



7900 South Westnedge Avenue  
Portage, Michigan 49002  
www.portagemi.gov  
(269) 329-4400

## City of Portage Confident in Safety of Drinking Water Public Invited to Attend Open Houses at the Water Treatment Facility

There is much to be learned from the ongoing water crisis in Flint. It is paramount that a government takes the words of its citizens as truth; when a problem is reported, it is the responsibility of the government to trust its citizens and not to presume everything is okay. A city must also act with a sense of urgency when faced with a problem so that the community is instilled with confidence in the city's ability to solve the problem. Importantly, a government must provide its citizens with all pertinent information in a timely fashion. One of the most important jobs of any government is to protect the health and welfare of its citizens and to serve its citizens with dedication and truthfulness. "The well being of all Portagers is our goal," stated City Manager Larry Shaffer. "Nothing shall separate your government from our commitment to you, the citizens of Portage."

The City of Portage takes seriously its responsibility to produce high-quality water that meets or exceeds all state and federal quality requirements and to generate reliable and safe drinking water for Portage residents. The Transportation & Utilities Department oversees the city's contract with Suez Water Environmental Services, Inc. Suez operates and maintains the city water system and employs highly trained and certified water operators. These operators secure more than 7,000 water samples each year that are then tested by certified local and



Robert Miller, Suez Environmental Project Manager, and Chris Barnes, Director of Transportation & Utilities for the City of Portage, take a water sample from the Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility.

state laboratories. City staff and the local office of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality review the test results to ensure that a high level of quality and safety is maintained. The annual test results are then compiled and included in the City of Portage Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, which can be found at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Departments > Transportation & Utilities and inside this edition of the Portager. The local Michigan Department of Environmental Quality water engineer frequently meets with Suez water operators to ensure water sampling operation protocols are followed.

The City of Portage utility infrastructure contains no lead services or lead mains. However, older structures (pre-1980s)

### Water Treatment Facility Open Houses

Saturday, March 19 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The City of Portage and Suez Water Environmental are proud to invite Portage residents to tour the Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility and learn about the procedures used in producing high-quality water. Hands-on demonstrations and presentations will be available along with plant tours and refreshments.

Open houses will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 19 and Saturday, April 23 (to coincide with the annual Green-a-Thon Earthday Event) at the Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility, 7411 Garden Lane, just east of the Celery Flats. Parking is available at the water treatment plant and in the Celery Flats overflow parking lot.

having plumbing components constructed in part with lead or lead solder have the potential to produce water with detectable levels of lead. Portage water customers with concerns about the copper and lead levels in their home may call the City of Portage Transportation & Utilities Department at 329-4422 to request a copper and lead test at no charge.

## Portage Firefighters Deploy Creative Technique to Fight Apartment Fire

On a quiet winter Sunday morning, people in Portage are typically making their way to church or enjoying a relaxing morning at home. But not so for the Portage Fire Division. On Sunday, February 7, the Portage Fire Division received a report of a fire in an apartment in the Davis Creek complex located on Meredith Street on the east side of Portage.

Within three minutes, Paul Quezada, a Portage On-Call Firefighter, arrived on scene and reported to the responding fire units that heavy black smoke and flames were coming from the rear of the apartment building. The Incident Commander, Charles Wellman, immediately requested a third alarm, which increases the number of units and personnel required to support firefighting efforts.

The first team of firefighters, led by Captain Jeremy Vermeer, entered an apartment four units down from where the fire originated. Utilizing thermal imaging cameras, the firefighters breached the ceiling and met the fire as it was spreading throughout the attic of the apartment complex. This daring and creative tactic resulted in the fire being fought from both sides and brought under control quickly, reducing property loss and protecting the safety of both residents and firefighters. The tactic also minimized the displacement of residents that typically occurs with a large apartment fire.

The skill used to effectively contain this fire was not achieved by accident. Countless hours of training to maintain certifications and to hone skills and abilities leads to effective firefighters ... and effective firefighters save lives, prevent injuries and preserve property value.

"I am so proud of the performance of our firefighters and police officers, as well as the immediate response of ambulance personnel," said Senior Deputy Fire Chief John Podgorski. "I also appreciate the services of the local Red Cross who provided comfort to the residents impacted by the fire." Fire departments from Comstock Township, Texas Township and Oshtemo Township assisted the City of Portage during the fire.



## Be an On-Call Firefighter



The City of Portage is seeking qualified candidates for the paid position of On-Call Firefighter. Successful candidates must hold State of Michigan certifications of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials and EMT Basic. Candidates must pass a written test, physical agility test, background investigation and post-offer physical examination. Some residency requirements apply. A fully-trained on-call firefighter will receive \$16 per hour. Qualified candidates are asked to apply online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Quick Links > Employment or by mail at:

Department of Human Resources  
City of Portage  
7900 South Westnedge Avenue  
Portage, Michigan, 49002

Please call the Department of Human Resources for further information at 329-4533.

# When Spring Cleaning, Don't Forget to Recycle!

It's a rite of spring! A time to throw open the windows, let the fresh air in and rid your home of all the dirt, dust and clutter accumulated over the winter. The City of Portage Spring Cleanup Program is right around the corner (see insert), so March is the perfect time for spring cleaning. When it comes to the clutter, consider how you can reduce, reuse and recycle your household items rather than sending them off to a landfill.



purpose old shower curtain rings to hold bags or scarves in a closet, create a work bench from an old door, turn an old, leaky hose into a soaker hose for the garden. A quick search of the internet reveals hundreds of creative ideas to "upcycle" common household items.

With what's left, think about what someone else might be able to use.

Dishes, kitchen gadgets, clothes, books, toys, furniture, home decor – all of these items could find a second life with another family. Any number of charitable organizations in the area accept donated household goods and many will even come to your home to make a pickup!

### Recycle

After you have done everything to reuse your unwanted items, make sure to recycle what you can. The City of Portage Curbside Recycling Program makes recycling easy. Check anything plastic to determine if it can be recycled. Any RIGID plastic with one of the following symbols is accepted:  Old



## Sign Up to Participate in the Curbside Recycling Program!

To participate in the Curbside Recycling Program, visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Departments > Public Services > Curbside Recycling Program to submit an online registration form or contact the City of Portage Recycling Hotline at 329-4416.

magazines and newspapers, cardboard storage boxes, glass jars of any color can all be recycled. Visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Departments > Public Services > Curbside Recycling Program to view program details. Get rid of old electronics, oil-based paint, batteries and household chemicals by visiting the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center (see article below).

This year, when hauling all that clutter to the curb for the Spring Cleanup Program, take an extra minute and ask yourself if any of those items can be reused or recycled instead of ending up in a landfill.

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

### Reduce

Sort through all the places where clutter accumulates in your home – closets, junk drawers, out-of-reach shelves, attics, garages and basements. A good rule of thumb is to get rid of anything you haven't used in over a year. Use the "one in, one out" rule: when you bring a new item in, get rid of one item you no longer use or need.

### Reuse

Consider if any of the items you are ready to discard could serve a purpose you haven't thought of before: reuse an old picture frame to create a jewelry organizer, re-

# Rid Your Home of Unwanted Household Chemicals and Electronics – Free for Portage Residents!

The Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center – a division of the Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services Department – is open year-round and drop off of unwanted household chemicals and electronics is always FREE for Portage residents. The Household Hazardous Waste Program is an environmentally safe way to rid your home of household chemicals, electronics and other materials not accepted in landfills. The center is located at 1301 Lamont Street in Kalamazoo (next to the county fairgrounds).

### Regular Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Wednesdays: 12 noon - 6 p.m.  
 2nd Saturday of each month: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 (except August & September)

### Materials Accepted:

- ◆ Aerosols
- ◆ Anti-freeze
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Cleaners
- ◆ Fluorescent Light Bulbs (8 ft. or shorter)
- ◆ Gasoline / Kerosene
- ◆ Mercury / Thermostats
- ◆ Microwaves
- ◆ Oil-based paint (no latex)
- ◆ Pesticides
- ◆ Used motor oil
- ◆ Electronics: Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Printers, Cell Phones, Televisions, Stereo Equipment



For more information, please call the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center at 373-5211, scan the QR Code or visit [www.kalcounty.com/hhw](http://www.kalcounty.com/hhw).

View a video highlighting the Household Hazardous Waste program at: <http://kzootv.com/permalink/householdhazardouswaste.html>.

## Board of Review to Meet in March

The annual Assessment Change Notices, mailed to Portage property owners in February, provide pertinent information such as the valuation of the property, the amount of change from 2015 to 2016 and whether the property's taxable value was "uncapped" as a result of a sale. Property owners wishing to discuss their property valuation with assessing staff may call 329-4433. Taxpayers will still have the opportunity to appeal to the Board of Review if they are not satisfied with the results of the assessor review. The City Assessor cannot make any changes to 2016 property valuations after the 2016 Assessment Roll has been turned over to the Board of Review.

The City of Portage Board of Review, appointed by the City Council, is responsible for hearing property tax valuation appeals from Portage property owners. If you believe your property valuation is inaccurate, and assessing staff were not able to address your concerns, you may appear before the March Board of Review to appeal the valuation.

### The Board of Review is scheduled to meet with property owners on these dates:

- ◆ Tuesday, March 15 - 12 noon to 5 p.m. & 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, March 16 - 12 noon to 5 p.m. & 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, March 17 - 9 a.m. to 12 noon & 1 to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, March 29 - 9 a.m. to 12 noon (final meeting)

Additional dates and times will be scheduled as needed to address property owner concerns.

Contact the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433 to schedule an appointment before the Board of Review. Appeals may also be made by signed letters submitted to the Office of the City Assessor (Portage City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002) no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Please visit the city website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Boards & Commissions > Board of Review to view the Policy for Written Appeals to the Board of Review. Additional information is also available on the city website. Questions concerning any of this information can be directed to the Office of the City Assessor at 329-4433.

The Board of Review can approve a one-year exemption from property taxes due to a resident's poverty income level. Call the City Assessor at 329-4433 for information and to obtain an application form. **To be considered for the exemption at the March Board of Review, submit your completed application to the Office of the City Assessor by March 1, 2016.**

## Two Key Technology Applications Upgraded

The City of Portage has upgraded the MI.Portage application and launched a new Report It! citizen request for action application.

The upgraded MI.Portage application, available for Android and Apple devices, includes additional features designed to provide citizens with easy access to popular online tools and information provided by the city. Once downloaded, users have access to more than ten options including city news and events, city Facebook pages, Portage parks locator and parks amenities, a Metro Transit schedule application (K-Metro), the PortageAlert mass notification system, the upgraded Report It! citizen request for action system and more. Users who have downloaded the previous version or wish to download the application for the first time should go to the Apple Store or Google Play Store and search for "MI.Portage." Select either install or update. The new mobile application was built in partnership with SeeClickFix which provides the city with ongoing maintenance and support. Users who experience issues with the MI.Portage application can contact SeeClickFix at 1-800-369-9060 or [contact@seeclickfix.com](mailto:contact@seeclickfix.com). Users may also call the City of Portage Technology Services Department at 329-4269.

Available at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) and the MI.Portage mobile application for Android and Apple devices, the new Report It! application includes additional features designed to enhance the citizen / city experience and provide more useful information and transparency. Essentially, Report It! allows citizens to submit detailed reports of community issues such as potholes, inoperable traffic lights, abandoned vehicles and many others. From the application, citizens can view all open and recently closed issues submitted by other citizens in both list and Google Maps formats. Citizens will also be notified when an action has been taken on their request including pertinent information such as the time and date of each action taken. Users who experience issues with the Report It! application may contact the City of Portage Technology Services Department at 329-4269.



# City Centre Flower Planting Volunteer Opportunities

The City of Portage partners with Kalamazoo In Bloom each year to plant and maintain flower beds in the City Centre Area. Volunteers are needed to assist with two important tasks to create a beautiful display of summer blooms for residents and visitors to enjoy.

## Flower Planting Day

**Friday, May 20, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed to plant annual flowers in City Centre flower beds. Bring a trowel and gloves if possible, but extras will be on hand. Meet at Library Lane in the City Centre at 9 a.m. Morning snacks and pizza lunch will be provided!



## Adopt a Bed

Volunteers are needed to "adopt a bed" in the Portage City Centre Area. In addition to planting annuals, an adopter cares for a bed throughout the season – weeding and deadheading as necessary. Watering will be provided by the city.

To register to volunteer for either opportunity – or both – please visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Quick Links > Volunteering. For additional information, visit [www.kalamazooinbloom.org](http://www.kalamazooinbloom.org) or call the Department of Public Services at 329-4444.



# Almost Time for Adult Softball Fun!

Can you feel it? Spring is just around the corner, which means Softball in Portage! Adult Softball league play is a great way to enjoy the warmer months with your friends and co-workers. No matter your skill level or experience, Portage has a league for you!

## Important Dates

Non-Resident Team Registration Deadline . . . . . March 16  
Standard Team Registration Deadline . . . . . March 23  
Player Registration Deadline . . . . . April 8  
League Play Begins . . . . . April 25

\*All leagues are subject to availability and a minimum number of teams. Teams are accepted by date of registration and division placement is at the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Division staff.

## 2016 League Offerings\*

Monday . . . . . Co-Ed Leagues  
Tuesday . . . . . Co-Ed and Over 50 Leagues  
Wednesday . . . . . Men's Leagues  
Thursday . . . . . Men's and Doubleheader Leagues  
Friday . . . . . Men's and Co-Ed Church Leagues  
Men's Fastpitch League

# Get Involved in Your Community!

With elections set for March 8, May 3, August 2 and November 8, this is a big election year! The City of Portage is seeking those with an interest in serving their community as an election worker. Any registered voter in the State of Michigan with at least basic computer skills is encouraged to apply. Training is provided. Election workers are compensated \$15 for each training session and \$120 for working Election Day. Visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Quick Links > Employment > Election Workers to download an application or stop by the Department of Human Resources at City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue).



Those who have worked prior City of Portage elections are asked to contact the Department of Human Resources at 329-4533 to indicate your continued interest for the May, August and November elections. You will be asked to provide an updated Election Worker Application.

# What's Up at the Portage Senior Center?

## 21st Annual Friends of the Portage Senior Center Golf Scramble

**Monday, May 23**

**Calling all interested golfers!** The 21st Annual Friends of the Portage Center Golf Scramble will be held at the beautiful Gull Lake Country Club located in Richland on Monday, May 23. This event is open to all ages and offers 18-hole play for \$95 per player. Corporate sponsorships are also encouraged. After a great day of golf, enjoy lunch and camaraderie with friends and friendly competitors alike. Prizes are awarded to winning teams in a variety of categories and a 50/50 raffle will also be held. Sponsorship information and registration forms are available at the Portage Senior Center, or by visiting [www.friendspsc.org](http://www.friendspsc.org). For additional information contact the Portage Senior Center at 329-4555.



dropped off at the Portage Senior Center, located at 320 Library Lane, any time before April 1.

Enjoy the satisfaction of a de-cluttered space and the knowledge that you're supporting a worthy cause. Then treat yourself to something "new to you" later at the "It's in the Bag!" sale on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Portage Senior Center Offers Trip to New York City

**Deposit Due: Tuesday, March 8**

**Travel: October 13-17**

The Portage Senior Center is partnering with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra to head to the Big Apple – New York City! This spectacular trip will take place October 13-17, 2016. The tour package includes airfare and centrally located accommodations near Times Square, within walking distance of great Broadway theaters and restaurants. Enjoy three exciting Broadway shows, a concert performance and time to sightsee! Travelers will be issued "On-and-Off" bus passes on the famous big, red double-decker buses to allow for visits to NYC visitor attractions, museums, art galleries and shopping!



Trip prices begin at \$2,286 per person. This trip is open to anyone, regardless of PSC membership or age. Register and make an initial deposit by March 8 to receive a \$25 early bird discount. Call the PSC Trip Coordinator at 329-4551 for more information or to register.

## It's in the Bag!

**Donations Due: Friday, April 1**

**Sale: Saturday, April 16**

The Friends of the Portage Senior Center is seeking donations of "gently used" purses, handbags and related women's accessories. Clean out your closet and donate your gently used purses and handbags to the 2nd Annual "It's in the Bag!" sale. Donations can be



**Proceeds from these events help to sustain critical programs and services offered at the Portage Senior Center. The Portage Senior Center promotes quality of life and independence for the thousands of older adults in the greater Portage area. For more information, call the Portage Senior Center at 329-4555.**

# Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

Residential fire deaths in the State of Michigan are up 16% as compared to last year. A common trend ... no working smoke detectors. March 13 is the start of Daylight Savings



Time. When you change your clocks, change the batteries in all of the smoke detectors in your home. Smoke detectors offer early warning of a fire and give extra time for people to get out of a burning building.

Changing the batteries in smoke detectors is usually as simple as removing the old battery and putting a new one in. Each model of smoke detector is different in where the battery is stored. Some have small pop out compartments, others have compartments with doors, and others are located on the back side of the detector. Smoke detectors with the battery compartment on the rear side of the detector require removal from the base plate for battery replacement. Always test smoke detectors, by holding the test button for 3-5 seconds, after replacing the batteries to ensure proper operation. Smoke detectors should be tested monthly using this same method. If a detector fails to alert, replace the battery and test again. If the detector still does not alert, it needs to be replaced.

The Fire Division participates in the Michigan Smoke Alarms for Everyone, or MI-S.A.F.E. program. Smoke detectors are available and will be installed by Fire Division members upon request. Firefighters will install a smoke detector in every bedroom and one on each floor. The smoke detectors offered through this program are not a replacement for hard wired or interconnected detectors, however they offer a minimum level of protection for houses that do not have detectors. Please contact the Fire Division at 329-4487 to request a smoke detector or with any questions.

# 2016 Spring & Summer Employment Opportunities

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

### Adult Softball Coordinator \$12/Hour

The Adult Softball Coordinator's responsibilities include team registration management, scheduling games, monitoring ball field conditions, maintaining team standings, enforcing policies and assisting in Umpire recruitment. Must have or obtain MASA certification, possess knowledge of softball rules and regulations and be 18 years or older. Sports supervisory experience is preferred and proficiency in MS Word & Excel is desired. The position starts in February and runs through October. Pre-season hours include a flexible schedule during normal office hours. Hours during the game season vary, but are typically Monday – Friday between the hours of 3 and 10 p.m. with a maximum of 28 hours per week.

### Lifeguard/Senior Lifeguard \$9 - \$9.50/Hour

Lifeguards and Senior Lifeguards monitor beach activities, perform beach and facility maintenance, operate the concession stand and the kayak/canoe rentals. Previous lifeguard experience and Red Cross certification is preferred. Successful applicants must be strong swimmers and successfully complete a mandatory training program. The beach season runs mid-May through Labor Day. Hours and shifts vary; however, applicants must be available through Labor Day, including weekends and holidays.



### Ramona Park Supervisors \$10.25/Hour

Park supervisors manage the lifeguard staff, scheduling and training sessions, perform lifeguard duties and offer customer service to park patrons. Prior lifeguard experience is required, with supervisory lifeguard experience and Red Cross certification preferred. Successful applicants must be strong swimmers and successfully complete a mandatory training program. The beach season runs mid-May through Labor Day. Hours and shifts vary; however, applicants must be available through Labor Day, including weekends and holidays.



### Recreation Park Attendant \$8.50/Hour

Recreation Park Attendants provide excellent customer service to park patrons for park admittance at the contact station and additional cultural event support as needed. Cash handling skills required. The season runs Memorial Day through Labor Day. Availability needed from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., 30-35 hours per week. Applicants must be available through Labor Day, including weekends and holidays.

Apply online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Quick Links > Employment or send an application to the Department of Human Resources (7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI, 49002). For further information, call the Department of Human Resources at 329-4533.

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

## Save the Date: Deer Informational Meeting

The Portage Environmental Board will host a deer management informational meeting regarding deer activity within the city limits of Portage on Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at Portage City Hall. To complete a survey about deer activity in Portage, visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Boards & Commissions > Environmental Board. The survey has been recently updated so residents are encouraged to visit the site to complete the survey again. Look for additional information in the April Portager.

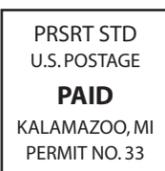


## Save the Date: Consolidated Plan Update Public Hearing

An update of the five-year Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is nearing completion. A complete draft of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2016-17 Annual Action Plan is scheduled to be completed by March 3, 2016. A subsequent 30-day public review and comment period will be provided on the complete draft Plan and will conclude with a public hearing scheduled for April 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #1 of City Hall. Look for additional information in the April Portager.



7900 South Westnedge Avenue  
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160



ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Youth and Adults Needed to Serve on Boards & Commissions

On Tuesday, May 10, the Portage City Council will interview applicants interested in serving on City Council Advisory Boards and Commissions. Appointments and reappointments will be made to the Youth Advisory Committee, Construction Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, and Public Media Network Board of Directors. The meeting times and responsibilities of each of the Boards and Commissions vary. Please visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Boards & Commissions or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 329-4412 for additional information and applications to serve. With the exception of the Youth Advisory Committee, a citizen interested in serving on an advisory board or commission must be a registered voter of the City of Portage and is asked to submit an application by April 15, 2016.

## 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 always 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!



**Mayor Peter J. Strazdas**  
327-4478  
[peter.strazdas@portagemi.gov](mailto:peter.strazdas@portagemi.gov)



**Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari**  
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**Terry R. Urban**  
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**Laurence Shaffer, City Manager**  
329-4400  
[shafferl@portagemi.gov](mailto:shafferl@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 190 and via live streaming at <http://www.publicmedianet.org/watch-live>. 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

- 3 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting
- 7 7:00 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 8 7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting
- 17 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting
- 22 7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting

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 Department of Public Services 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 4 – 29

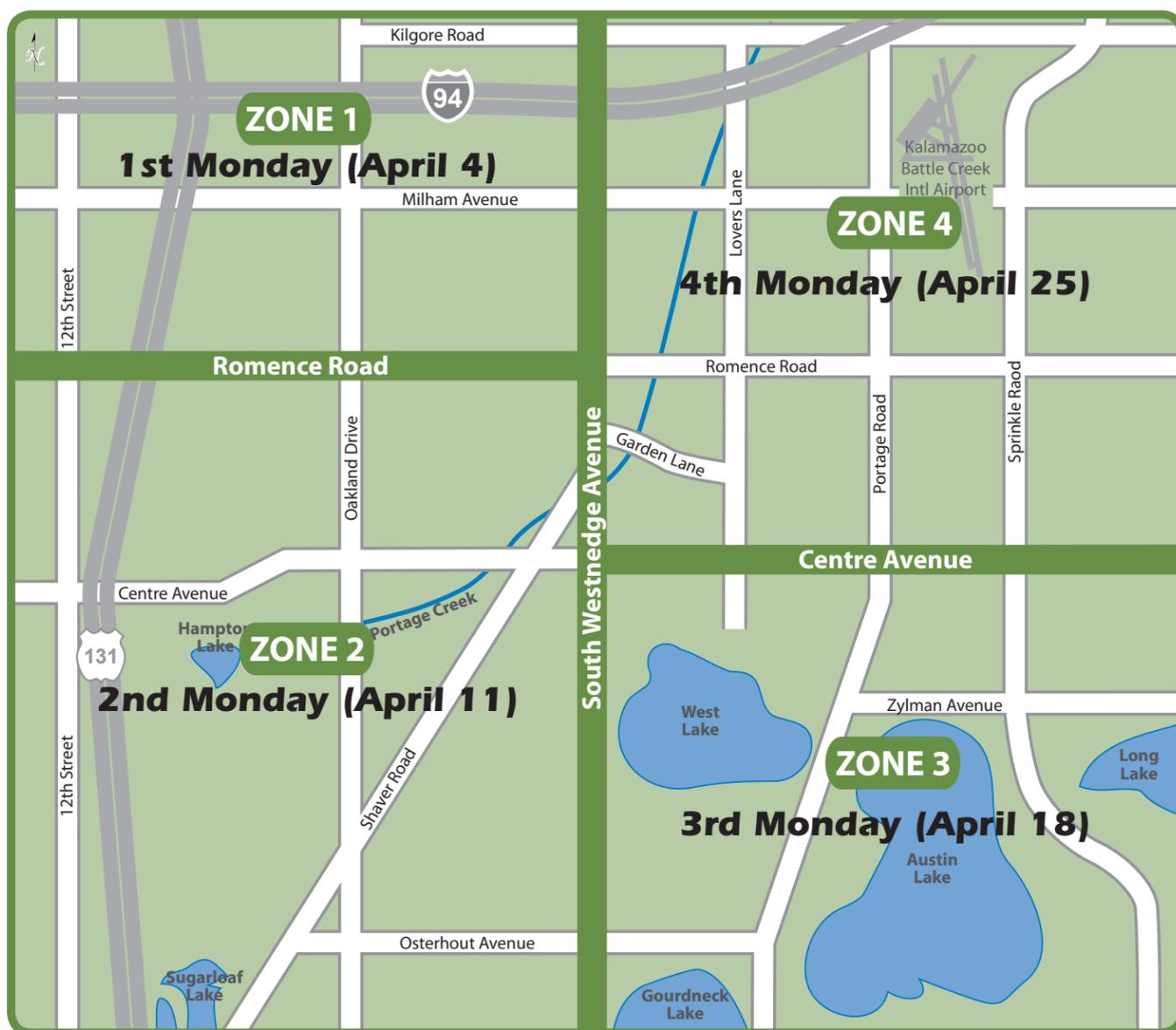
Bagged leaves, including ornamental grasses, will be collected in **April** as part of the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection program. The map below indicates when materials may be placed at the curb. All materials should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m., **but not more than 72 hours prior to your 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 and ornamental grasses 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, timbers, building materials, railroad ties, landscape materials
- ◆ Roots or tree stumps
- ◆ Loose leaves
- ◆ Leaves bagged in plastic bags



## Portage Recycles!

**All leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for the 2016 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 2016 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.



**CLIP THESE VALUABLE COUPONS FOR BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS FROM AREA STORES**

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

### 25¢ OFF

FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS



PLU #700

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

### 25¢ OFF

FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS



SKU #407266

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

### 25¢ OFF

FIVE PACK - BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS



Item # 127552

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE AND SHAVER ROAD STORES.

### 25¢ OFF

FIVE PACK - BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS



UPC #: 5 41250 31273

COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16

**\$6.99**  
for 15 Bags!



Nelson Hardware  
9029 Portage Road  
(269) 327-3583

Your local family-owned hardware store!



COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/16  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SHAVER ROAD STORE.

### 25¢ OFF

FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS



ALWAYS LOW PRICES.



SKU #7959439724

# Spring Cleanup

# April 18 – May 19

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 18 to May 19.

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 is not performed for commercial establishments, churches or schools or on private streets (unless every property owner on a private street has signed an indemnification form. Please contact the Department of Public Services with any questions.)

**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 biweekly Curbside Recycling Program. Recycling is also available at the Best Way Disposal drop-off facility at 2606 Miller Road, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

## Reminders . . .

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.

## What Items WILL NOT Be Collected?

- ◆ Animal waste
- ◆ Brush or leaves (see reverse page)
- ◆ Household garbage
- ◆ Gas or fuel containers
- ◆ Large auto parts
- ◆ Paint and chemicals
- ◆ Railroad ties
- ◆ Computers and monitors
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ Sand, gravel or sod
- ◆ Broken concrete
- ◆ Scrap building materials from demolition/construction/remodeling
- ◆ Refrigerators, air conditioners and dehumidifiers

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

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

2016 Spring Cleanup information is also available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov)

