles in this league. Ages 18 and over.

- » Wednesdays, January 7 - March 11, 6:45 - 7:45 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$50 per participant (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 | 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.

Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office

The Secretary of State Mobile Office is returning 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, December 18, 10 AM - 3 PM
- » FREE (SOS fees apply)

New Member Meet & Eat

Whether you're a new member or simply curious about all the Portage Zhang Senior Center has to offer, the Meet & Eat event is the perfect opportunity to get connected, informed, and inspired. Join us for a complimentary light breakfast and a warm welcome from staff and current members. During this casual and friendly gathering, you'll receive an overview of the many programs, activities, and events designed with your interests in mind, ranging from health and wellness to arts, education, and social gatherings. This event is a great

way to explore how the PZSC can enrich your daily life and help you build meaningful connections in the community. We look forward to meeting you and helping you feel right at home! Generously sponsored by StoryPoint Portage and Kalamazoo.

- » Friday, December 19, 9 - 10:30 AM
- » FREE (Reservation required)

See the World. Support Your Center.

When you plan your next adventure with Premier World Discovery, Collette, or Ed & Ted's Excellent Adventures, book your travel through the Portage Zhang Senior Center! You'll pay the same great price; however, part of your registration fee will directly benefit PZSC programs and events. It's the easiest way to give back—just by going somewhere amazing! Call Janelle at 324-9239 or stop by the Travel Office for information.

PORTAGER

2025 Winter Property Taxes

City of Portage 2025 winter tax bills have been mailed to property owners. Payment is due by 5:30 PM on Monday, February 16, 2026. Property owners who do not receive a winter tax bill by December 9, 2025, are encouraged to contact the Portage Treasury Office at 329-4455. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the responsibility for payment of the tax and applicable fees. Property tax information is updated daily and is available at portagemi.gov/taxlookup.

Payment Options

U.S. Postal Service Mail: Mail your check or money order to:

City of Portage
7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, MI 49002.

Please include payment and the bottom portion of the tax statement. To avoid the 3% late fee, mailed payments must be postmarked by the U.S. Post Office on or before February 16, 2026, and received by the city no later than February 23, 2026. When mailing payments on or after February 9, 2026, the Treasury Office recommends hand delivering payments to the Post Office to witness the clerk postmark the envelope. In all late payment disputes, the Treasury Office will rely on the postmark applied by the Postmaster (metered postmarks are not accepted). Please be aware that all payments mailed in Portage go through processing in Grand Rapids, which can add to delivery times.

City Hall Drop Box: A 24-hour drop box is located at the south Exit Only door of City Hall at 7900 South Westnedge Avenue. Look for the "Night Drop Box" sign near the curb. Please include the bottom portion of your tax statement with your check or money order. Payments deposited after 7:30 AM or on weekends may be processed on the next business day.

Pay by Phone: Call 1-844-943-3997 and follow the prompts to pay with a credit/debit card (3% processing fee, \$2.95

minimum*) or e-check payment (\$2.50 processing fee*). This phone payment service charges an additional \$0.75 processing fee*.

Pay Online: Visit portagemi.gov/billpay. Select "Sign In to Pay Current Taxes." If you don't have an account yet, select "Register or Pay Current Taxes," select "Winter Tax," enter your Parcel ID (found on your tax bill), and click "Search Invoices." Select your summer tax bill and click "Register Selected Invoices." Enter the requested information and create a password then click "Complete Registration." Follow the prompts to pay your invoice with a credit/debit card (3% processing fee, \$2.95 minimum*) or e-check payment (\$2.50 processing fee*).

Auto Pay: Visit portagemi.gov/billpay. Follow the instructions above to sign-in or create an account. Select "AutoPay," add a credit/debit card (3% processing fee, \$2.95 minimum*) or banking information (no processing fee), then set up Auto Pay.

Online Banking: Contact your financial institution to learn if an online bill pay service is available. Online banking payments should be scheduled by February 1, 2026, to ensure timely delivery of funds to the City of Portage to avoid late fees. Use your parcel number as your account number.

In-Person at the Treasury Office: Payments in the form of cash, check, credit/debit card (3% processing fee, \$2.95 minimum*), and money orders are accepted at the Treasury Office in Portage City Hall. Payment by check authorizes the city to convert the check to an electronic funds transfer; your bank account may be debited as soon as the same day the city receives the check.

City Hall Business Hours

- » Monday - Thursday: 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM; Friday: 8 AM - 12 PM
- » Closed: Wednesday, December 24 - Friday, December 26
- Thursday, January 1 - Friday, January 2
- Monday, January 19

*All processing fees are set and retained by the payment processing vendor (Invoice Cloud).

2026 Dog License Renewal Update

Important Notice for Kalamazoo County Dog Owners

Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement (KCASE) has launched a new online dog licensing system, introducing changes to the way dog licenses are issued and renewed.



Beginning with the 2026 licensing year, dog licenses will no longer be sold through local veterinary clinics or municipal offices, including the City of Portage Treasury Office. Instead, all licenses must be purchased directly through KCASE using the new online portal. [Renew or Purchase Your 2026 Dog License Online](http://kalcounty.gov/168)

To renew or purchase your 2026 dog license, visit the KCASE website at kalcounty.gov/168. Through the new online system, dog owners can conveniently:

- » Update owner contact information
- » Submit proof of spaying/neutering and current rabies vaccination status
- » Upload a photo of the dog
- » Securely make a payment

Dog licenses may also be obtained in person or by mail at the Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement Office, located at 1316 Lamont Avenue in Kalamazoo. For questions or assistance, please call KCASE at 383-8775.



7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160
portagemi.gov | (269) 329-4400

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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



City Closing Notices

Most city offices will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas

- » Wednesday, December 24
- » Thursday, December 25
- » Friday, December 26

New Year's

- » Thursday, January 1
- » Friday, January 2

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.



Mayor Patricia M. Randall
(269) 329-4400
patricia.randall@portagemi.gov



Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson
(269) 303-5459
councilmemberjp@portagemi.gov



Nicole Miller
(269) 924-1901
nicole.miller@portagemi.gov



Kathleen Olmsted
(269) 720-0085
kathleen.olmsted@portagemi.gov

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.



Chris Burns
(708) 710-3102
chris.burns@portagemi.gov



Vic Ledbetter
(269) 330-6404
vic.ledbetter@portagemi.gov



Jihan Ain Young
(269) 759-0323
jihan.young@portagemi.gov



Patrick McGinnis, City Manager
(269) 329-4400
mcginnip@portagemi.gov

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.

DECEMBER 2025

2	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
4	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
8	7:00 PM	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
10	6:00 PM	City Council Meeting
16	7:00 PM	Planning Commission 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 Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Traditional Holiday & Tree Lighting Ceremony

PORTAGER Editor
Mary Beth Block | blockm@portagemi.gov