



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

## Go Green This April – for the Good of the Earth!

After what was a long cold winter, April promises to bring warmer temperatures and abundant opportunities for Portagers to take action and be environmental stewards. Make **Earth Day** (April 22) and **Arbor Day** (April 26) the catalyst for going green this month.

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 and began the modern environmental movement in America. According to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org), the first Earth Day

led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts. Today, more than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

Established in 1972, The Arbor Day Foundation is dedicated to impacting the environment by planting trees and promoting conservation and education programs.

Since then, the foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with over one million members, supporters, and valued partners. Visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) for more information.

**Make a difference this April!** Here are some ways Portagers can celebrate and contribute to the environmental health of the community. Choose one and go green this April – for the good of the earth!

### Green-A-Thon 2014 – Earth Day Celebration

The Portage Youth Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the Portage Environmental Board and Park Board will host a community event to celebrate Earth Day. **Green-A-Thon 2014 will be held at the Celery Flats, 7335 Garden Lane, on Saturday April 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Throughout the afternoon, enjoy multiple musical acts and games and visit with 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 hosts this event as way to raise awareness of environmental issues that affect the citizens of Portage and to furnish 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 in 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 Green-A-Thon 2014 to share ideas and opportunities for green living 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.

### Portage Named a Tree City USA Again!



The City of Portage has received the Tree City USA designation for twenty four consecutive years. To celebrate this award, **a commemorative tree planting ceremony will be held on the grounds of Portage City Hall on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.** City Council members and city staff 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 four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, including the city per capita spending on trees, tree maintenance, holding a planting ceremony and having ordinances regarding trees and a governing board. The City of Portage met these requirements and received the Tree City USA recognition for 2014.

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.

### City Offers Curbside Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Services

Portagers are encouraged to take advantage of two helpful and environmentally-friendly services when spring cleaning:

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center:** Open year-round and always FREE for Portage residents, the HHW center is a safe way to rid your home of household chemicals, electronics and other materials not accepted in landfills. The HHW Center is located at 1301 Lamont Street in Kalamazoo (next to the fairgrounds). Regular hours are: Tuesday and Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 12 noon - 6 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of every month, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, including chemicals and materials accepted,

please visit [www.kalamazoo.com/hhw](http://www.kalamazoo.com/hhw) or call the HHW information hotline at 373-5211.

**Curbside Recycling Program:** Reduce and recycle waste with the residential Curbside Recycling Program or delivery of materials to the Republic Services drop-off facility located at 3432 Gembrit Circle in Kalamazoo. The **Curbside Recycling Guide** provides full details of this popular program and can be viewed at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Departments > Streets Maintenance Division > Recycling Program. For more information, call the Republic Services customer service center at 1 (888) 249-5112 or the City of Portage recycling hotline at 329-4416.

### Portage Public Safety Encourages Safe Disposal of Medications



The “Red Med Box” program – a joint effort between law enforcement agencies in Kalamazoo County, the Kalamazoo Household Hazardous Waste Center and the Kalamazoo Substance Abuse Task Force – provides residents with a safe and secure method to dispose unwanted, unused or expired medication.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, medication abuse, especially the abuse of painkillers, stimulants and depressants, is the fastest-growing drug problem in America. It is estimated that nearly 30,000 Americans will die from prescription drug abuse and overdoses this year. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency says that trace levels of medication residues are found in surface water, such as rivers and lakes, and in some community drinking water supplies. Further research suggests that certain drugs may cause ecological harm.

Red Med Boxes are securely located at the Portage Department of Public Safety (7810 Shaver Road), the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Department, the Kalamazoo Township Police Department and the Village of Schoolcraft Police Department. Citizens can drop off prescription and over-the-counter medications, in the original packaging. It is recommended that the name of the patient on prescription drug packaging be blacked out with a marker, leaving the name of the medication visible. At regular intervals, the medications deposited in the Red Med Boxes are destroyed in an incinerator.

Properly disposing unused and unwanted medications protects the community against prescription abuse, addiction and overdose and keeps harmful medication residues from entering the water stream. Learn more about the Red Med Box program at [www.redmedbox.com](http://www.redmedbox.com).

# City Council Reinstates Senior Citizen Water Billing Discount

On February 11, 2014, the City Council voted to reinstate the Senior Citizen Water Billing Discount program, which will become effective on August 2014 utility bills (due August 29, 2014). The program offers a ten percent discount on water service for persons 65 years of age or older and is applicable only to the customer's primary residence and only to the water base quarterly charge and usage charge for city provided water. (No discounts will be applied to sewer charges.)

A Senior Citizen Water Billing Discount application can be obtained by:

- ◆ visiting [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > Departments > Finance & Purchasing > Treasury > Documents;
- ◆ calling the Treasury Office at 329-4455;
- ◆ e-mailing [treasury@portagemi.gov](mailto:treasury@portagemi.gov) or
- ◆ visiting the Treasury Office at City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue.

Completed applications, **along with proof of eligibility**, can be mailed or delivered to:

City of Portage Treasury Office  
7900 South Westnedge Avenue  
Portage, MI 49002  
[treasury@portagemi.gov](mailto:treasury@portagemi.gov)

Completed applications must be received by the Treasury Office no later than June 1, 2014, to qualify for the August 2014 billing. Applications received after June 1, 2014, will be considered for the subsequent billing cycle. Applicants must be 65 years of age or older by August 11, 2014 to be eligible for the August 2014 billing. Customers applying after June 1, 2014 must be 65 years of age or older at the time of application.

Questions concerning the Senior Citizen Water Billing Discount program can be directed to the City of Portage Treasury Office at 329-4455 or [treasury@portagemi.gov](mailto:treasury@portagemi.gov).

## Notice of Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Portage 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available on the city website: [www.portagemi.gov/FilesCustom/HtmlEditor/files/Transportation/14WQR.pdf](http://www.portagemi.gov/FilesCustom/HtmlEditor/files/Transportation/14WQR.pdf)

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report contains important information about the source and quality of the municipal water supplied to Portage Water System customers. Questions about the report and requests to have a paper copy of the report mailed to you can be directed to the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422.

## 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

Those interested in educational opportunities regarding fair housing, or who suspect discrimination in a housing purchase, sale or rental transactions, including a difference in terms, conditions or opportunity, may 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.

## Home Buyer Assistance Program Promotes Homeownership and Improves Neighborhoods



As part of a continuing effort to increase homeownership and improve neighborhoods, the City of Portage offers assistance to home buyers seeking to purchase and occupy homes in specified Portage neighborhoods.

The Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance Program can provide up to \$3,000 towards down payment and closing costs in the form of a no interest deferred loan to income eligible home buyers. As an additional incentive, up to \$5,000 can be provided to home buyers who purchase and occupy a vacant foreclosed home within an eligible area or a vacant home that was previously renter-occupied.

Eligibility for all programs is based on maximum income limits established annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the table to the right. To participate in the Home Buyer Assistance Program, a minimum household income of half the maximum amount noted in the table is required.

Household Size	Maximum Income
1 person	\$34,900
2 Person	\$39,900
3 Person	\$44,900
4 Person	\$49,850
5 Person	\$53,850
6 Person	\$57,850
7 Person	\$61,850
8 Person	\$65,850

For more detailed information, or for an application package, please call the City of Portage Community Development Department at 329-4477.

## Spring Hydrant Flushing Schedule

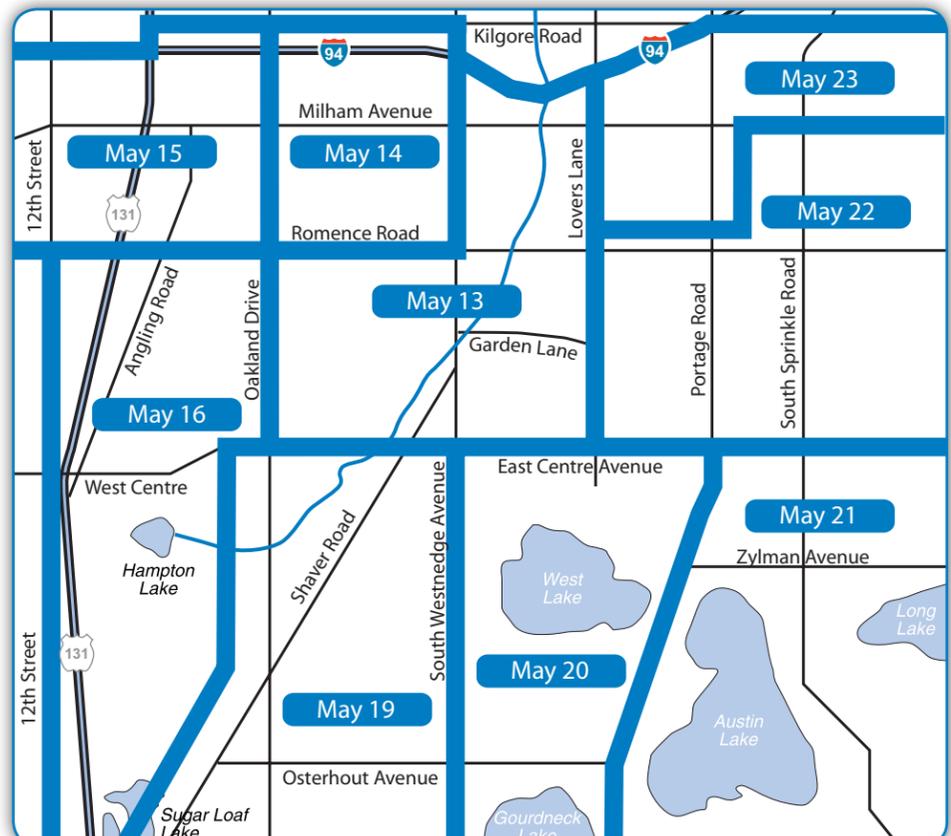
The City of Portage utility contractor United Water will conduct fire hydrant flushing from Tuesday, May 13 through Friday, May 23. The map indicates dates that hydrant flushing will take place in each area of the city. Most hydrants will be flushed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. so as to avoid high traffic periods. The schedule may need to be adjusted based on weather conditions and to ensure 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 encouraged to check for discoloration prior to using water for laundry or cleaning during the spring hydrant flushing program. 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.



# Get outdoors this spring and explore your Portage parks!

## Recycled Art in the Park

Saturday, May 10 @ 2 p.m. (Public viewing May 10 – 17)

Celery Flats Historical Area, 7336 Garden Lane



To promote recycling in the City of Portage, the Park Board will host the second annual Recycled Art in the Park recycled sculpture event from May 10 – 17 in the beautiful Celery Flats Historical Area, 7336 Garden Lane. This is not a juried art show but a venue for area artists to express creativity and create public awareness of recycling. The event will kick off at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 with musical entertainment, public viewing and a recycling vendor tent. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The artist's exhibits will be available for open public viewing throughout the week.

A panel of area artists will judge the artwork based on adherence to the recycling content for eligibility, with 60% creative use of materials as they were not originally intended and 40% overall artistry and originality. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories including a Popular Choice from visitor voting conducted on designated days and/or the city website. The judging will be conducted on Saturday, May 10, with prizes awarded that day for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Sponsor's Choice Awards. The Popular Choice Award will be announced on Saturday, May 17.

The City of Portage Park Board focus on quality of life activities to promote family, health and educational events for the community. For more information visit the city website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) or contact the Parks & Recreation division at 329-4522.

## Volunteer Planting Day

Friday, May 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Portage City Centre



During the summer months the Portage City Centre is transformed into a showcase of colorful floral displays that grace and beautify the area. Show your community spirit by helping to plant the annual flowers. Volunteers are needed to plant on Friday, May 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In cooperation with Kalamazoo In Bloom, the city hopes for a large turn-out so that a dazzling display will be in place prior to the Memorial Day weekend. Each volunteer will receive pizza and soft drinks at noon. If possible, volunteers should bring gloves and a hand-trowel, but don't worry, plenty of each will be available for those without.

Planting Day is an excellent opportunity to become part of the quality of life enhancements that help make Portage a special place for residents and visitors. Although drop-in participants are welcome, those planning to attend are asked to contact the Parks & Recreation Division at 329-4522 in advance to assist with lunch planning.

## Family Fishing Fair

Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ramona Park, 8600 South Sprinkle Road

This free community event offers various activities for all ages and abilities, so bring the whole family out to experience the joys and lifetime benefits associated with fishing, boating and aquatic conservation. Whether this is your first time, or you are a fair weather fishing fan, the Family Fishing Fair is sure to bring smiles and a good time! Fishing equipment loaners will be on hand for those hoping to reel in their first (or next) catch of the day. No experience is necessary – local fishing guides and experts will be on-site to provide all the guidance needed. Activities include lure making, knot tying, fly casting and tying, rod rigging, seminars by local fishing experts, boater safety, kayak and paddle board demo's and much more!

Event activities provided by:

- ◆ Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery
- ◆ Michigan DNR
- ◆ Lee's Adventure Sports
- ◆ Trout Unlimited
- ◆ Kalamazoo Nature Center
- ◆ Kal-Valley Bass Club
- ◆ Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

*150 Kids will receive their own fishing rod courtesy of United Water!*



For more information or to volunteer for this event, contact the Parks & Recreation Division at 329-4522.

## Ramona Park Beach Set to Open for Season

Ramona Park beach, located at 8600 South Sprinkle Road (1/2 mile south of Centre Avenue), offers a sandy swim area with lifeguards, picnic areas, fishing dock, beach volleyball, concessions, playground, changing rooms and much more! Vehicle permits for entry into Ramona Park can be purchased on site near the park entrance during regular beach hours.

**Beach hours:** Monday – Thursday, 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Friday – Sunday & Holidays, 10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Open Daily:** May 23 - 26  
May 31 - June 1  
June 7 - September 1

**Vehicle Permit Fees:**

City Resident Daily Permit	\$ 5
Non-Resident Daily Permit	\$10
City Resident Annual Permit	\$25
Non-Resident Annual Permit	\$45



## Help Control Garlic Mustard In City Of Portage Parks

Learn why garlic mustard is a problem, how to identify it, how to remove and dispose of it. Every other Saturday from April 12 through June 21 – 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

April 12 Schrier Park (meet in parking lot)  
April 26 Eliason Reserve (meet at Industrial Drive cul-de-sac)  
May 10 West Lake Preserve (meet in parking lot)

The locations for garlic mustard pulls on May 24, June 7 and June 21 will be determined at a later date based on conditions at the parks. View the Environmental Board web page on city web site at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) or call the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422.

## Friends of the Portage Senior Center Golf Scramble

May 19, 2014 @ 9 a.m.

Angel's Crossing Golf Club

All Proceeds Benefit the Portage Senior Center



Proceeds from this event 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. Prizes are awarded to winning teams in a variety of categories and a 50/50 raffle will also be held. Registration forms are available at the Portage Senior Center. For additional information contact the Senior Center at 329-4555.

Calling all golfers! The 19th Annual *Friends of the Portage Senior Center Golf Scramble* will be held at the beautiful Angel's Crossing Golf Club located in Vicksburg on Monday, May 19. This event is open to all ages and offers a choice between 9 and 18-hole play at \$55 and \$85 respectively. Corporate sponsorships are also encouraged. After a great day of golf, enjoy lunch and camaraderie in the club house with friends and friendly competitors alike.

## City of Portage 2014 Spring & Summer Employment Opportunities

The City of Portage is an award-winning, recognized leader for its parks and recreational facilities. Become a part of our team this season and experience the quality of life that attracts people throughout the State of Michigan.

### Seasonal Laborers

Performs general park maintenance including mowing, trimming, trash pick-up, minor repairs and athletic field preparation. Frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds, occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds and work outside in adverse weather conditions. Prior parks or grounds experience helpful. Applicants must be at least 18 with a valid Michigan driver license and a good driving record. Must be available full-time, day shift, Monday through Friday, with occasional weekends.

### Lifeguards/Senior Lifeguards

Monitors beach activities, performs facility and beach maintenance and sells vehicle permits at Ramona Park. Previous lifeguard experience and Red Cross certification preferred. Must be a strong swimmer and successfully complete the mandatory training program held in early May. Season runs

mid-May through Labor Day; hours and shifts vary. Must be available through Labor Day, including weekends and holidays.

### Ramona Park Supervisors

Manages lifeguard staff, scheduling and training sessions. Performs lifeguard duties and customer service with park patrons. Prior lifeguard experience required, with prior supervisory lifeguard experience and Red Cross certification preferred. Must be a strong swimmer and successfully complete the mandatory training program held in early May. Season runs mid-May through Labor Day; hours and shifts vary. Must be available through Labor Day, including weekends and holidays.

Interested candidates may submit an application to the City of Portage, Department of Employee Development, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002 or apply on-line at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov). For further information, please contact the Department of Employee Development at 329-4533.

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



## On the Web...

The City of Portage website ([www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov)) is your source for information about city services, news and events, important forms, department information and much, much more. The City of Portage **Media Center**, a repository for city news, photos and videos and RSS feeds, was recently relaunched to give it a more user-friendly feel. From the home page, click on the Media Center icon to check it out!



Watch for more media upgrades in the coming months with the addition of a new City of Portage app. **PortageMi**, currently under development, will allow mobile users to connect to the city in a number of ways – view news and events, look up parks information and maps and connect to the full City of Portage website. In addition, mobile users will be able to report a concern with the Report It! tool and upload a photo and GPS location (of a pothole, for example).

Once completed, the app will be available in the Apple Store App and the Android Play Store for download. Look for details in the June *Portager*.

## Spring Signals Start of Severe Weather Season

Each year, 10,000 thunderstorms, 2,500 floods, 1,000 tornadoes and 10 hurricanes impact the United States, according to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Although severe weather can occur at any time, here in southwest Michigan, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning are more likely to occur during the spring and summer months.

Portage, designated as "Storm Ready" by the National Weather Service, has in place the necessary plans and procedures to notify the community about approaching severe weather and to deal with the aftermath of damage if a storm strikes. Being "Storm Ready" does not make Portage storm proof, however. Every year, many people are killed or seriously injured by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, despite advanced warnings. The following preparedness information, combined with timely severe weather watches and warnings, could save your life.

### Before the storm arrives:

- ◆ Develop a plan for you and your family at home.
- ◆ Identify a safe place to take shelter.
- ◆ Listen to the radio and television for weather information.

- ◆ If going outdoors for an extended period of time, check the weather forecast. Pay attention to the skies and watch for signs of approaching storms.
- ◆ Have a disaster supplies kit consisting of first aid materials, food and water, protective clothing, flashlights and batteries, battery-powered radio, etc.
- ◆ Become better informed about severe weather incidents and what you can do by reading material from the Red Cross, FEMA and the National Weather Service.

The City of Portage has a state-of-the-art outdoor emergency siren warning system, which is tested on the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. When activated to warn of impending severe weather, the sirens are intended to notify those who are outdoors, warning them to seek shelter. When the warning system is activated in an emergency, residents are asked to go / stay indoors and turn on a television or radio to listen for weather instructions. The Portage emergency warning system does not issue an "all clear" siren signal.



## City Seeks Youth & Adults for Boards & Commissions

The Portage City Council seeks the involvement and input of Portage residents and youth in local government. On May 13, the 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, Planning Commission, Senior Citizens Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee. 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.

Options for youth involvement include serving on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and as a youth appointee to the Environmental Board, Historic District Commission, Human Services Board, Park Board or Senior Citizen Advisory Board. Appointees to the YAC 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.

Those interested in participating are asked to complete an application form available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) > *Boards and Commissions* or visit the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall. Applications are due by Monday, April 14.



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## City Closings

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

### Good Friday

Friday, April 18 (closed 12 noon - 5 p.m.)

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 26

The next edition of the *Portager* will be published in June 2014.

Visit [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) to view current news and event listings.

## 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.

### April

3	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
14	7:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
15	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
17	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
29	7:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting

### May

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

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

**DELATED ONE WEEK!**  
April 7 – May 2

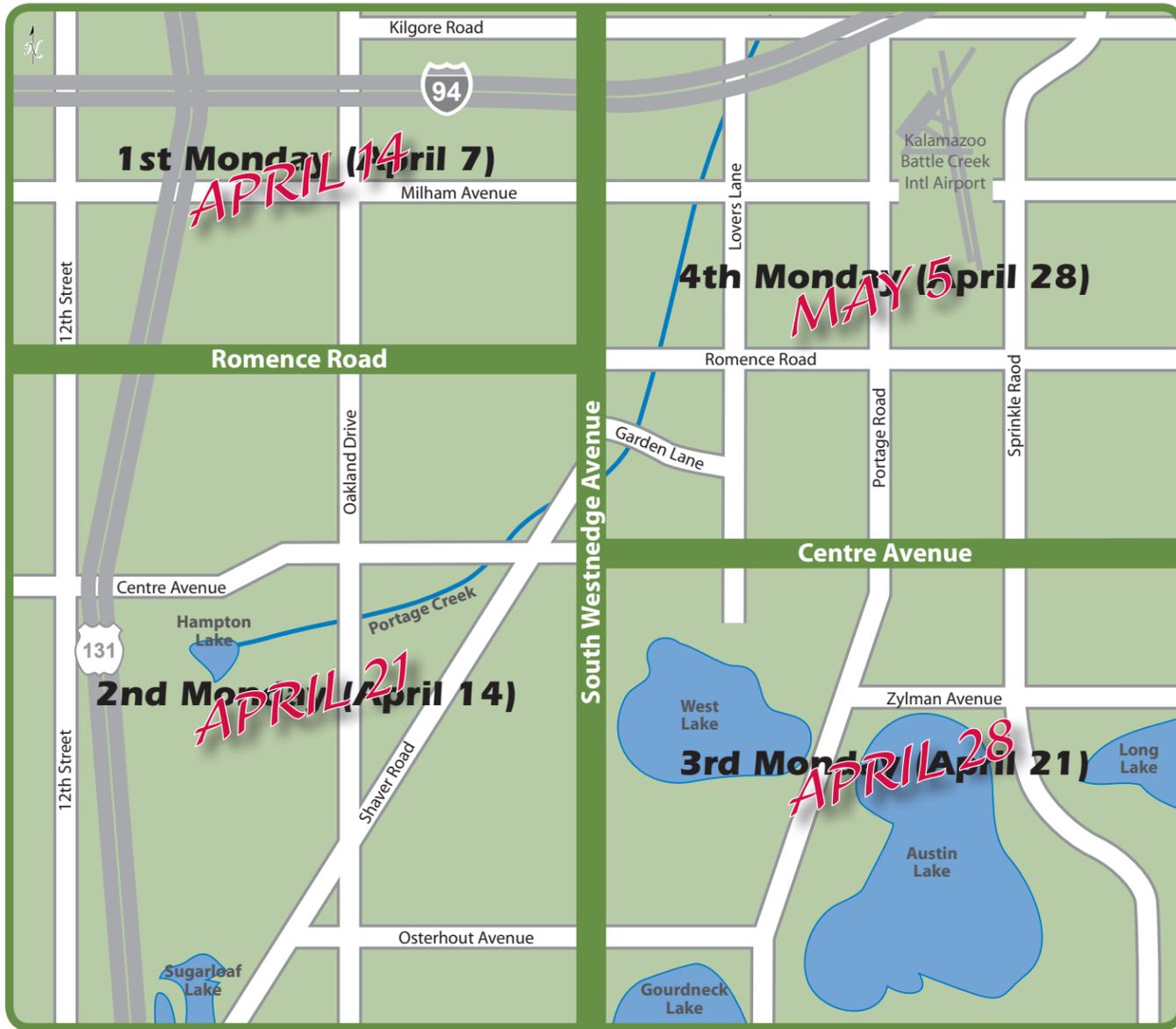
Bagged leaves, including ornamental grasses, will be collected in **April** as part of the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection program. The map below indicates when materials may be placed at the curb. All materials should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m., **but not more than 72 hours prior to your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



## Portage Recycles!

**All leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for the 2014 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 2014 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.



**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

**25¢ OFF**  
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

PLU #700

**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

**25¢ OFF**  
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

SKU #407266

**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE STORE.

**25¢ OFF**  
FIVE PACK - BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

Item # 99344

**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**  
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 5/31/14**

**25¢ OFF**  
5 Pack 30 Gallon Biodegradable Paper Lawn & Leaf Bags

648-4947

4 00000 06508 3

In-store only. Valid through May 31, 2014. Limit 10 per coupon, per guest. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Valid at the Portage, MI Menards location only. Not valid with any other offers. Void if copied, transferred or sold through online auctions.

**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**

**\$6.99**  
for 15 Bags!

Nelson Hardware  
9029 Portage Road  
(269) 327-3583

Your local family-owned hardware store!

**COUPON EXPIRES 5/1/14**  
OFFER GOOD ONLY AT SHAVER ROAD STORE.

**25¢ OFF**  
FIVE PACK - KRAFT BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAGS

ALWAYS LOW PRICES.

*Always.*

SKU #7959439724

# Spring Cleanup

**ON SCHEDULE** April 21 – May 22

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 21 to May 22.

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, 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, new construction or 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 Streets & Parks Maintenance Division at 329-4444.  
**2014 SR Spring Cleanup information is also available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov).**

