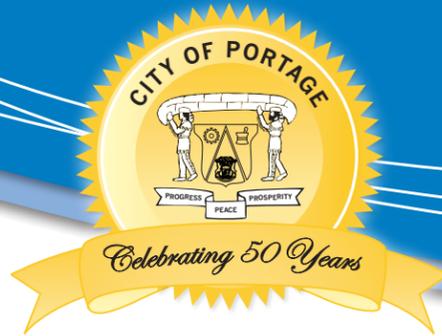


# Portager

March 2013



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



## Community Input Needed: City to Host Business Sign Forum

Let your voice be heard and share your views on the role that signs play in the Portage community. The City of Portage recognizes the importance of signs to local businesses and economic vitality. Signs are widely used to identify the location of a business and to advertise promotions and special events. Effective business signs are creative and dynamic, yet legible and compatible with their surroundings.



For the past two years, the City Council has convened a Sign Ordinance Committee to evaluate and ensure signage is permitted within the Portage community in a manner that serves the interests of local businesses and the community at large. In an effort to garner further

input on business signs, a community forum will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Portage City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue.

Residents, business owners, sign contractors, commercial developers and other interested citizens are invited to attend the Business Sign Forum.

During the forum, attendees will learn about the recent work of the City Council Sign Committee and the history of local signs and sign regulations.

Importantly, those in attendance will have an opportunity to discuss and share feedback on a variety of business sign topics including freestanding signs, wall signs, temporary signs and general observations regarding signs and their impact on local business and the community in general.

The Business Sign Forum will be facilitated by TSI Consulting Partners, Inc. and attended by City of Portage elected and appointed officials and Community Development Department staff. The event will open with registration and refreshments at 8:30 a.m. with the session starting at 9 a.m.

While a reservation is not required, those interested in attending the forum are encouraged register at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) or contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 to indicate their attendance plans, and obtain more information regarding the Business Sign Forum.



## Board of Review Set to Convene March 12

The City of Portage Board of Review, appointed by the Portage City Council, will convene on March 12, 2013 to hear property tax valuation appeals from Portage property owners. The six-member Board of Review will make up two, three-member panels, providing the ability to hear property owner appeals in a timely manner.

### Assessment Change Notices

On February 22, 2013, the Office of the City Assessor mailed the annual Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification (Assessment Change Notice) to Portage property owners. These informational notices included the tentative State Equalized Value (SEV), the percent of exemption as a Principal Residence and whether there was a Transfer of Ownership. Property owners are encouraged to read the Assessment Change Notice in its entirety.

After receiving and reviewing the Assessment Change Notice, property owners are encouraged to contact the Office of the City Assessor with any questions or concerns. **Many questions and concerns can be addressed by assessing staff, without the necessity of appearing before the March Board of Review.** Certain questions regarding assessment change notices and property assessments can be answered over the phone, while others may be best answered during an informal in-person review conducted by assessing staff. Property owners wishing to discuss their property valuation with

assessing staff may contact the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433. It is important to note that the City Assessor cannot make any changes to 2013 property valuations – State Equalized Value (SEV) – after Friday, March 8, 2013.

### Board of Review

Property owners who believe their property assessment is inaccurate may also appear before the March Board of Review to appeal the valuation. (Keep in mind that assessing staff may be able to address some property owner concerns prior to March 8, 2013 without the necessity of appearing before the Board of Review.) **The Board of Review will meet from Tuesday, March 12 through Thursday, March 14, 2013 and will schedule additional dates should the need arise.** Residents may contact the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433 beginning Monday, March 4, 2013 to schedule an appointment before the Board of Review.

Issues that can be brought before the Board of Review include property valuation (SEV), assessment roll classification changes and exemption requests (see related article below). Taxable value is generally not appealable at the March Board of Review as this type of change is entirely a result of Proposal A. Taxable value change is limited by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as determined by the State Tax Commission, unless there has been new construction or an uncapping

event (transfer of ownership). For 2013 the CPI is 2.4%, meaning that unless new construction has occurred, physical improvements have been made to the property or the assessed and taxable values are not the same amount, the taxable value may increase up to 2.4%.

With regard to assessed valuation, under Michigan law, the selling price of a property is not the presumptive True Cash Value. In other words, the actual selling price is not what the City Assessor or Board of Review determines the assessed value to be. Selling price is only one measure of value for the Board of Review to consider.

### Supporting Documentation

Property owners who choose to meet with assessing staff and/or appeal property valuation before the Board of Review are encouraged to provide appropriate support for a particular position, such as:

- ◆ Sales of similar homes in the neighborhood that took place between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012
- ◆ Current appraisals for the subject property
- ◆ Receipts or invoices for recent construction activity
- ◆ Photographs of property damage or deterioration
- ◆ Support for poverty exemption
- ◆ Any other information relevant to the assessment of the property

## Do You Qualify for a 2013 Property Tax Poverty Exemption?

The City of Portage Board of Review can approve a one-year exemption from property taxes due to a resident's poverty income level. This annual property tax exemption requires the applicant to be currently receiving the Principal Residence Exemption (formerly the Homestead Exemption) and meet the federal household poverty exemption guidelines for the previous calendar year (shown below). The guidelines determine the eligibility of the applicant and must be supported with proper income documentation (i.e., federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns). Household assets (\$25,000 limit) are also considered and must be recorded with the application.

Household Size*	Maximum Income
1 person	\$11,170
2 persons	\$15,130
3 persons	\$19,090
4 persons	\$23,050
5 persons	\$27,010
6 persons	\$30,970
7 persons	\$34,930
8 persons	\$38,890

\* For households with more than 8 persons, add \$3,960 for each additional person.

The application form is available at the Office of the City Assessor or online at [www.portagemi.gov/government/assessor\\_forms.asp](http://www.portagemi.gov/government/assessor_forms.asp). The approval process

requires an in-person appointment before the Board of Review which meets in March, July and December. To be considered, applications must be submitted to the Office of the City Assessor at least 10 days prior to the Board of Review sessions. Generally, the Board of Review considers completed applications in relation to the federal household income standards, along with household assets and determines by a simple majority vote whether to grant an exemption. Exemptions granted to residents due to poverty income levels are subject to audit by the Michigan Department of Treasury. More information can be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433.

# Introducing City Apps

The City of Portage is pleased to introduce two new Apps now available in the App Store for iPad and iPhone devices. Both apps can be found simply by entering the word "Portage" in the App Store search field.

## Official City of Portage App - PortageMI



The Official City of Portage App allows citizens to learn about current city government news and events. The app also includes the Report It! tool that allows citizens to report certain maintenance issues or ordinance violations such as potholes, inoperable traffic lights, abandoned vehicles and more. With this tool, the user can select the maintenance issue from a drop down menu, add comments, add a photo of the issue and use the built-in GPS feature to pinpoint the exact location of the issue. The information is then submitted to the appropriate city department for review and resolution. The Official City of Portage App can be found under the iPhones tab in the App Store and will work on both the iPad and iPhone. The app was developed by QARDSCode, LLC owned by Portage Youth Advisory Board member, Sujay Dewan.

## Parks Locator App - Portage, MI Parks



The City of Portage Parks Locator App allows users to identify the location of each of the 17 individual park properties within the City of Portage. The main screen provides a city map with each of the park locations identified by number. A sidebar called "Parks List" allows the user to select a park from the complete listing. Each selection reveals an overhead of the individual park property. This view includes an information tab that reveals another smaller screen that provides a park description along with images of the park amenities and points of interest. The app may also be shared with others via email, Twitter, Facebook or Tumblr. The Parks Locator App can be found under the iPad tab in the App Store and will work on the iPad (not the iPhone). The app was developed by Technology Solutions of Kalamazoo, MI.



# Volunteers Needed for Boards and Commissions

On May 14, 2013, the Portage City Council will interview applicants interested in serving on Council Advisory Boards and Commissions. Appointments and reappointments will be made to the **Construction Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, Park Board, Planning Commission, Public Media Network Board** and **Youth Advisory Committee** (see back page for related article).

The meeting times and responsibilities of each of the Boards and Commissions vary. Please visit the city website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4412 for additional information. Those interested in serving on an Advisory Board or Commission must be a registered voter of the City of Portage. Applications for Board and Commission interviews can also be found at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) and should be submitted by Monday, April 15, 2013.

# Senior Center Launches New Registration System

## Grant Funding Key to Purchase of New System

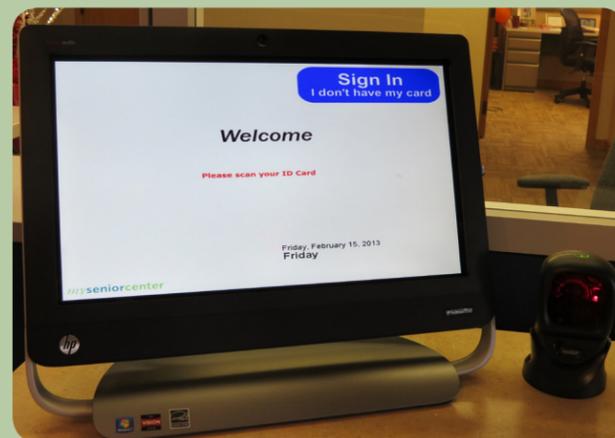
In March, the Portage Senior Center (PSC) launched a new web-based participant registration and program management system designed specifically for senior centers. The system helps register member participants and track vital population demographics and program participation levels. The system, suitably named MySeniorCenter,™ was purchased with grant funding from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and matching funds from Friends of the Portage Senior Center.

MySeniorCenter™ brings the PSC into a new age of accountability and customer service. The system solves the problem of organizing, centralizing and consolidating accurate data in a consistent manner,

which can assist in building volunteer program capacity.

Prior to the implementation of MySeniorCenter,™ senior volunteers assisted with tracking a vast amount of data associated with reporting participation levels averaging up to 2,000 visits per month. All of this essential information was gathered with pen and paper. With the new system, members simply scan a key card upon entering the PSC and select the activities in which they plan to participate that day.

As an extension to the MySeniorCenter™ project, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation provided grant funds to support volunteer leadership training.



The new MySeniorCenter™ registration system allows Portage Senior Center members to scan a key card to check in and select the activities in which they plan to participate.

# Portage Hydrant Flushing Schedule for Spring 2013

The City of Portage utility contractor, United Water, will conduct the annual spring fire hydrant flushing from Tuesday, March 19 through Friday, March 29, 2013. 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. so as to avoid high-traffic hours. The work areas will be clearly marked. This is a tentative schedule and there may be a need to flush outside an assigned day or areas to provide the best possible results.

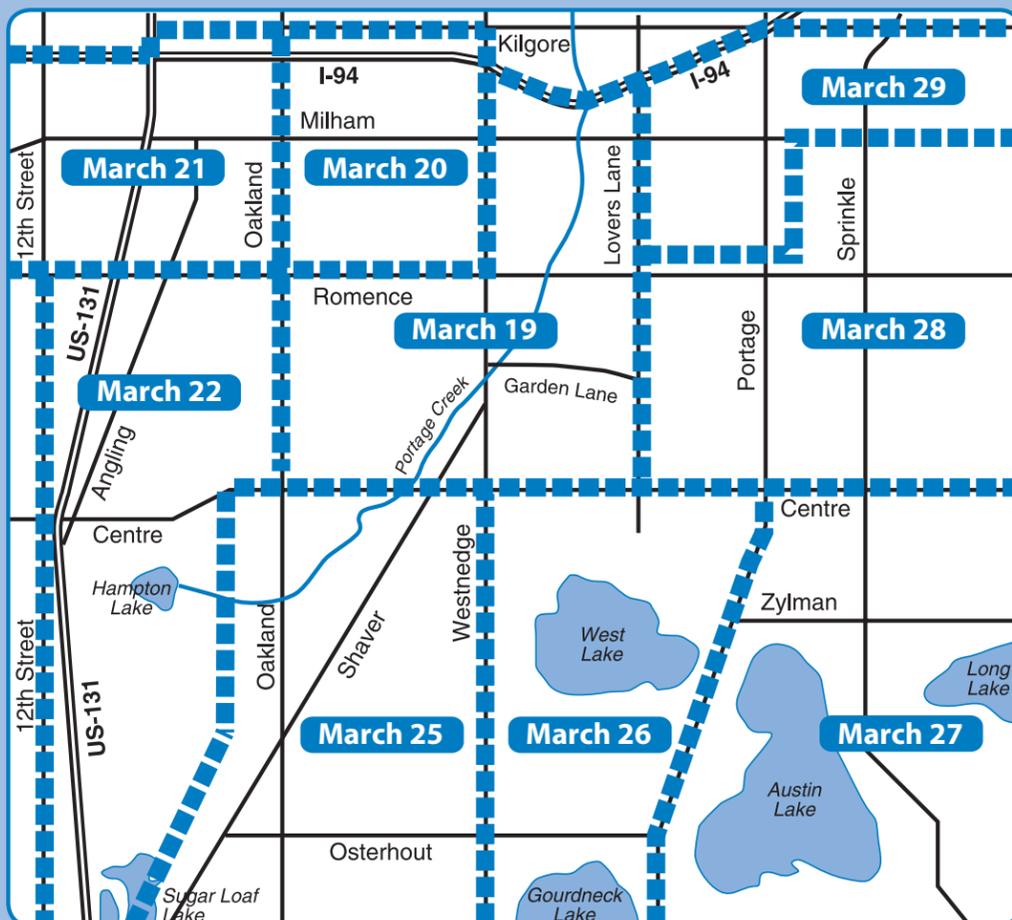
Hydrant flushing accomplishes important objectives for the water system:

- ◆ 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 asked to check for water 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.

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 call United Water with any questions or concerns at 324-9235.



# 2013 Spring Cleanup



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 is detailed on this page, while the collection of household materials is detailed on the next page. Please contact the Streets and Parks Maintenance Division at 329-4444 or visit the city website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) for further information.

## Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection April 1 – 26

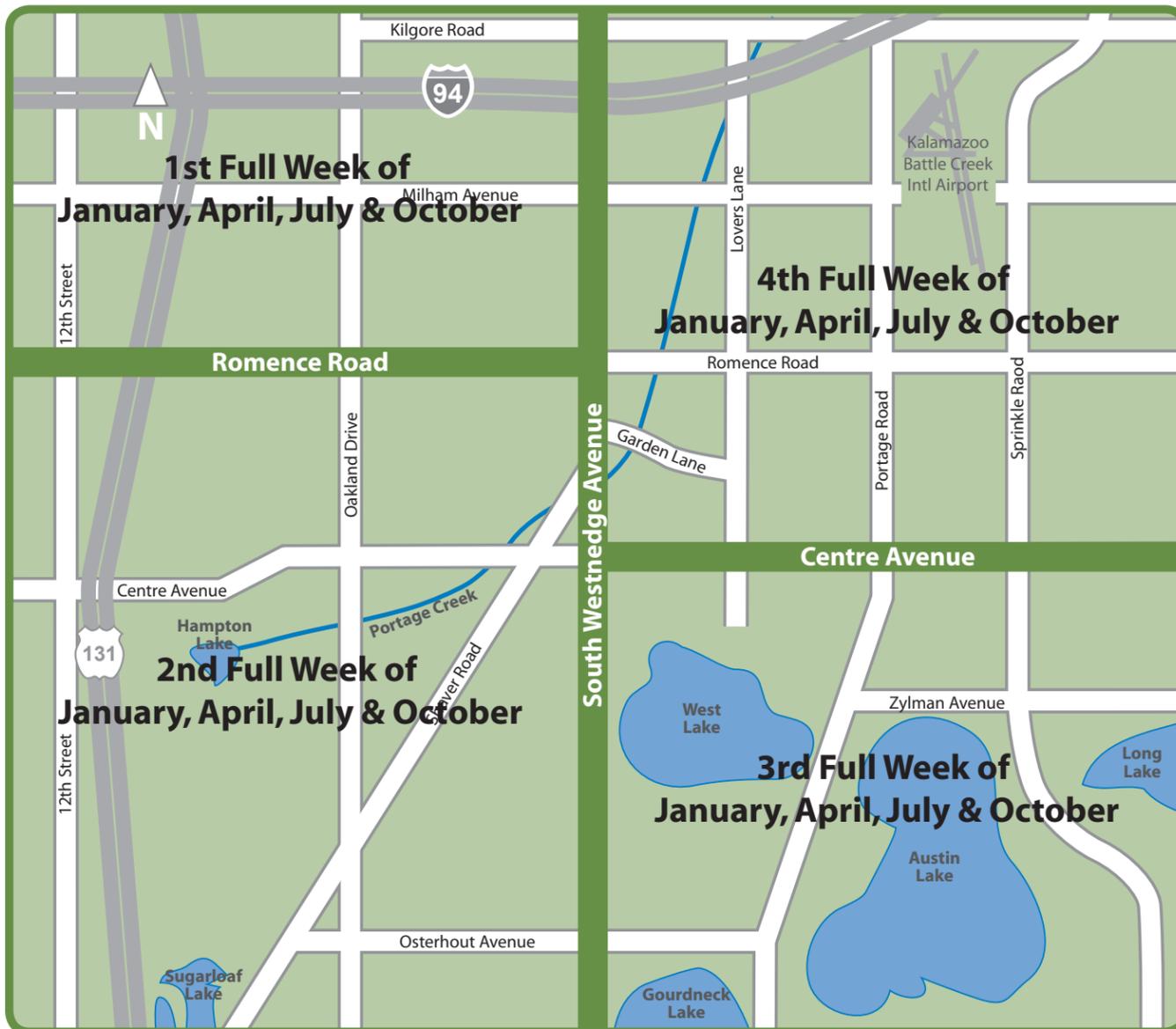
Bagged leaves, including ornamental grasses, will be collected in **April** as part of the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection program. The map below indicates when materials may be placed at the curb. All materials should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m., **but not more than 72 hours prior to your designated Monday**. Residents are reminded that materials may not be collected on Monday; however, each zone will be cleared of materials by the end of the designated week.

### How should I prepare my brush/leaves?

- ◆ Branches 4 feet in length or longer are preferred
- ◆ Branches must be less than 3 inches in diameter
- ◆ Stack in neat piles at curbside
- ◆ Do not cut up Christmas trees
- ◆ Leaves must be in biodegradable paper bags (see details at bottom of page)

### What will NOT be collected?

- ◆ Brush/branches generated from the removal of a tree which is greater than 4 inches in diameter at its trunk
- ◆ No parts of a whole tree removal will be collected—including brush/branches from the tree
- ◆ Brush/branches generated from a professional tree removal service
- ◆ Grass clippings, flowers, weeds, garden materials
- ◆ Firewood
- ◆ Lumber/timber/building materials/railroad ties
- ◆ Roots or tree stumps
- ◆ Yew branches or vines
- ◆ Loose leaves
- ◆ Leaves bagged in plastic bags



## Portage Recycles!

**All leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for the 2013 Bagged Leaf Collection. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected!**

The City of Portage requires the use of biodegradable paper bags for the 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 2013 Bagged Leaf Collection is prohibited.**

Biodegradable paper bags are easy to fill. They are designed to self-stand, accept both dry and moist leaves and are less likely to break open. **Please limit bag contents to 50 pounds or less.** Biodegradable paper bags are available in the lawn and 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 coupons at right redeemable at various local stores.



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OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

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SKU #407266

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# Spring Cleanup

# April 22 – May 23

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 22 to May 23.

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](http://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 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, dryers, 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.

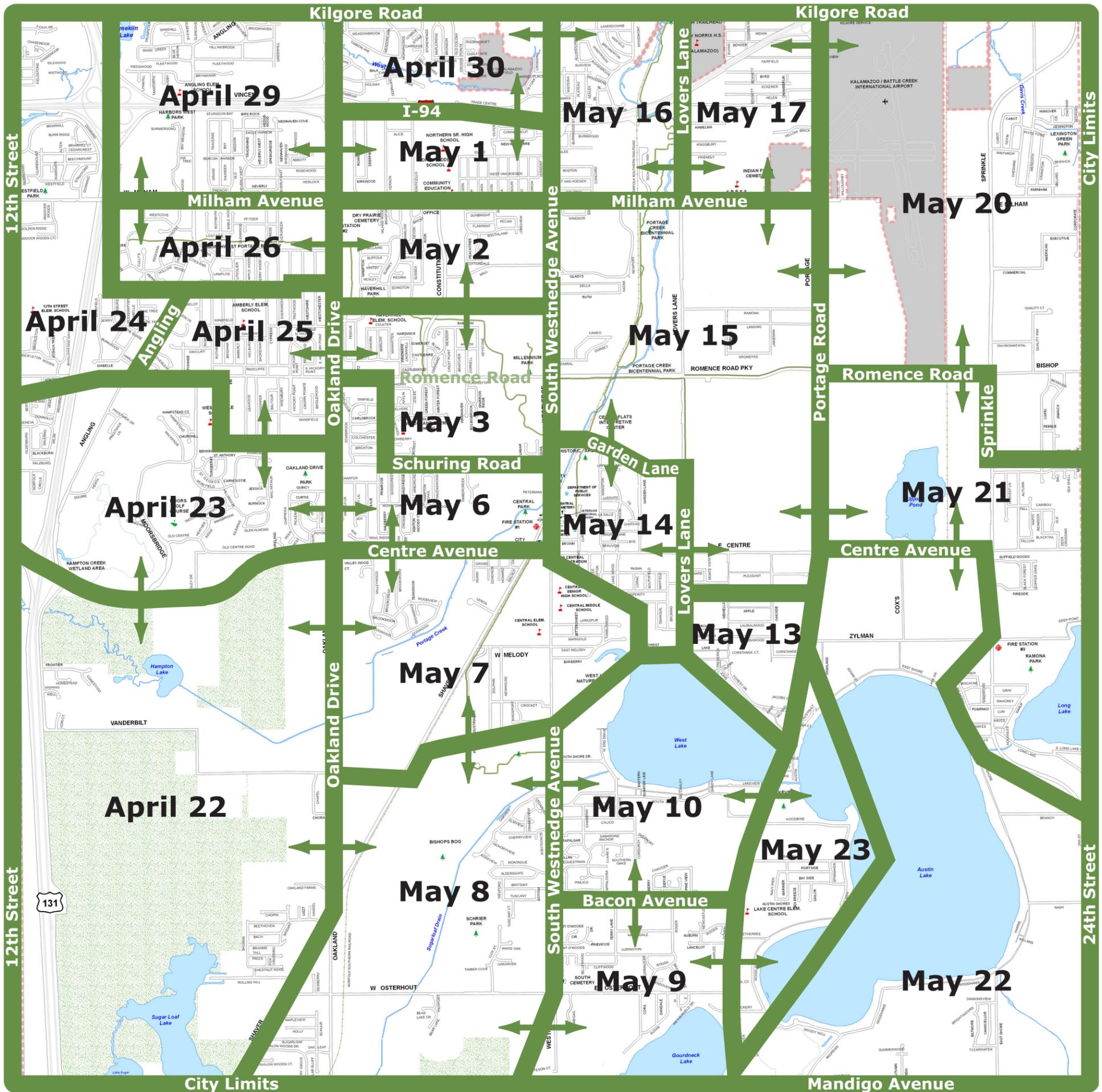
## What Items WILL NOT Be Collected?

- ◆ 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 also 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 Streets & Parks Maintenance Division at 329-4444.

**2013 Spring Cleanup information is also available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov).**



## Green-A-Thon 2013

### 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 2013* will be held **Saturday, April 27** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Celery Flats, 7335 Garden Lane.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be multiple musical acts, games and representatives from local organizations and businesses providing education about environmental products that can be used in your home or business. Attendees will have opportunities to volunteer for "green" causes and to speak with other individuals 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 in participating and encouraging "green" behavior.

Please contact Adam Herringa, Deputy City Clerk at 329-4512 or [herringa@portagemi.gov](mailto:herringa@portagemi.gov) if you have an organization/business that would like to host a table at the event to share ideas and opportunities to live green in Portage. The event is free and open to the public. For more information please visit the Portage website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) or call 329-4512.

## 2013 Tree City USA® and Arbor Day Celebration



TREE CITY USA®

The City of Portage will celebrate its twenty-third consecutive year as a Tree City USA® on Tuesday, April 23 with a commemorative tree planting ceremony on City Hall grounds. Mayor Peter Strazdas, City Council members and City Manager Maurice Evans will be on hand to participate in planting the Arbor Day tree prior to the scheduled Council meeting.

The Tree City USA® award is given to those communities that have met or exceeded the requirements of the National Arbor Day Foundation, including the city per capita spending on trees, tree maintenance, holding a planting ceremony and having ordinances regarding trees and a governing board. Meeting these requirements is necessary for Portage to receive Tree City USA® recognition in 2013.

The City of Portage conducts programs throughout the year to promote the health of the urban forest. Seasonal tree planting programs in street rights-of-way and other city properties, as well as annual street tree pruning efforts, all help contribute to promoting tree health and benefits within the community.

## Softball Season Just Around the Corner!



Green grass, sunshine and fresh spring air are just around the corner! The time to start planning your summer activities is now! Participating in recreational softball is a great reason to get outdoors, stay active and get together with friends. The softball season begins April 29 and leagues are forming now. Don't miss your opportunity to participate...registration ends March 28!

Interested teams or individuals are encouraged to attend the organizational meeting on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m., at the Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane, to obtain current season information including league rules.

The following leagues will be offered:

- Mondays Coed Leagues
- Tuesdays Coed and Over 50 Leagues
- Wednesdays Men's Leagues
- Thursdays Men's and Doubleheader Leagues
- Fridays Men's, Coed and Church Leagues

Registration information and forms are available online at [www.portage.mi.gov](http://www.portage.mi.gov) > Departments > Parks & Recreation > Adult Softball.

### Umpires Needed!

*New umpires are always welcome in Portage! If you have an interest in umpiring, please call 329-4522, before April 1, for additional information and training details.*

## Spring and Summer Recreation 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 Michigan.

Seasonal 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
Assistant Cultural Coordinator	\$9.75 per hour

Interested candidates may view detailed information about these positions and submit an application online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Quick Links > Employment.

Applications can also be mailed to the City of Portage, Department of Employee Development, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002.

For additional information, please call the Portage Department of Employee Development at 329-4533.

**The City of Portage is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

## April is National Fair Housing Month

The City of Portage recognizes and supports Fair Housing Month and the educational activities that will help to eliminate discrimination in housing and foster equal housing opportunities.

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

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



These national and state laws protect people against discriminatory actions such as:

- ◆ refusing to sell or rent housing
- ◆ quoting a difference in housing availability
- ◆ quoting a difference in required security deposit
- ◆ quoting a different monthly rent
- ◆ refusing to rent to a family or individual with children
- ◆ sexual harassment of a tenant

If you are interested in educational opportunities regarding fair housing, or if you suspect discrimination in a housing purchase, sale or rental transaction, including a difference in terms, conditions or opportunity, please 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.

### 50th Anniversary Pop Quiz

Q: What year did the Crossroads Mall open?

A: 1980. Phase I opened on July 24, 1980 and contained 518,729 square feet of leasable space among 101 store spaces. It included Hudson's (now Macy's) and J.C. Penny as major anchor stores. Phase II opened in September 1982 with the addition of the Sears store. The total estimated cost of construction at that time was more than \$30 million.

# Searching for Youth Advisory Committee Applicants

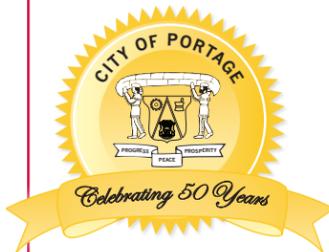
The Portage City Council seeks the involvement and input of Portage youth in Portage local government. Options for youth involvement include serving on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) or as a youth appointee to the Environmental Board, Historic District Commission, Human Services Board, Park Board or Senior Citizen Advisory Board. Descriptions of the responsibilities of these Boards and Commissions and meeting times are available on the Portage website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Boards and Commissions.

The City Council will interview student applicants for the YAC and appointees to the five boards and commissions on May 14, 2013. Youth involvement responsibilities will begin July 1 for those selected. There are 30 positions on the YAC and one appointee to each of the five boards noted. The duration of the appointment is one year. Applicants must be full-time students, residents of the City of Portage and be between the ages of 13 and 18. A diverse group of students representing public and private schools as well as home-schooled students is desired.

## Application Information

Interested participants are asked to complete an application form available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Boards and Commissions. For more information about City of Portage Youth In Government programs, please contact Adam Herringa, Deputy City Clerk and staff liaison to the YAC at [herringa@portagemi.gov](mailto:herringa@portagemi.gov) or 329-4511.

# Runners Tackle the Cold at the Inaugural Winter Blast Half Marathon & 5k



In commemoration of the City of Portage 50th anniversary, the inaugural Winter Blast Half Marathon & 5k run was held February 17, 2013. Presented by the Kalamazoo Area Runners and the City of Portage, the event lived up to the title with single digit temperatures greeting the over 550 half marathon and almost 300 5k runners. Using a combination of city streets and the popular Portage trail system, the Winter Blast meandered through the center of the city from as far south as South Westnedge Park, then all the way to the northern city limits at Kilgore Road.

Winner	Race	Time
Zachary Baker	Men's Half Marathon	1:24:20
Lauren MacVicar	Women's Half Marathon	1:27:44
Michael Nasuta	Men's 5k	17:54
Katie Sorensen	Women's 5k	23:13



The City of Portage thanks the many local business and corporate event sponsors, as well as the hundreds of volunteers who made the event such a success. Special thanks to the Kalamazoo Area Runners, the overall Winter Blast event coordinator.



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Portage, Michigan 49002-5160

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## City Closings

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

### Good Friday

Offices will close at 12 noon on Friday, March 29, 2013.

The next edition of the **Portager** will be published in May 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](http://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.

### March

7	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
11	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
12	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
21	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
26	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting

### April

4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
8	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
9	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
23	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting