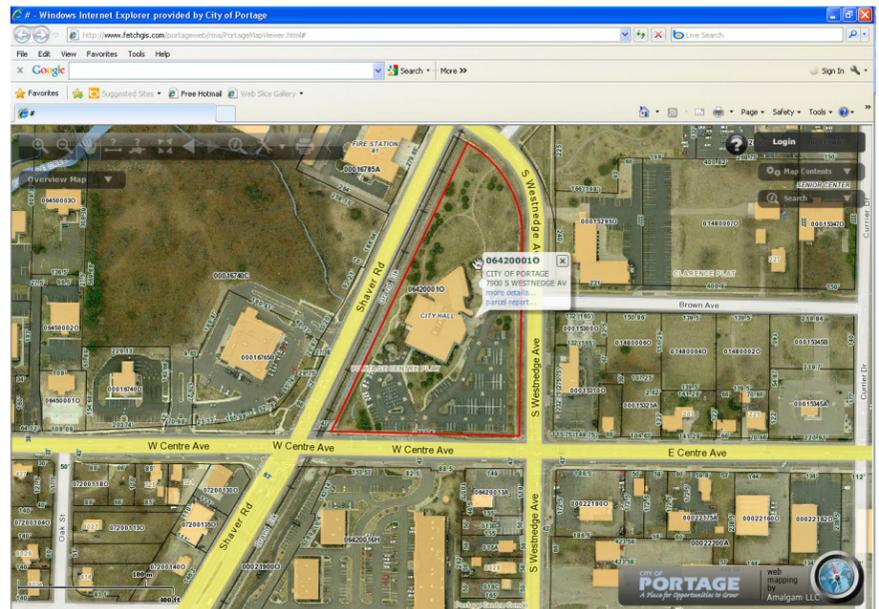


City Launches New Interactive Web Mapping Interface

The City of Portage continues to make available a wealth of data and information to the public and private sectors through its online mapping tool. Since 2003, engineers, realtors, site developers, environmental scientists, transportation professionals, teachers, citizens and many others have utilized this tool to efficiently gather information.

The City of Portage recently launched a visually-rich mapping application utilizing Adobe® Flex technology. This new interface makes it easier to access geographic information and includes additional search tools and data layers. The accompanying graphic provides an example of the new updated interactive mapping website. The new site offers a simplified interface with improved graphic rendering, improved panning, zooming and other navigation tools and the incorporation of other web mapping portals including Microsoft® Virtual Earth™. The new mapping website can be found at www.portagemi.gov > Quick Links > GIS / City Maps.

The new website requires the installation of Adobe® Flash® Player, a common web browser application that enables a richer, more immersive user experience. Questions about the new mapping website or requests for assistance can be directed to the Portage Department of Community Development at 329-4429.



Outstanding Customer Service Award



Have you received superior customer service from a City of Portage employee? Do you have frequent interaction with a city employee who consistently delivers outstanding customer service? If so, the City of Portage would like to hear from you! Nominate a City of Portage employee for the annual Outstanding Customer Service Award.

To be selected, an employee must deliver superior customer service on a consistent basis, which can be demonstrated in a number of ways. The manner in which an employee converses with a customer, the delivery of accurate and complete information and exceeding customer expectations are examples. The award can also be given to an employee based, in part, on a one-time event that is very unique, complicated or significant.

Nominations can be made at www.portagemi.gov by clicking on the Customer Service icon or by calling 329-4533 to request a nomination form. Nominations are due by October 3. The recipient of the Outstanding Customer Service Award, along with up to three honorable mention award winners, will be selected by the City Manager. The awards will be announced in mid-November.

2011 Community Survey

The 2011 Community Survey will be mailed to a sampling of 2,000 Portage residents in mid-September. The survey questions cover a broad range of subjects. Community Survey results are used by City Council in setting goals and priorities for the upcoming budget year and by the Administration to improve current services.

Citizens are encouraged to complete the survey, which is submitted in a confidential manner so that the name of the respondent remains unknown. This is an opportunity for Portage residents to participate in government and give valuable opinions to city leaders.

Be a Property Steward!

Inspect and Clean Street Gutters and Drainage Grates



The year 2011 has brought a high number of severe storms that have created significant flooding conditions. Quick intense rainstorms can cause water ponding on streets and clogged storm drainage grates are a major cause of storm water ponding during rain storms. The City of Portage asks residents to inspect and clean street gutters and storm drainage grates abutting your property on a regular basis. Lend a helping hand by following these simple steps:

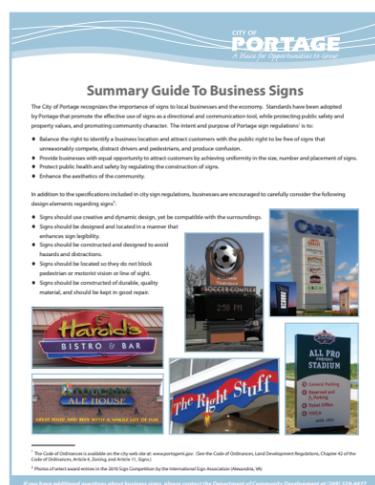
- ◆ Don't blow grass clippings, leaves or debris into the street. When it rains, storm water carries these materials down the gutter to the nearest drainage grate, oftentimes clogging the grate.
- ◆ Periodically inspect grates abutting your property and remove accumulated debris. Major maintenance needs can be reported to United Water by calling 324-9235.
- ◆ Never pour used motor oil, chemicals or foreign substances into drainage grates or street gutters.
- ◆ Never use a street drainage basin as a "garbage collector" or for pet wastes.

These simple preventative actions by Portage residents will help to keep the city storm water system functioning at a maximum level and minimize storm water ponding in the street and potentially onto private property.

City Seeks to Foster Business Success With Sign Enhancements

The health and success of Portage businesses is vital to the local economy and provide important retail and personal service amenities for residents and citizens within the larger metropolitan area. To assist new and existing businesses with the effective use of signs as a means to identify their location and to advertise promotions, the City of Portage has developed a Summary Guide To Business Signs, available at the Portage Department of Community Development and on the city website at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Community Development > Permits & Informational Forms.

The guide provides a wide range of information that summarizes the intent, purpose and provisions of the local sign regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide also provides answers to frequently asked questions, includes a table of signs permitted in various office and business districts and information regarding temporary and other signs permitted in special circumstances.



In addition to the development of this user friendly guide, the City of Portage recently adopted an amendment to the Zoning Code that permits a broader and more flexible use of banner signs within business districts. While banner signs have been used within the community on a fairly limited basis for the display of non-commercial decorative and seasonal messages, the sign regulations now provide additional flexibility for businesses to use such signs for advertising purposes. In addition, banner signs can now be used in a wider range of business districts and sign copy or advertising can utilize up to 50 percent of the overall area of the banner. For more information on banner sign design and permit requirements, please contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

Back to School Safety



With the return to school for Portage students, the Portage Department of Public Safety reminds drivers to use extra caution as students travel to and from school. Drivers are encouraged to be aware of children on foot, riding bikes and coming and going from private vehicles and school buses. A recent study by Safe Kids USA® found that two-thirds of drivers speed in school zones! Michigan law requires that drivers stop for school buses with flashing red lights activated. As actions of children can be unpredictable, caution is recommended anytime a driver is in the proximity of a school bus.

Prepare for the Journey to School

Bus Riders: Students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus arrives. Teach children to stay out of the

street and avoid horseplay. Children should cross the street at least ten feet in front of the school bus.

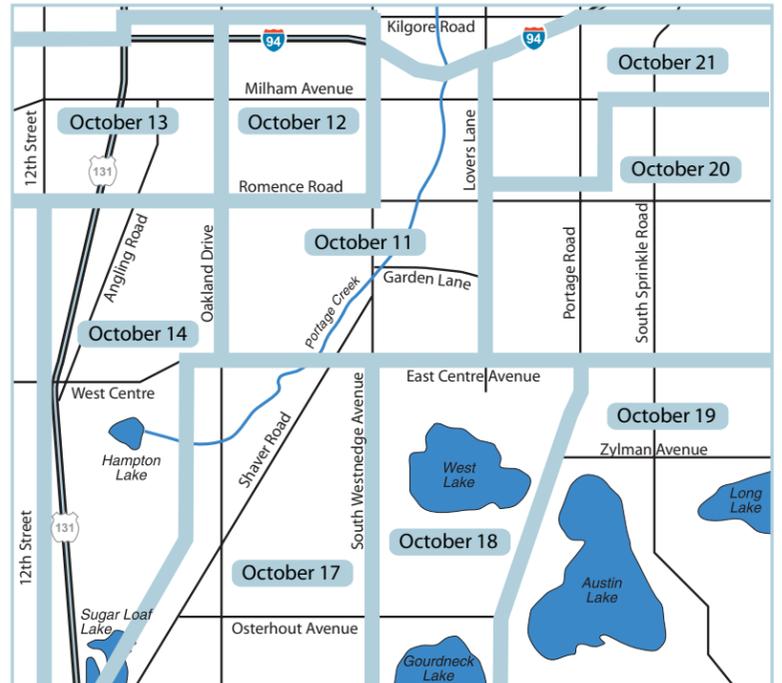
Bicycle Riders: Head injury is the leading cause of death in bike crashes. Students are encouraged to wear a correctly-fitted bike helmet. Teach children the “rules of the road,” such as riding with traffic, stopping at intersections and looking right and left before crossing the street. Safe Kids USA® suggests that children under ten years of age not be allowed to ride a bike without direct adult supervision.

Walkers: Choose the safest route to and from school and walk it a few days before school starts. Look for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings. Teach children to look in all directions before crossing the street and to cross at a corner or crosswalk. Children under ten should never cross the street alone.

For more information pertaining to youth safety, please visit www.safekids.org or contact the Portage Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Office at 324-9255.

Fall Hydrant Flushing

The City of Portage utility contractor, United Water, will conduct fire hydrant flushing beginning Tuesday, October 11. The map below 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. so as to avoid high-traffic hours. Motorists are urged to watch for vehicles and workers engaged in this work and reduce speeds accordingly. Some water discoloration will occur during the flushing process. Residents are reminded to check for discoloration prior to using water for laundry or cleaning during this period of flushing. Even though water may be somewhat discolored, it is safe to drink. Please call United Water with any questions or concerns at 324-9235.



Fall Recreation Opportunities

Portage Senior Center Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale

Saturday, November 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Portage Senior Center (PSC) will host a Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a perfect event to find unique, handmade gifts, pick up some delicious homemade baked goods or just enjoy the chance to view a nice variety of arts and crafts items. Admission is **FREE** to the general public.

Door prizes include a special selection of craft items and the bake sale will feature breads, cookies, cakes, muffins, brownies and more. Lunch concessions will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will support older adult programs at the PSC.

PSC programs are designed to enhance quality of life and promote independence for adults aged 50 and over. For more information on programs and services at the PSC, call 329-4555 or visit www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Senior Citizen Services.

Walk / Run Events at Celery Flats

The Celery Flats Historical Area and pedestrian trails in Portage will host several walk/run opportunities this fall. Portage residents and visitors are encouraged to participate and support these community fundraisers.

| Date | Event | Registration | |
|--------------|---|----------------|--|
| September 10 | MI Cops Kazoo Area Foot Chase | 321-9264 | www.kazoofootchase.com |
| September 17 | PCC Strut Run / Walk | 323-1942 | www.portagecommunitycenter.org |
| September 24 | ALS Walk | (616) 459-1900 | www.alsbeaware.com |
| September 24 | Run For The Son | 344-7333 | www.kzoodc.org |
| September 25 | Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS Walk | 800-331-7437 | www.mibabywalks.org |
| October 1 | Active Water Run / Walk | 492-6470 | www.activewater.org |
| October 2 | Walk to End Alzheimer's | 342-1482 | www.alz.org |
| November 13 | MI Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run | 800-968-3030 | www.arthritis.org |

Popular Teas Continue at Stuart Manor



Teas at the historic Stuart Manor are a perfect way to enjoy time with friends and family in a picturesque setting. Tables are adorned with china, silver and linens

with a beautiful array of tea cups, saucers and teapots all to celebrate the occasion and enjoy a soothing cup of tea. After a brief presentation of the menu, wait staff bring each course directly to the tables.

Special programming offered at each tea makes for a truly unique experience. There are many variations of tea programming and décor at Stuart Manor to celebrate seasons, holidays, books, movies and special occasions. Examples of special programming include travel, meet the author, holiday

music and sleigh ride, murder mystery, American Girl and the popular tea and a movie in a private screening room at Celebration Cinema. Pre-paid reservations are required, as seating is limited.

Sign up for the Stuart Manor Tea mailing list to ensure exclusive selection of each season's offering before it is available to the general public. To be placed on the mailing list, simply call the Portage Department of Parks and Recreation at 329-4522 or e-mail vanleeluk@portagemi.gov with your full name, mailing address and phone number.

In addition to teas offered to the public, private teas are available for many celebrations and are ideal for bridal or baby showers, Girl Scout outings, birthday celebrations, holiday parties, organizational meetings, fundraising opportunities or a time to catch up with good friends. Call the Portage Department of Parks & Recreation at 329-4410 to plan a private event.

Curbside Recycling Program Reminders

The City of Portage supports the goal to reduce and recycle waste by making it possible for residents to recycle at the curbside, or drop material off at the Republic Services drop-off facility. The city has contracted with Republic Services to collect recyclables at curbside. View the Curbside Recycling Guide at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Streets & Equipment > Recycling Program to review the details of this popular program.

- ◆ Place all papers together in a brown paper bag and lay on top of or next to the bottles, jars and cans. Papers placed in plastic bags are not acceptable. Cardboard cannot be folded and must be cut into 2' x 2' pieces. Larger pieces of cardboard can be taken to the Republic Services drop-off facility.

- ◆ Bottles, jars and cans can be combined, but kept separate from papers, in the bottom of the recycling bin. Rinse all containers of debris. Containers not free of debris cannot be recycled (i.e. peanut butter jars).

- ◆ The Republic Services drop-off facility located at 3432 Gembrit Circle in Kalamazoo, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you do not have recycling service and wish to sign up, please call the City of Portage Recycling Hotline at 329-4416. Recycling questions can be answered by Republic Services at 1-877-698-7274.



2011 Neighborhood Fall Leaf Pickup Schedule

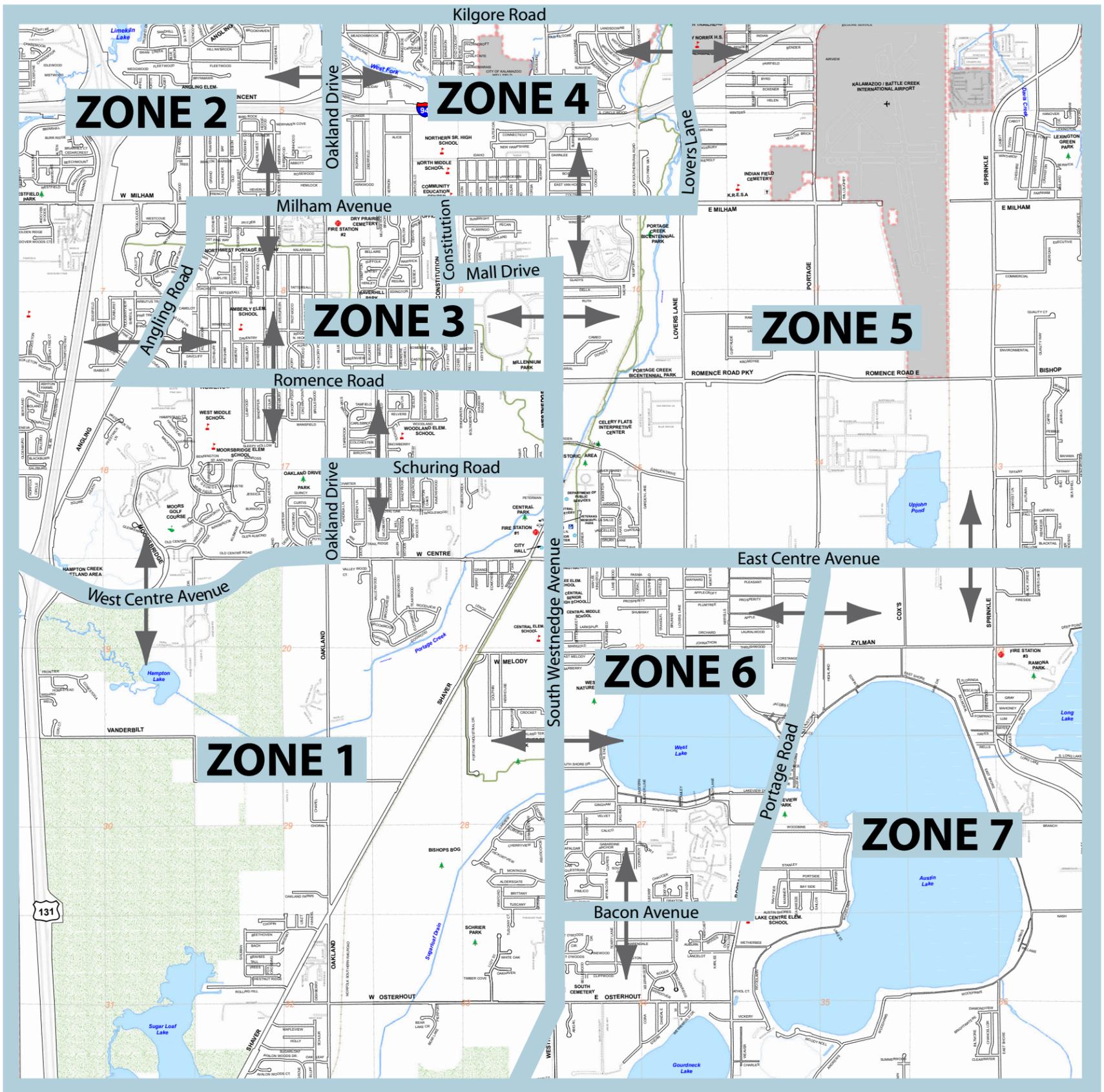
October 24 through December 1, 2011

ONLY loose leaves or leaves bagged in biodegradable paper yard waste bags will be collected.

- ◆ Leaf collection will occur three times in each neighborhood zone until prohibited by weather. Residents are asked to place leaves at the curb by **7 a.m.** on each of the three collection dates shown below.
- ◆ Leaves in plastic bags (including biodegradable plastic bags) **will not be collected.**
- ◆ Leaves should be raked off the grass and into the street or bagged in biodegradable paper yard waste bags and placed next to the curb as close to the street edge as possible so as not to obstruct traffic. Equipment may damage lawns if leaves are left in grass areas or ditches.
- ◆ The Portage Code of Ordinances (Chapter 66, Article 1, Section 66-2) prohibits residents from having basketball stands in the city right-of-way. Likewise, during trash and recycling removal days, citizens are requested to keep their containers on the curbs verses on the actual roadways. These items impede safe leaf collection operations and can damage both city equipment and personal property.

- ◆ For public safety, do not put leaves in the street more than three days prior to your scheduled collection.
- ◆ The Fall Leaf Pickup Program is **separate** from the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection Program (see page 4 for details). Ensure that brush and leaf piles are placed in separate locations at the curb.
- ◆ Streets will be swept following each neighborhood collection, weather permitting.
- ◆ Leaf collection is **not** performed on private streets or for commercial establishments, churches or schools. The Fall Leaf Pickup Program is only provided at residential properties on public streets.
- ◆ Portage citizens are reminded to **save this brochure for future reference.** Information is also available on the city website at www.portagemi.gov.
- ◆ The City of Portage will offer a spring bagged leaf collection in April 2012 for collection of leaves in biodegradable paper yard waste bags only.

| Zone | 1st Collection | 2nd Collection | 3rd Collection |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Monday, October 24 | Monday, November 7 | Monday, November 21 |
| 2 | Tuesday, October 25 | Tuesday, November 8 | Tuesday, November 22 |
| 3 | Wednesday, October 26 | Wednesday, November 9 | Wednesday, November 23 |
| 4 | Thursday, October 27 | Thursday, November 10 | Monday, November 28 |
| 5 | Friday, October 28 | Friday, November 11 | Tuesday, November 29 |
| 6 | Monday, October 31 | Monday, November 14 | Wednesday, November 30 |
| 7 | Tuesday, November 1 | Tuesday, November 15 | Thursday, December 1 |



Burning of leaves and brush is in the City of Portage! There is NO burn period.
Questions? Call the Department of Streets & Equipment at 329-4444 or go online at www.portagemi.gov.

Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection Set for October 2011

The Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection Program includes the collection of brush in January, April, July and October, including a pickup of Christmas trees in January and the collection of bagged leaves in April. For collection purposes, the city has been divided into quadrants and each quadrant has been assigned a week of the month when brush collection will take place. For a printable map that indicates the week designated for pickup in your neighborhood (starting with the first **full** week of the month), visit www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Streets & Equipment > Brush Pickup. Residents are reminded to place brush at the curbside for collection no later than Monday morning at 7 a.m. on the week scheduled for each neighborhood.

How should I prepare my brush?

Branches and brush should be cut into lengths of 4 feet or less, no greater than 3 inches in diameter and stacked in neat piles along the street.

What will not be collected?

Branches or brush in excess of 4 feet in length or 3 inches in diameter, lumber, timbers, ornamental shrubs, roots, railroad ties, firewood, building materials, tree stumps, yard waste (weeds, flowers, grasses, bark, pine needles, vines, etc.), and brush generated from large tree removal (trunks greater than 4 inches in diameter). The collection equipment cannot handle these items.

Volunteer on a City Board or Commission

Do you have some great ideas? Can you give a few minutes each month to your community? The Portage City Council will interview applicants for the following Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 beginning at 5:15 p.m.

- ◆ Environmental Board
- ◆ Historic District Commission
- ◆ Human Services Board
- ◆ Parks Board
- ◆ Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- ◆ Economic Development Corporation / Tax Increment Finance Authority

The City Council relies on volunteers for a variety of services and periodically asks Boards and Commissions to review programs developed by the City Administration and make recommendations. The meeting times and responsibilities of each Board and Commission vary and can be obtained, along with a Citizen Service Resume Form, by contacting the Office of the City Clerk by mail, in person at City Hall or by calling 329-4412. Applications are due September 1, 2011. Take this opportunity to learn about your city, serve the residents and make a positive contribution to the Portage community.

2011 Summer Tax Bills Due September 14, 2011

2011 Summer property tax statements have been mailed to City of Portage property owners and escrow agents. Property owners with an escrow agent have been mailed an "information only" copy of the property tax statement.

2011 Summer tax payments are due by 5 p.m. on September 14, 2011. Payments received or postmarked after September 14, 2011 will be charged a 3% penalty. To avoid the 3% late fee, mailed payments must be postmarked by the Post Office on or before September 14, 2011 and received by the City of Portage before September 21, 2011. Beginning October 1, 2011, any

unpaid taxes will be charged interest at a rate of 1% per month. All unpaid taxes as of March 1, 2012 will be turned over to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer for collection.

Tax bills can be paid by mail or in person at the Treasury Office located in Portage City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue. The Treasury Office is open Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The Treasury Office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 5, 2011.) A night drop-box is available for use during non-business hours. Payment by check authorizes the city to convert the payment to an immediately debited

electronic funds transfer. Payments can also be made by credit card by calling 1-800-272-9829 or by visiting the city website at www.portagemi.gov > Quick Links > Online Payments. Please note that a 3% convenience fee is charged by Official Payments Corporation for payments made by credit card.

The fact that a property owner does not receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the obligation of paying the taxes and the associated fees. Portage property owners who have not received a 2011 Summer tax bill are encouraged to call 329-4455 to request a copy.

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

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City Hall Closings

Non-emergency city offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Labor Day

Monday, September 5, 2011

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24 and
Friday, November 25, 2011



Mayor Peter J. Strazdas
327-4478
peter.strazdas@portagemi.gov

Portage City Council

Portage City Council meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) in Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. and are open to the public.



Mayor Pro Tem Ed Sackley
323-8119
edsackley@msn.com



Cory A. Bailes
271-2045
cory.bailes@portagemi.gov



Elizabeth Campbell
321-9383
campbell4portage@yahoo.com



Patricia M. Randall
324-7779
patricia.randall@portagemi.gov



Claudette Reid
491-9725
claudette.reid@portagemi.gov



Terry R. Urban
323-8160
terry.urban@portagemi.gov

Televised City Meetings

All City of Portage City Council, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings can be viewed live on channel 21. AT&T U-Verse customers can access the City of Portage government meetings on channel 99 and then follow the prompts to access the various meetings.

| Month | Date | Time | Meeting |
|-----------|------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| September | 1 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |
| | 6 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| | 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting |
| | 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |
| | 20 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| October | 4 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| | 6 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |
| | 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting |
| | 18 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| | 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |
| November | 1 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| | 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |
| | 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting |
| | 15 | 7:30 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| | 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Planning Commission Meeting |