

Construction on the New Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility Nearing Completion

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water suppliers. As an example, the federal standard for the maximum allowable arsenic level in drinking water was reduced from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb in 2006. The City of Portage is committed to providing a safe water supply through a water system with sufficient capacity to ensure the public water supply for future generations and continued economic development.

The Portage water utility system has 22 operational groundwater wells, whose water source is groundwater from the Kalamazoo-Portage and Schoolcraft aquifers. Naturally occurring arsenic levels at the Garden Lane wellfield have increased. In fact, one well is approaching the new arsenic limit and two wells have been taken out of service because they exceed the new arsenic limit. (Nationwide, approximately 6,600 community water systems are



The water filtration system inside the new Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility.

impacted by the lowered arsenic standards – over 230 in Michigan.) In response to these developments, the city studied the feasibility and cost of constructing an arsenic removal facility at the Garden Lane wellfield. It was determined that an arsenic removal facility would allow all the Garden Lane wells to be brought back on line and provide a dependable supply of water meeting all EPA regulations for many years to come.

Construction of the Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility, which began last spring, is nearing completion.

The plant, which will be fully operational in the spring of 2010, has a total project cost of \$5,213,716. The project includes the construction of a treatment building, which will use gravel and carbon filters to remove not only arsenic, but iron and manganese as well from the groundwater supply. The building has been designed to meet general



The new Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility at 7451 Garden Lane.

“Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (LEED) standards and incorporates a number of “green” construction techniques, such as pervious pavement, storm water management, natural interior lighting and recycling of the plant process water.

The completed project will have a native planting scheme and tree buffer from Garden Lane and the arsenic and iron removal from the groundwater will significantly enhance the overall quality of the public water supply.

Questions regarding this important water-quality project can be directed to the Department of Transportation and Utilities at 269-329-4422.

I-94 Widening Project to Resume in March South Westnedge Avenue Businesses Will be Open and Accessible

If it seems like construction on I-94 has been happening for years, that’s because it has! The State of Michigan began making improvements to the I-94 corridor from 12th Street to Sprinkle Road in the fall of 2006. These improvements include modification of the I-94 / US 131 interchange, reconstruction and widening of the Oakland Drive and Lovers Lane bridges and widening of I-94 to three lanes in both directions.

As a part of this major reconstruction project, in June 2009, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) began widening I-94 to three lanes in each direction from east of Oakland Drive to west of Portage Road. Last construction season, the first phase of widening the I-94 bridge over the railroad tracks near Portage Creek began and work continued over the winter with installation of concrete sound walls along much of the construction area. In late March, MDOT expects to begin construction on the eastbound lanes of I-94, as well as on a new bridge carrying eastbound I-94 traffic over South Westnedge Avenue. This work will require all lanes of I-94 traffic to be shifted onto the existing westbound I-94 roadway.

The South Westnedge Avenue/I-94 interchange is being reconstructed with a relatively new design known as a *Single Point Urban Interchange* (SPUI). Once complete, the interchange will eliminate the existing I-94 entrance/exit loop ramps and replace them with more direct approaches. All vehicles, including the I-94 on and off ramp traffic, will be controlled by a central traffic signal

located at the I-94 / South Westnedge Avenue bridge. Controlling vehicles with a traffic signal will minimize the current congestion which occurs for traffic attempting



An artist's rendering of the future I-94 / South Westnedge Avenue interchange.

to enter eastbound or westbound I-94. The SPUI will also allow for sidewalks to be constructed on each side of South Westnedge Avenue under the I-94 bridge with lighting under the bridge deck structure.

For the duration of the 2010 construction season, the following ramps at the I-94/South Westnedge Avenue interchange will be closed to accommodate the bridge installation and construction of the SPUI interchange:

- ◆ Eastbound I-94 to northbound Westnedge Avenue
- ◆ Eastbound I-94 to southbound Westnedge Avenue
- ◆ Westbound I-94 to southbound Westnedge Avenue
- ◆ Southbound Westnedge Avenue to eastbound I-94

South Westnedge Avenue in Portage is home of the largest retail corridor in southwest Michigan. The area contains more than 4.2 million square feet of retail/service space and provides significant employment for the region. The economic stability of South Westnedge Avenue is key to the overall economic vitality of Kalamazoo County.

During the construction on I-94, two lanes of traffic in each direction on South Westnedge Avenue will be maintained (with the exception of two weekend lane

West Milham Avenue Project Delayed

The widening and reconstruction of West Milham Avenue from 12th Street to Angling Road is scheduled for reconstruction in the 2010 construction season and includes the widening of the roadway to two through lanes and a center turn lane. The project also includes the installation of curbs and gutters, storm sewers, asphalt pavement, sidewalks on both sides, bike lanes on both sides, improved street lighting and sanitary sewer for one of the few remaining unserved areas of the city. The project will be partially funded by federal funds, which have recently been placed on hold by the Federal Government. As such, the commencement of the project has been postponed, however, the City of Portage is hopeful that work can begin yet this spring.

closures expected when the bridge beams are set over South Westnedge Avenue). **Access to all businesses will be maintained and Portage residents are encouraged to “Shop Westnedge” during the I-94 construction.**

Due to the I-94 ramp closures noted above, detour routes, using Oakland Drive or Portage Road to either Milham Avenue or Kilgore Road, will be established to provide access to South Westnedge Avenue.

Additional information on the I-94 construction project can be found at www.michigan.gov/drive or by contacting the City of Portage Department of Transportation and Utilities at 329-4422.

WESTNEDGE
OPEN for business



Fair Housing Information & Community Resources

April is Fair Housing Month and the City of Portage promotes fair housing practices throughout the city. The Federal Fair Housing Act (1968 and 1988), the Michigan Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act of 1976 and the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977 make it illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing when the discrimination is based on any of the following factors:

- ◆ Race
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Disability
- ◆ Color
- ◆ Gender
- ◆ Marital Status
- ◆ National Origin
- ◆ Age
- ◆ Familial Status

Laws protect against discriminatory actions (based on one of the factors above) such as:

- ◆ Refusing to sell or rent housing
- ◆ Sexual harassment of a tenant
- ◆ Quoting a different monthly rent
- ◆ Quoting a difference in housing availability
- ◆ Quoting a difference in security deposit required
- ◆ Refusing to rent to a family or individual with children

If you suspect discrimination in a housing purchase, sale or rental transaction, including a difference in terms, conditions or opportunity, contact the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan at 276-9100. The Fair Housing Center is available to assist persons within the Portage area with fair housing community education and complaint investigations.

For information and referral assistance, persons can also contact the City of Portage Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

City of Portage utility contractor, United Water (formerly Earth Tech, Inc.), will flush fire hydrants throughout the city from Tuesday, April 13 through Friday, April 23. The map at right indicates dates hydrant flushing will take place in each area of the city. Most hydrants will be flushed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. to avoid high-traffic hours.

Hydrant flushing accomplishes important objectives for the water system:

- ◆ Improves water quality by removing sediment that accumulates in the water system between flushings.
- ◆ Provides the opportunity to test proper operation of the fire hydrants and the water pumping system.

Some water discoloration will occur during the flushing process. Residents are encouraged to check for discoloration prior to using water for laundry or cleaning on the day hydrants in your area have been flushed. Even though water may be somewhat discolored, it is safe to drink. During the flushing process, large quantities of water are discharged from the hydrants. Motorists are urged to watch for vehicles and workers engaged in this work and reduce speeds accordingly. Please contact United Water at 324-9231 with any questions or concerns.

Consumers Energy to Perform Street Light Audit

Approximately 2,600 street lights illuminate Portage streets during dark hours for motorist and pedestrian safety. The street lights in Portage are owned and maintained by Consumers Energy. The city spends nearly \$400,000 each year for street lighting service.



Beginning in March, Consumers Energy will undertake an audit of all street lighting in Portage to evaluate the existing street light network and confirm

location, wattage and type of each street light. As older mercury vapor light fixtures burn out, Consumers Energy will replace them with newer low-energy high-pressure sodium lights. The audit, which should be completed by May 2010, will hopefully allow the city to lower energy costs by better managing the street light system. If you have questions regarding the audit, or to report a streetlight outage, please call the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422.



Portage Police Department Warns of Identity Theft

With more people conducting business on the telephone and online, cases of identity theft continue to rise. Identity theft is considered one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. The Portage Police Department advises residents to minimize the risk of being a victim of identity theft by following some simple steps:

- ◆ Destroy all unused checks when closing a checking account.
- ◆ Carefully review credit card and checking account statements and immediately notify the appropriate financial institution if fraudulent activities are noted on the account(s).
- ◆ Never leave your purse or wallet unattended – no matter where you are.
- ◆ Minimize exposure of Social Security, account and credit card numbers. Never provide your complete social security number over the phone to anyone claiming to need the number for verification.
- ◆ Keep personal identification numbers (PIN) separate from card numbers or account information.

If you fall victim to identity theft, report it to the police

immediately. Most financial institutions require the victim to provide a police report/complaint number and some may require that an affidavit of forgery be completed as well. Reports of someone using your Social Security number to establish credit accounts should be made to the Social Security Administration. Report the theft of credit cards to all three major credit reporting agencies:

- ◆ Equifax Credit Information Services
Consumer Fraud Division
P.O. Box 740256
Atlanta, GA 30374
(800) 525-6285
- ◆ TransUnion Fraud Victim Assistance
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92634
(800) 680-7289
- ◆ TRW Information (Esperian) Consumer Fraud Assistance
P.O. Box 1017
Allen, TX 75013
(800) 301-7195

Curbside Recycling Reminders

The City of Portage reminds residents to take advantage of the Curbside Recycling Program. To ensure the continued success of the program, please follow these simple steps:

- ◆ Please separate corrugated/paper products and commingled products (glass, plastics, tin/metal) in the recycling bin.
- ◆ Please rinse all commingled products. Containers which still contain debris cannot be recycled (e.g., peanut butter jars).
- ◆ Please do not fold cardboard. It must be cut into 2' x 2' or smaller pieces. Larger pieces of cardboard can be taken to the drop-off facility (noted below).

The Republic Services drop-off facility is located at 3432 Gembrit Circle and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. If you need a recycling bin or have questions about the recycling program, please call the Recycling Hot Line at 329-4416, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional information can be found online at www.portagemi.gov/government/publications.asp.

2010 Spring Cleanup



www.portagemi.gov

The City of Portage Annual Spring Cleanup Program includes **separate dates** for the collection of **brush and bagged leaves** and **household materials**. The Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection program is detailed on this page, while the collection of household materials is detailed on the next page.

Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection

April 5 – 30

Bagged leaves will be collected in **April** as part of the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection Program. The map below indicates the Monday of the month of April by which brush and bagged leaves must be placed at the curb. Please have the materials at curbside by 7 a.m. on – but not more than 72 hours prior to – your designated Monday. Keep in mind that the materials may not be collected on Monday. However, each zone will be cleared of materials by the end of the designated week.



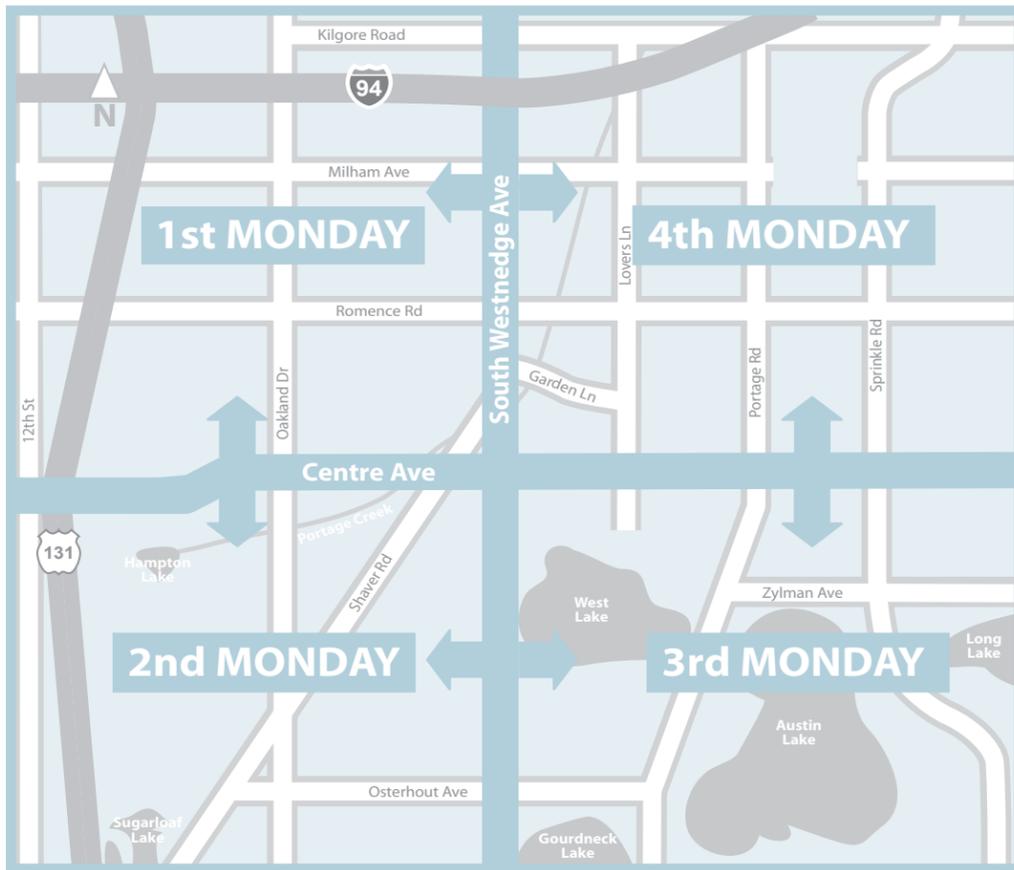
What will not be collected?

Materials that will not be picked up during Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection are:

- ◆ Leaves in plastic bags
- ◆ Loose leaves
- ◆ Tree branches in excess of four feet in length or three inches in diameter
- ◆ Brush generated from landscapers, tree services and utility companies
- ◆ Lumber/timber/railroad ties/building materials
- ◆ Yard waste which includes flowers and grass clippings
- ◆ Ornamental shrubs including, but not limited to: yews, junipers, thorn apples, lilacs, grapevines, berry bushes, etc.
- ◆ Brush generated from major tree removal which consists of trunks greater than four inches in diameter
- ◆ Firewood
- ◆ Roots and tree stumps

How should I prepare my leaves?

Leaves in plastic bags and loose leaves (not in bags) **will not** be collected. **The city will only pick up leaves bagged in biodegradable paper yard waste bags.** (See below for details about biodegradable paper bags.)



Portage Recycles!

All leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for the 2010 Bagged Leaf Collection. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected!

The City of Portage requires the use of biodegradable paper bags when bagging leaves for Bagged Leaf Collection. Biodegradable paper bags decompose with exposure to the elements, allowing for total recycling of both the bag and the leaves packed inside. Composting, an organic process in which exposure to the atmosphere and moisture is necessary, cannot be accomplished with plastic bags. In addition, leaves in plastic bags cannot be deposited in landfills due to federal laws prohibiting recyclable yard waste in landfills. **The use of plastic bags or decomposing plastic bags for the 2010 Bagged Leaf Collection is prohibited.**

Biodegradable paper bags are easy to fill. They are designed to self-open and self-stand, accepting both dry and moist leaves, and are less likely to break open than traditional plastic bags. **Please limit bag contents to 50 pounds or less.**

Biodegradable paper bags are available in the lawn & garden departments of most major household/grocery retail outlets, home improvement centers, nurseries, and hardware stores. Certain major retail outlet centers participate with the city in this total recycling program by offering discount coupons for the purchase of biodegradable paper bags. See below for coupons redeemable at various local stores.

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

25¢ OFF
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

PLU #700

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE AND SHAVER ROAD STORES.

25¢ OFF
FIVE PACK - BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

UPC #: 5 41250 31273

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10

25¢ OFF
5 Pack 30 Gallon Biodegradable Paper Lawn & Leaf Bags
648-4947

Offer good only at our Portage location. **Limit 10.**

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

25¢ OFF
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

SKU #407266

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

25¢ OFF
FIVE PACK - BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

Item # 127552

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/10
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SHAVER ROAD STORE.

25¢ OFF
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

ALWAYS LOW PRICES.

SKU #7959439724

Annual Spring Cleanup

April 19 – May 20

Each spring, the City of Portage conducts the Spring Cleanup Program, giving residents the opportunity to reduce household clutter and get rid of unwanted household materials by placing them at curbside for pickup. This year, the program will run from April 19 to May 20.

The map below indicates the scheduled pickup date for each neighborhood. Arrows on the map show which side of the street will be picked up when a boundary line falls between different dates. Collection dates are also available at www.portagemi.gov. Neighborhood collection occurs only once during the Spring Cleanup Program, so it is important to place items at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled pickup date! Materials may be placed at curbside up to three days prior to your scheduled pickup date.

The Spring Cleanup Program does not take place along private drives, at apartment complexes or manufactured home communities.

Don't forget about recycling! The city recycles a substantial amount of metal that is collected during the Spring Cleanup Program. Citizens are encouraged to recycle items such as plastic, glass, paper and cardboard by taking part in the weekly Curbside Recycling Program. Recycling is also available at the Republic Services drop-off facility at 3432 Gembrit Circle (just off Cork Street), Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Remember...

- ◆ The City of Portage has no responsibility for items removed from the curbside by private parties.
- ◆ Materials may be placed at curbside up to 3 days prior to pickup date.
- ◆ Collection will occur only once in each zone.
- ◆ All items at the curb will be collected – please watch children's toys.
- ◆ Please separate trash and metals at the curb.

What Items WILL Be Collected?

- ◆ Bed springs and mattresses.
- ◆ Metal – piled separately – will be collected.
- ◆ Old appliances, including washers, dryer, stoves, TVs and hot water heaters will be collected. (Air conditioners, refrigerators and dehumidifiers will not be collected.)
- ◆ Lawn/yard equipment must be drained of oil and fuel.
- ◆ Other items must be bundled, bagged or boxed. Each package should weigh less than 50 lbs. Household garbage will not be collected.

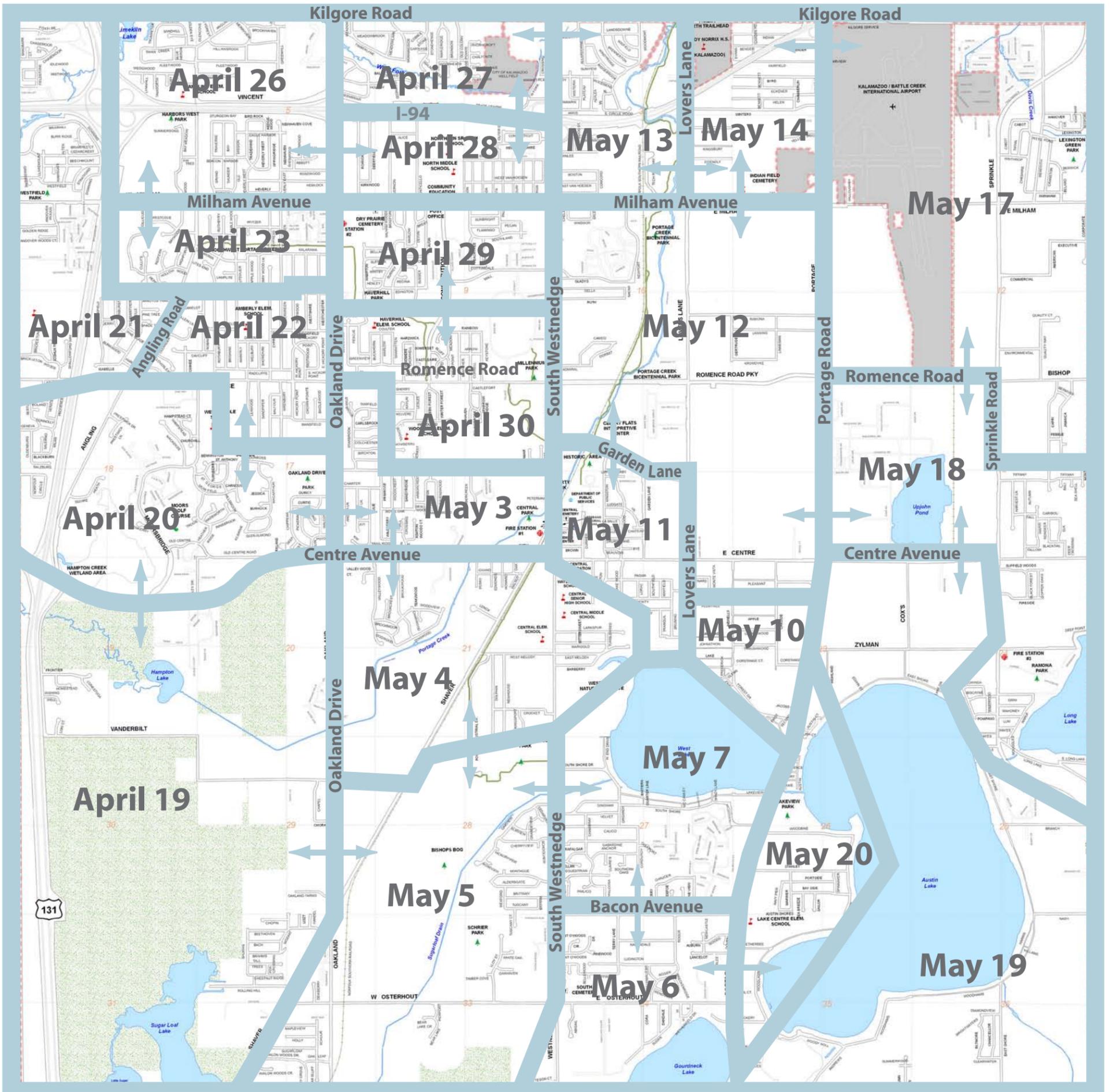
What Items WILL NOT Be Collected?

- ◆ Animal waste
- ◆ Brush/Leaves
- ◆ Garbage
- ◆ Gas cans or fuel containers
- ◆ Large auto parts
- ◆ Scrap building materials from demolition, new construction or remodeling.
- ◆ Refrigerators, Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers: These appliances will not be accepted because they must be discharged of fluorocarbons by a licensed refrigeration mechanic. Fluorocarbons used in refrigeration are considered hazardous waste.
- ◆ Paint and chemicals
- ◆ Railroad ties
- ◆ Computers & Monitors
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ Sand, gravel or sod
- ◆ Broken concrete

It is the responsibility of Portage residents to dispose of the above materials properly. The City of Portage participates in the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Program and residents are encouraged to call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 373-5211 for information regarding hazardous waste drop-off disposal.

If you have any questions about the scheduled pickup date for your neighborhood, or need information regarding materials and preparation for the program, please call the Department of Streets and Equipment at 329-4444.

2010 Spring Cleanup information is also available online at www.portagemi.gov/government/cleanup.asp, beginning March 25.



2010 Celery Flats Historical Area Events Calendar

The Celery Flats Historical Area will host a record number of run, walk and community events in 2010. Beginning with the Portage District Library East Egg Hunt on March 20th and ending with the Valley Family Church Run/Walk on October 23. The Celery Flats Historical Area will host twenty events that emphasize fun and fitness while providing valuable fundraising opportunities for area non-profit organizations.

Date	Event	Contact Information
March 20	Portage District Library Easter Egg Hunt	329-4544
April 17	Autism Society Walk	823-4783
April 24	Green-A-Thon 2010	329-4511
May 1	March of Dimes Walk	343-5586
May 2	National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Walk	342-4675
May 15	Cystic Fibrosis Walk	1-800-968-1050
May 16	PSI IOTA XI Walk	327-4742
May 22	National Childhood Cancer Foundation Cure Search Walk	324-6072
June 5	Epilepsy Walk	1-800-377-6226 ext. 1-236
September 11	MI Cops Run	324-9255
September 18	Portage Community Center Strut (a.m.)	323-1942
September 18	ALS Walk (p.m.)	616-459-1900
September 25	Run For The Son	567-2028
September 26	Michigan SIDS Walk	248-650-3729
October 02	Active: Water Walk/Run	492-6470
October 09	International Alliance of Hope Walk	290-6503
October 10	Fall Bicycle Color Tour	324-9271
October 16	American Diabetes Walk	616-502-7610
October 23	Valley Family Church Run/Walk	324-5599 ext. 174

Kalamazoo Nature Center Spring Break Camp

The Nature of Shelters: A Survival Need

Monday, March 29 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schrier Park, 850 Osterhout Road between Oakland Drive and South Westnedge Avenue

Campers currently in grades 1, 2 & 3 will enjoy theme-related and age-appropriate stories, art, games, activities, journaling, observation time and hikes. Register online today at www.knccamp.org or call 381-1574 ext. 0.

Activities:

- ◆ Build some shelters that people could use in the wilderness.
- ◆ Look for shelters that animals make in Schrier Park.
- ◆ Learn how to protect yourself from harsh weather and become “weatherwise.”

Fees:

- ◆ KNC members and Portage City Residents: \$35
- ◆ Non-KNC members and Non-Portage City Residents: \$40

Materials: Bring a sack lunch (with snacks if desired) and a water bottle. Wear weather-appropriate clothing. No electronics or distracting toys, please. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided.

Celebrate Arbor Week in Portage

The City of Portage conducts programs throughout the year to promote the health of the urban forest. Seasonal tree plantings add to the diversity of species in the city and the overall resistance to disease and insects.

Do you know that during the past twenty years a total of 14,874 trees have been planted by the City of Portage, representing over 293 different species in our community? Annual street tree pruning efforts also contribute to promoting tree health and benefits the Portage environment.

As a result of these efforts, in 2009, the City of Portage was named a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation –the 20th consecutive year that the city received this award. The prestigious Tree City USA award is given to those communities that

have met or exceeded the requirements of the National Arbor Day Foundation (per city capita spending on tree planting and maintenance, ordinance regarding trees and a tree-governing board).

Please join Mayor Strazdas and members of City Council as they host a tree planting ceremony on City Centre grounds prior to the regularly scheduled City Council meeting April 27, 2010. The ceremony will take place during Arbor Week in Michigan (the last week in April) and provides the city an opportunity to highlight these remarkable achievements.



TREE CITY USA®



Green-A-Thon 2010

Portage Youth Advisory Committee Hosts Earth Day Celebration

The Portage Youth Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Portage Environmental Board and Park Board is hosting a community event to celebrate Earth Day. Green-A-Thon 2010 will be held at the Celery Flats, 7335 Garden Lane on Saturday April 24, 2010 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

At Celery Flats, throughout the afternoon, there will be multiple musical acts, games and numerous representatives from local organizations and businesses providing education about environmental ideas you can utilize in your home or business and opportunities to volunteer for “green” causes and meet other individuals that are committed to promoting environmentally friendly action in Portage.

The Portage Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was created by the Portage City Council in the spring of 2008 to give Portage students an

opportunity to share their ideas and participate in local government. The YAC has decided to host this event as a way to raise awareness of environmental issues that affect the citizens of Portage and to provide opportunities to become more ecologically friendly. Providing a forum for such opportunities is a critical step to ensuring a sense of social responsibility and participating in and encouraging “green” behavior.

Please contact Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa at 329-4512 or herringa@portagemi.gov if you have an organization or business that would like to host a table at the event to share ideas and opportunities to live green in Portage.

No sign-up is required and the event is free. For more information please visit the Portage website at www.portagemi.gov or call 329-4512. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wanted: Board and Commission Members

The City of Portage is seeking Portage residents who are registered voters to serve on various volunteer Council Advisory Boards and Commissions. City Council looks to these volunteers for input in various areas, including construction review, community planning and senior citizen activities.

On May 11, 2010, the Portage City Council will interview citizens and make appointments and/or reappointments to the Construction Board of Appeals, Environmental Board, Planning Commission and Public Media Network (Cable Access) Board of Directors. Citizens interested in serving on one of these advisory boards or commissions are asked to submit an application to the Office of the City Clerk (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) by April 9.

Applications and additional information are available from the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4412 or the city website at www.portagemi.gov/government/boards_and_commissions.asp.

Did You Receive Your Assessment Change Notice?

The Office of the City Assessor mailed the 2010 *Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classifications* (Assessment Change Notices) on February 26 to all Portage property owners. If you did not receive an Assessment Change Notice, please contact the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433.

When you review your Assessment Change Notice:

1. Compare the 2009 values (Taxable, Assessed and SEV) to 2010 values.
2. Ensure that the Transfer of Ownership information is accurate.
3. Ensure the Homeowners Principal Residence amount is correct.

If you feel that any of the above information is inaccurate, please contact the Office of the City Assessor. The City Assessor is able to make corrections to the Transfer of Ownership information (by March 5) and the Homeowners Principal Residence information (prior to May 1).

You may also wish to review your Property Record Card for accuracy, which can be obtained at the Office of the City Assessor. Inaccurate information on the Property Record Card (square footage, non-existent improvements, number of bathrooms) could affect the valuation of the property. Inaccurate information on the record card can be corrected by the City Assessor at any time but may require an inspection (exterior and interior) of the property in question.

The property valuation can also be corrected by the City Assessor if the property owner and the City Assessor reach a mutually agreed upon value prior to the commencement of the March Board of Review.

If you believe the value assigned to your property is inaccurate and cannot come to an agreement with the City Assessor in this regard, you may wish to schedule an appeal before the Board of Review. Appointments before the Board of Review, which begin on March 9, can be scheduled by contacting the Office of the City Assessor or submitting a letter of appeal. Property owners are asked to provide appropriate support for a particular position, such as sales of similar homes in the neighborhood, (e.g., compare ranch style to ranch style), receipts or invoices for recent construction activity, etc.

Additional information regarding filing an appeal before the Board of Review can be found online at www.portagemi.gov/government/assment_review.asp and in the February *Portager*.

Spring & Summer Seasonal Employment Opportunities

The City of Portage is an award-winning, recognized leader for its parks and recreational facilities. We welcome you to become a part of our team this season and experience the quality of life that attracts people throughout the state of Michigan.

Interested candidates may submit an application to the City of Portage, Department of Employee Development, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002 or apply on-line at www.portagemi.gov. For further information, call the Department of Employee Development at 329-4533.

Position	Pay Rate
Seasonal Laborers	\$8.25 Per Hour
Floral Laborers	\$8.25 Per Hour
Lifeguards/Senior Lifeguards	\$8.25 - \$8.75 Per Hour
Ramona Park Supervisors	\$9.75 Per Hour
Technical Assistants	\$7.75 Per Hour
Cultural Assistants	\$7.75 Per Hour
Summer Fun Center Aides & Supervisors	\$7.40 - \$7.75 Per Hour

The City of Portage is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CITY OF PORTAGE
A Place for Opportunities to Grow
 7900 South Westnedge Avenue
 Portage, Michigan 49002-5160

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

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Spring Programs at the PSC!

Travel

- ◆ Bill Blagg III – Magic & Illusion, Lake Michigan College, Sunday, April 18
- ◆ Virginia International Military Tattoo, Virginia Beach, April 28 – May 2

Events

- ◆ Garden Talk at the PSC, presented by Schram's Greenhouse, Tuesday evenings in March and April
- ◆ Community Garage Sale at the PSC, Friday May 7 and Saturday, May 8

For more information on the above programs and other services offered at the Portage Senior Center, please call 329-4555 or visit www.portagemi.gov/living/senior_center.asp.

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Televised City Meeting Schedule

The following City of Portage meetings can be seen live and rebroadcast one week later on Portage Cable Access Channel 19. All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue and are open to the public.

March 2010

4	7 p.m.	Planning Commission
8	7 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals
9	7:30 p.m.	City Council
18	7 p.m.	Planning Commission
23	7:30 p.m.	City Council

April 2010

1	7 p.m.	Planning Commission
12	7 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals
13	7:30 p.m.	City Council
15	7 p.m.	Planning Commission
27	7:30 p.m.	City Council



Cable Access channel 19 is available as a live video stream on the Portage Cable Access home page (www.portagecableaccess.org) and the City of Portage Community Learning Resources page (www.portagemi.gov/learning).

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