PORTAGE

A Natural Place to Move

PARKS AND RECREATION
2014 – 2015 WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS

www.portagemi.gov
(269) 329-4522

DECEMBER

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY AND TREE LIGHTING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

7 p.m. at City Centre and Celery Flats Historic Area

Bring your family to experience the spirit of the holiday season. Festivities begin at the City Centre with caroling and the tree lighting ceremony. Join in the caroling and a stroll down Bicentennial Trail to Celery Flats where Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children and hear their delightful Christmas wishes at the Historic Schoolhouse. Enjoy local musical talent performing traditional holiday favorites and complimentary desserts at the adjacent Hayloft Theatre. Hot chocolate and hot cider will be available for a $1 donation per cup. Food and clothing donations are also welcome. All proceeds from beverage sales and donations will support local charities this holiday season.

Parking is available at the Portage District Library, Portage Senior Center and Portage City Hall.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

The City of Portage encourages all individuals to become involved in these leisure activities. Reasonable accommodations will be made to allow individuals with special needs the opportunity to participate in Parks and Recreation activities. Please call the Parks & Recreation Division at 329-4522 for more information.

YOUTH RECREATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Through a partnership between the Portage Community Center and the City of Portage, youth age 18 and under, residing in Portage and living in a household meeting established income guidelines may be eligible for financial assistance with any of the following winter recreation programs:

- **Downhill Ski or Snowboard lessons**
- **Cross Country Ski Class**
- **Ice Skating Lessons at Millennium Park**
- **Millennium Park Skate Card**

Contact the **Portage Community Center** at **323-1942** for more information

JANUARY

SNOWSHOE NATURE HIKE
WINTER ANIMAL SIGNS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

2 p.m. at West Lake Nature Preserve
9001 South Westnedge Avenue

Let's make tracks! Join a Kalamazoo Nature Center Naturalist to explore the West Lake Nature Preserve. Search for signs of insects, birds and mammals. Who knows what treasures we will find?

Demo snowshoes available on a first come, first served basis, courtesy of Lee's Adventure Sports. Nature hike will occur regardless of snow conditions and hiking boots may be worn if preferred. Open to all ages, this nature hike will be a great way to make outdoor memories with your family!

DOWNHILL SKI OR SNOWBOARD LESSONS
JANUARY 25, FEBRUARY 1 AND 8

2 - 3:30 p.m. at Timber Ridge
7500 23 ½ St., Gobles, MI 49055 **Age:** 8 years – adult

Fee: Pre-registration fee of $5/individual or $10/family payable at the Park, Recreation & Public Services office by January 23, 2015, plus $60 payable at Timber Ridge on January 25.

Group downhill ski and snowboard lessons will be taught by professional instructors on the snowy slopes of Timber Ridge, just 30 minutes from Portage. Fee includes equipment rental, instruction for three weeks and lift ticket valid until 8 p.m. on each lesson date. Space is limited and pre-registration (including names, ages and phone number) is required.

JANUARY

WINTER JAMBOREE AND CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 at Milham Park Golf Club, 4200 Lovers Lane

Winter Jamboree is a FREE community event which will offer opportunities to try out many winter activities such as:

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- **Snowshoeing**
- **Kayak sledding**
- **Sledding (bring your own)**
- **Snowman building contest**
- **Igloo building**

Cross Country Ski Class

An excellent opportunity to learn the correct way to cross country ski. This introductory class will emphasize safety, proper use of equipment and how to traverse a variety of winter terrain. Learn the diagonal stride with opposite and double poling, moving and stationary turns, uphill-downhill techniques, and how to choose and use various cross country equipment and clothing. In addition, personal safety and recommendations on local, regional and state ski destinations are covered in this comprehensive class.

Age:	**8 years – adult**
Time:	**9 - 11 a.m.**
Fee:	**$15 per person 8 - 14 years**
	$20 per person 15 years & up

Please note a minimum snow cover of four inches is required for this program.

Registration is required by January 29, 2015 in person at: Lee's Adventure Sports, 311 Kilgore Road **(381-7700)** or Breakaway Bicycles, 185 Romence Road **(324-5555)**

Participants may bring their own equipment or arrange for rental through Lee's Adventure Sports.

ICE SKATING LESSONS JANUARY 10 AND 17

The Ice Rink at Millennium Park
280 Romence Road

Session 1:	Age 5 – 11 years	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 2:	Age 5 – Adult	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Fee:	$20 per skater	

Learn to skate with expert instructors from the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association. Fees for this program include two classes, skate rental and instruction. Pre-registration is required by calling 329-4522. Class size limited to 12 students.

FEBRUARY

WINTER SNOW PARTY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12 Noon - 3 p.m.
at Oakland Drive Park
7650 Oakland Drive

A great opportunity to enjoy time with your family and friends, all while embracing the white wonders of Michigan outdoors. There will be many activities to enjoy such as sledding and a snowman building contest! Build, decorate and bring your own **cardboard sled!** Build and dress up the biggest and **fanciest snowman!** Prizes will be awarded for best in show for both contests as well as the fastest cardboard sled! Cardboard sled contest begins at 1:00 p.m. with snowman building immediately following. When you need a warm respite from the activities, enjoy a bonfire, with hot chocolate and coffee available for purchase. The event is hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee and all ages are welcome.

February 14: Valentine's Skate Date
See back panel for detail

February 26: Twilight Skate
See back panel for details

SNOWSHOE NATURE HIKE
SNOWSHOES, TREES AND FUNGI, OH MY!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
VALENTINE'S DAY

2 p.m. at Schrier Park
850 West Osterhout Rd.

What a great Valentine's adventure! Join a Kalamazoo Nature Center Naturalist and snowshoe the trails of Schrier Park. Winter gives us a different perspective as we look at trees and fungi. What can we learn from them in the snow?

Demo snowshoes available on a first come, first served basis, courtesy of Lee's Adventure Sports. Nature hike will occur regardless of snow conditions and hiking boots may be worn if preferred.

THE ICE RINK AT MILLENNIUM PARK

280 Romence Road
324-9200 for current ice rink information

The Ice Rink at Millennium Park will open for the 15th season on Thursday, December 11, 2014 and will remain open through March 1, 2015, weather permitting. This large outdoor refrigerated rink features skate rental, skate sharpening, snack concessions, restrooms, warming house, lockers and an excellent skating surface!

Please note: Ice resurfacing occurs from **3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** weekends and daily December 20 – January 3. On February 14, rink will be reserved 3:30 – 6 p.m. for Valentine's Skate Date event. (See below for details)

December 11 to December 19
& January 4 to March 1

Sunday	12 - 9 p.m.
Monday – Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	3 - 9 p.m.
Friday	3 - 10 p.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

December 20 to January 3

Daily	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
December 24, 31, January 1	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed

Winter School Holidays

January 23 & February 27	2 - 10 p.m.

Open skating	$4
Skate rental	$3
Skate sharpening	$3
Skate Card	$25

Ten punches, each good for one:
- **open skate**
- **skate rental**
- **skate sharpening**

VALENTINE'S SKATE DATE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

4:30 p.m. at The Ice Rink
Fee: $15 per person (due by Feb. 12 at rink)

Private skate, live music and dinner on the ice!! Bring your partner and/or kids for this unique Valentine experience. Start the evening dining on the ice with a meal catered from Grand Traverse Pie Company, by a server on skates! That's right, this could turn out to be a dinner that is both entertaining and memorable. Following dinner, the rink will be reserved for only those registered for this event and will re-open to the public at 6 p.m. Feel free to skate all night as we give away prizes throughout the evening.

TWILIGHT SKATE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8 - 11 p.m. at The Ice Rink
Fee: $5 skate and rental package
$3 skate only

No school on February 27 means late night fun and excitement at the ice rink on February 26! Bring your friends and skate under the stars, as we pump out prizes and dim down the lights. Colorful lighting and upbeat music will compliment this electrifying skating event!

PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

WINTER BLAST
HALF MARATHON AND 5K

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8 a.m. at Portage Central High School
Registration now OPEN!: www.portagewinterblast.wordpress.com

Join in this extraordinary community celebration of health and wellness as Kalamazoo Area Runners and the City of Portage present the 3rd annual Portage Winter Blast Half Marathon and 5k! Enjoy the wintery views as hundreds of fellow runners make their journey through the Portage trail system and along local roads. Post-race refreshments, entertainment and awards will be available at the Portage Central High School commons area.

Parking is available at Portage Central Middle School, Portage Central Elementary School, Portage Community Center, Portage District Library, and Portage City Hall.