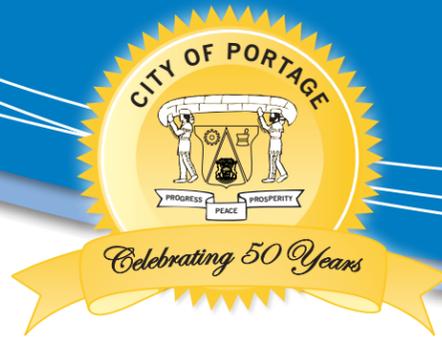




7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002
www.portagemi.gov



City Council Adopts 50th City Budget No Increase in Overall City Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget

On May 28, 2013, the Portage City Council approved the 50th fiscal year city budget. The fiscal year 2013-2014 budget totals \$62.59 million and is a balanced budget that maintains the fiscal year 2012-2013 overall city tax rate of 10.7778 mills. The fiscal year 2013-2014 budget continues cost containment measures designed to limit operating expenses while guarding against substantial impact to core service delivery.

An approximate 2 percent decrease in property tax revenue, combined with an approximate 4 percent increase in state revenue sharing, essentially equalizes property tax and state shared revenue between fiscal year 2012-2013 and fiscal year 2013-2014. Nevertheless, the continued reduction of property tax revenue clearly signals a local economy that has not yet stabilized, and which reinforces the continuation of the city's conservative budget strategy.

Service Modifications & Position Realignments

With ongoing budget constraints over the past several years, the employment of part-time and seasonal personnel to address various service needs has increased, particularly in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Services. While this approach has had an overall positive impact on the city budget, added administrative responsibilities, particularly recruitment and employment, training, payroll, workers compensation administration and general supervision, prompted a review of city services more highly dependent on part-time and seasonal employees to ensure appropriate resource allocation. Furthermore, pending requirements associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) present a significant administrative burden, beginning in fiscal year 2013-2014. The ACA requires, among other things, that health insurance be offered to a minimum of 95 percent of the city's full time employees, while defining "full-time" employees as those who work a monthly average of 30 hours per week.

In light of the continuing revenue restrictions, as well as limitations associated with the ACA, several service

modifications and position realignments are being accomplished over the next several months. Additionally, the establishment of a limit on part-time and seasonal employment to no more than 28 hours per week will be implemented to ensure compliance with the ACA.

In the Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Services, greater emphasis has been placed on providing and maintaining the many recreation facilities and resources in Portage and to a lesser degree on recreation and cultural opportunities. Recreation program priorities will be centered on the Ice Rink at Millennium Park, the popular adult softball program, the Ramona Park beach operation and use of Portage trailways by various community groups. Consequently, the operation of the Celery Flats Interpretive Center (along with Celery Flats Tours) and the Portage Creek Livery (which had been operating for group reservations only) have been closed. Kids on Stage, Teas at Stuart Manor and the School of Fish program will be discontinued at the end of the 2013 summer season and the Winter Sports Fest will no longer take place. Finally, Summer Entertainment Series (SES) programming will be discontinued at the conclusion of the 2013 SES season. All of the discontinued programming has been impacted by low attendance, various venue related restrictions and/or the need for considerable staff involvement.

Capital Improvement Program

The 2013-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is focused on essential government functions, with the level of additional debt being addressed through careful management of the CIP. The fiscal year 2013-2014 CIP budget supports \$11.82 million of expenses directed toward infrastructure improvements – \$3.31 million to street reconstruction projects, sidewalks and bikeways, \$1.90 million to utility infrastructure improvements and \$2.03 million to public facilities, police, fire, parks and recreation.

Maintenance of the city street infrastructure continues to receive a high budget priority, with a total of over \$37.34 million dedicated for investment in city streets through

the 2013-2023 Ten-Year CIP. After an analysis of the South Westnedge Enhancement Projects (SWEPs), a number of the remaining elements of the original SWEPs have been deferred or eliminated, allowing significant resources previously obligated to SWEPs to be redirected to other primary street related capital improvements.

An evaluation of CIP water improvement projects resulted in projects being included in the 2013-2023 Ten-Year CIP being focused on system-related enhancements. The resultant project listing provides a more accurate representation of water utility improvements likely to be undertaken during the planning period and enables resources to be directed toward critical system improvements.

A *Placemaking* initiative was also undertaken in recognition of the City of Portage 50th anniversary in order to capitalize on past infrastructure investments directed to bikeway and trailway development. Accordingly, initial development of the Eliason Nature Reserve has been programmed as a major addition to the city park and recreation system, with eventual development of a paved bikeway through the Eliason Nature Reserve envisioned as a southern gateway to the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail. Funding for Phase I development has been programmed in the fiscal year 2013-2014 CIP budget, with ground-breaking for the project set for July 2013.



The fiscal year 2013-2014 budget and the 2013-2023 Ten-Year CIP can be viewed at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Finance.

Portage Participates in National Flood Insurance Program Allows Portage Residents to Obtain Flood Insurance at Discounted Rates



The City of Portage is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The NFIP

is a federal insurance program that allows individuals to acquire flood insurance through private insurance companies for property located in a flood hazard area. The City of Portage partnership with the NFIP benefits both homeowners and businesses within the community by reducing the vulnerability to costly flooding events through proactive flood programs and flood insurance.

The City of Portage Department of Community Development maintains information and maps that display areas with the potential to flood or are subject to flooding. Flood-related information and maps are also available at the Portage District Library. The material is made available in an effort to assist property owners in determining if property is located in or near a flood hazard area. The Department of Community Development also maintains elevation certificates and letters of map amendments applicable to properties in the City of Portage and can provide assistance to property owners seeking flood hazard area map changes as appropriate.

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flooding. However, because Portage participates in the NFIP floodplain management program, Portage property owners are able to obtain flood insurance at a discounted cost. Residents who do not have flood insurance are urged to discuss the need with an insurance agent. Useful information about floodplain management in Michigan can also be found at www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/lwm-quickguide_202673_7.pdf.

For further information, please contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

The 2013 Road Construction Season is in High Gear

As part of the 2012-13 Capital Improvement Program, several transportation projects will be completed during the 2013 construction season. Three street reconstruction and resurfacing projects are already underway, in addition to one traffic signal project:

Forest Drive, Lovers Lane to Portage Road

This project consists of new water main installation, storm drainage improvements and street paving. Upgrades to sidewalks to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements are also planned. Work on Forest Drive began in April. The roadway will be open to traffic in June, with final completion set for July.



Construction on Forest Drive began in April and is expected to be complete in July.

Romence Road, Portage Road to Sprinkle Road

The east bound lane of Romence Road between Portage Road and Sprinkle Road will be widened, with milling and resurfacing of the entire roadway. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of June.



Vehicle detection equipment is installed on Mall Drive.

Mall Drive, Constitution Boulevard to South Westnedge Avenue

Activities on Mall Drive include sidewalk and curb repairs to meet ADA requirements, new pedestrian crosswalk signals, traffic signal upgrades and pavement milling and resurfacing. This project is expected to be complete by the end of June.

Centre Avenue / Portage Road Traffic Signal Interconnection

This transportation improvement project involves video camera installation and traffic network improvements on Portage Road from Fairfield Avenue

to Bacon Avenue and on Centre Avenue from Portage Road to Angling Road. The project also includes computer upgrades for the city traffic control center. Completion of this important project in October will result in improved traffic progression and reduced air pollution along Centre Avenue and Portage Road.

In addition to these projects currently underway, several more improvements will be constructed this summer:

Kilgore Road Bridge over Portage Creek, West of Lovers Lane

Complete removal and replacement of the existing Kilgore Road bridge over Portage Creek will necessitate a detour for this section of Kilgore Road throughout the project. Construction is tentatively planned to begin in mid-July, with completion in November.

Angling Road, West Centre Avenue to Squire Heath Lane

Angling Road in this area will be milled and resurfaced, along with upgrades to sidewalks to meet ADA requirements. Work will begin in August and is expected to be complete by the end of September.

Romence Road Parkway, Lovers Lane to Portage Road

Romence Road Parkway, between Lovers Lane and Portage Road, will be milled and resurfaced, along with upgrades to sidewalks to meet ADA requirements. Work will begin in August and is expected to be complete by the end of September.

12th Street Lift Station Rehabilitation

This project involves the reconstruction and expansion of an existing wastewater pumping station on 12th Street immediately south of I-94. No traffic disruptions are expected as a result of this project. Work is scheduled to begin in early June, with completion in September.

Local Street Reconstruction

This annual project involves curb and sidewalk repairs as well as pavement milling and resurfacing on several local streets, resulting in decreased maintenance costs, improved ride quality and enhanced safety for motoring and pedestrian traffic. At a cost of approximately \$600,000, the 2013 project is expected to be complete by the end of July. An alphabetical listing of local streets involved in the 2013 project is shown below:

- ◆ Alice Avenue, Mount Vernon Avenue to Monticello Avenue
- ◆ Bay Side Avenue, Mariner Street to Sea Breeze Court
- ◆ Brickleton Woods Drive, Joshua Tree Court to Romence Road
- ◆ Cheshire Street, Farnham Avenue to Pittsford Avenue
- ◆ Cranston Street, Farnham Avenue to Pittsford Avenue
- ◆ Farnham Avenue, Cheshire Street to Belard Street
- ◆ Joshua Tree Court, Brickleton Woods Drive to cul-de-sac
- ◆ Mount Vernon Avenue, West Milham Avenue to dead end
- ◆ Pittsford Avenue, Meredith Street to dead end
- ◆ Portside Avenue, Mariner Street to Spinnaker Street
- ◆ Sailor Court, Bay Side Avenue to cul-de-sac
- ◆ Sea Breeze Court, Bay Side Avenue to cul-de-sac
- ◆ Shallowford Way, Brickleton Woods Drive to cul-de-sac
- ◆ Spinnaker Street, Bay Side Avenue to Stanley Avenue

For more information on any of these construction projects, please call the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422. Updates can also be found throughout the construction season at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Transportation & Utilities > Construction Projects. Drivers are urged to use caution around construction zones. Remember ... "Give em' a Brake."

Streetlight Conversion Project Underway

The City of Portage is responsible for providing street lighting in the city, which helps to reduce accidents and increase safety and security on major roadways and neighborhood streets. Consumers Energy, which provides the city with the energy and owns approximately 99% of the streetlights in Portage, is responsible for maintaining the streetlight network.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 banned the manufacture and sale of mercury vapor lighting products, effective January 2008. As existing mercury vapor lamps and ballasts fail, the law requires replacement with alternative lighting.

Over the next three years, Consumers Energy will work to convert the remaining mercury vapor streetlight fixtures to high pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs. HPS bulbs can be identified by their warm yellow glow, compared to the cool blue / white glow of a mercury vapor bulb. HPS bulbs also differ from mercury vapor bulbs in that they are more economical to operate. When complete, the project will reduce the city's energy costs by approximately \$30,000 annually.



Portage streetlights will be converted to high pressure sodium bulbs, which cast a warm yellow glow.

Streetlights on major streets in Portage have already been converted to HPS fixtures. Streetlights on local streets will be converted over the next three years, beginning in the northwest quadrant of the city.

For more information about streetlights in Portage or to report a streetlight outage call the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422.

Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection Reminder

The next Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection will begin on July 1, 2013. For collection purposes, the city is divided into four collection zones. The map (below) indicates the designated collection date for each zone. Residents are asked to place brush and branches in neat piles at curbside by 7 a.m. on the designated Monday; each zone will be cleared of materials by the end of that week. Materials may be placed at curbside up to – but not more than – 72 hours prior to 7 a.m. on the designated Monday. Residents are reminded that a small amount of debris may remain at the curb following brush collection and are asked to assist with the final cleanup.

Visit www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Streets Maintenance Division > Brush Pickup to view program details. Questions about the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection program, can be directed to the Department of Parks, Recreation & Public Services at 329-4444.



2013 Summer Entertainment Series Guide Enclosed

As the City of Portage celebrates 50 years, experience the fun at the **Taste of Portage - a 50th City Celebration** on June 22 from 4:30 - 9 p.m. at the Overlander Bandshell. Enjoy a wide variety of favorite Portage restaurants with enough food choices to satisfy the pickiest of eaters. Dance off those calories with the great music of *Al's Basement Band* at 5:30 p.m. and popular dance band *Funktion* at 7:30 p.m. Visit Kidz Zone to experience hands-on activities and a playground the kids will truly enjoy! Be sure to take in the celebration and enjoy an evening of great food, fun and entertainment! Event entry is **FREE** this year in honor of the anniversary. Food and beverage tickets are \$1 each, with adult beverages available for anyone 21 and older.

Presenting Sponsor: Hinman Company; Partner Sponsors: Chemical Bank, Pfizer, Sanford Financial Services, Meyer C. Weiner Company; Kidz Zone Sponsor: The Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.

In a joint venture with the Portage District Library, the **Kids Summer Kick-off/ Movie Night** on June 7 begins at 7 p.m. in the Celery Flats Historical Area. Enjoy the *Josh and Roy Vaudeville Show* in the Amphitheatre. A dance party will take place until dusk. The movie *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (original version) will be shown at approximately 9:40 p.m. Bring bug spray and blankets for your movie-viewing enjoyment. Concessions will be available for purchase. In case of inclement weather, the rain site will be the Hayloft Theatre.

Primary Benefactor: The Irving S. Gilmore Foundation; Program Sponsor: Bronson Healthcare Group.

More fun-filled events for June, July and August are outlined in the SES brochure enclosed. For more information, call 329-4522.

Portage Senior Center Building Volunteer Leadership

The Portage Senior Center (PSC) and Volunteer Kalamazoo, through a capacity building grant from the Kalamazoo Foundation, created customized workshops designed to strengthen volunteer leadership competencies and skills of valued senior volunteers. PSC volunteers and staff recently attended four workshops focused on volunteer recruitment, management, leadership development and fundraising. Serving members between the ages of 50-90+, the PSC is focused on helping its membership to more effectively and compassionately lead and serve a rapidly growing and changing senior demographic. Learn more about the Portage Senior Center at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Senior Citizen Services.

City Offers Rental Space Ideal for Private Events and Parties

The City of Portage offers distinctive and inviting surroundings suitable for special events and groups of all sizes. The Celery Flats Historical Area is the perfect setting for a wedding ceremony and reception – inside or outside. The Celery Flats Amphitheatre has seating for 124 people with additional lawn seating available. The Hayloft Theatre or the Grain Elevator are perfect for a reception, a family reunion or a graduation party. Stuart Manor offers a more intimate setting for a business meeting, a small wedding or holiday office party.



The Hayloft Theatre in the Celery Flats Historical Area is transformed for an elegant wedding reception.



The Overlander Bandshell in Central Park can be rented for very large events.

In other areas of the city, the Schrier Park Pavilion offers a large building with a fireplace – perfect for any event regardless of the time of year. Ramona Park, Lakeview Park, Central Park and Westfield Park all offer outdoor pavilions, ideal for family reunions, sports team parties, birthday parties and even weddings. For extra large events, you can even rent the Overlander Bandshell in Central Park!

Check out all the options at www.portagemi.gov > Departments > Parks & Recreation > Groups and Facility Rental. For more information about facility rentals, please call the Parks & Recreation Division at 329-4522.

Portage Rotary Club to Sponsor Fourth of July Fireworks

The Portage Rotary Club will once again sponsor Fourth of July Fireworks at McCamley Field on Thursday, July 4 (rain date, Friday, July 5). Gates will open at 6 p.m. with the fireworks show beginning at dusk. There is no cost for admittance; however, the Portage Rotary Club will accept donations at the gates and concessions will be available. Money raised through gate donations and concession sales will help defray the cost of the fireworks. Any proceeds will benefit the Portage Rotary Club Scholarships program. Each year, the Portage Rotary Club awards scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 to Portage area students to assist with higher education expenses. Visit the Portage Rotary website at www.clubrunner.ca/portage for more information about the scholarship program. Questions about the 4th of July Fireworks can be directed to Robb Krueger at rkrueger@kech.com.

The Portage Bikeway - It's How to Get Around!

The popularity of the bicycle as both a recreational vehicle and a means of non-motorized transportation has grown immensely in recent years. To provide for biking in Portage, in 1989, the city began developing the Portage Bikeway. Today, more than 55 miles of bikeways connect neighborhoods, shopping areas, city parks, schools, businesses and other points of interest.

The Portage Bikeway map to the right identifies **bikeway lanes** and **recreation trails**. A **recreation trail** is a separate off-road trail or pathway for joint bicycle/pedestrian use.

Bikeway lanes in Portage are paved shoulders adjacent to a city street and are striped and signed for use by bicyclists. Additional bikeway information may be found on each sign identifying direction changes, lane usage and end points. The designation of bikeways in Portage with bikeway signs draws the attention of motorists to the fact that these areas are for the use of non-motorized vehicles. However, bicyclists are reminded to exercise proper safety precautions when

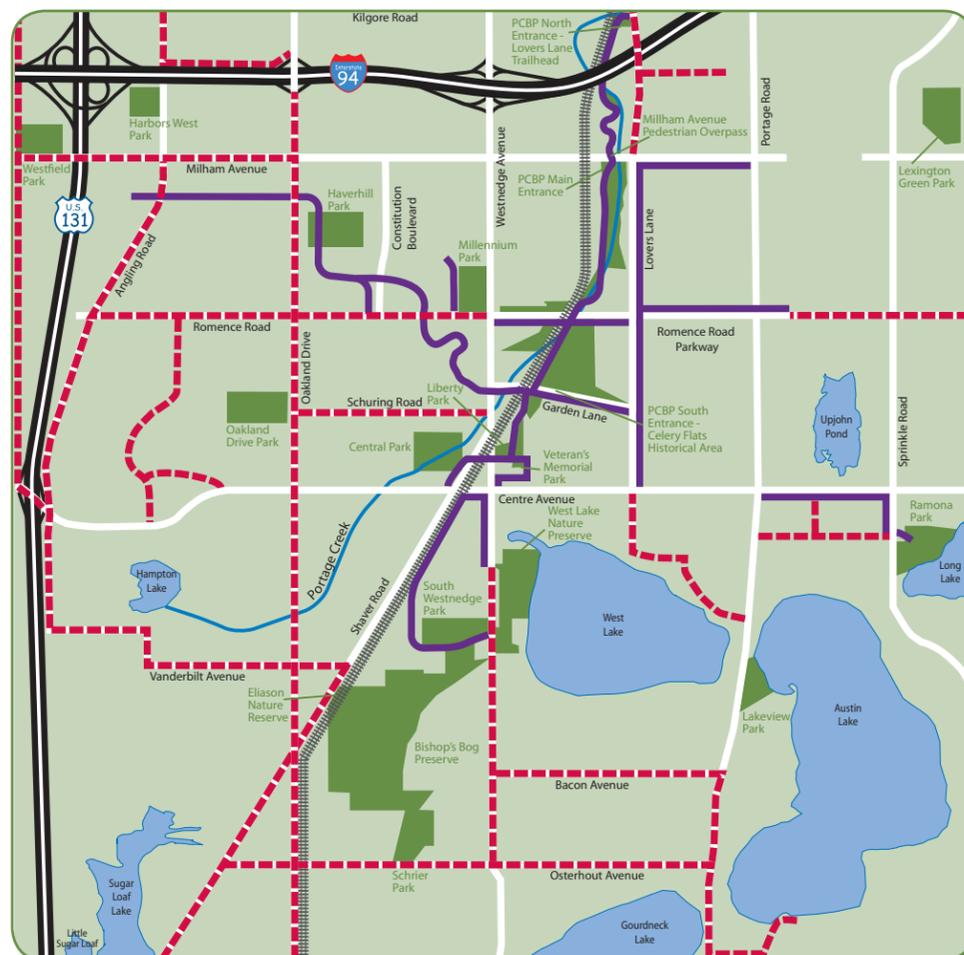
using the bikeways – including being cautious of motorized vehicles entering these areas. Additional bicycle safety reminders are offered by the Portage Department of Public Safety:

Drivers

- ◆ Bicycles are vehicles with the same rights, rules and responsibilities of other road users. Yield to bicyclists as if they were a motorist.
- ◆ Only pass a bicycle when it's safe to do so. Slow down and give cyclists three feet of passing room.

Bicyclists

- ◆ Ride no more than two abreast.
- ◆ Obey all traffic laws, stop signs, and traffic lights.
- ◆ Where there is not a bikeway lane, ride with traffic as far to the right as possible.
- ◆ Ride consistently and predictably while using appropriate signals for turns.



The Portage Bikeway map identifies the more than 55 miles of bikeway lanes and recreational trails that connect neighborhoods, shopping areas, city parks, schools, businesses and other points of interest.



Senior Citizen Discount Program Discontinued

For many years, the City of Portage has offered a "Senior Citizen Discount" that provides a 10 percent reduction on water charges to utility customers over the age of 62 years. After a recent review, the program has been found to be non-compliant with current non-discrimination requirements and will be discontinued on October 1, 2013. A notification letter to those utility customers currently enrolled in the program will be issued in the near future and no additional customers will be enrolled in the program. Questions regarding the discontinuation of this program can be directed to the Treasury Office at 329-4455, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Special Assessment and Summer Tax Bills

The 2013 City of Portage special assessment bills are scheduled to be mailed to residents on Friday, June 28, 2013, with a due date of Friday, August 30, 2013. The Treasury Office will begin taking payments on the 2013 installments on Monday, July 1, 2013.

The 2013 City of Portage summer tax bills are scheduled to be mailed to property owners on Friday, July 12, 2013. Tax information for the 2013 summer tax bills will be posted on the City of Portage website on Monday, July 16 and will be updated daily. Summer tax payments are due by Monday, September 16, 2013.

Questions be directed to the Treasury Office at 329-4455, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Portage Fetch Mobile is available as a free app for convenient access to the City of Portage Geographic Information System (GIS) via a mobile device. The app provides a responsive, interactive map and land information service that is available on both Android and iOS devices, including tablets and smartphones. Users of Portage Fetch Mobile can view current aerial imagery, parcel and other land information from the convenience of a mobile device. Links for immediate download of Portage Fetch Mobile via iTunes or Google Play can be found at www.portagemi.gov. Questions regarding this app or the City of Portage GIS may be directed to the Department of Community Development 329-4429 or klemmk@portagemi.gov.



Subscribe to City of Portage RSS Feeds! RSS feeds allow users to "subscribe" to a feed to receive alerts from frequently updated or favorite websites, allowing users to avoid manually inspecting all of the websites they follow, and instead receive alerts when new information has been posted to the websites. City of Portage RSS feeds include updates to the news and events sections, employment opportunities and volunteer opportunities. The newest edition to City of Portage RSS feeds allows users to receive an alert whenever an opportunity to "Bid on a Project" is added to the city website. The new feature will be of benefit to vendors that would like to bid on city projects. To subscribe to City of Portage RSS feeds, visit www.portagemi.gov/RSSFeeds.aspx.

Annual Water Quality Report Available Online

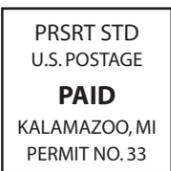
The City of Portage 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available online. The report contains important information about the source and quality of the municipal water supplied to Portage water system customers. Visit www.portagemi.gov/FilesCustom/HtmlEditor/files/Transportation/Utilities/WaterQualityReport.pdf to view and / or print the 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. Please contact the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422 with questions about the report or to request a copy.



7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



City Closings

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

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4

Labor Day

Monday, September 2

The next edition of the *Portager* will be published in September 2013.

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.

The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city. Citizens are encouraged to contact the City Administration with concerns or complaints about city services by calling Complaint Resolution at (269) 329-4404 or by visiting www.portagemi.gov > Report It!



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Televised City Meetings

All City of Portage City Council, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings can be viewed live on channel 98. 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.

June

6	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
10	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
11	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
29	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
25	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting

July

8	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
9	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
11	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
23	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting

August

1	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
12	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
13	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
15	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
27	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting