



"Where the North Begins"

CITY OF PORTAGE

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City of Portage

115 W. Pleasant Street

Main Phone:
608-742-2176

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

www.portagewi.gov

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From the Mayor



Wow, it's been a fast two to three months since the election. To say this was an interesting time, would be an understatement. While I have been on the council for 12 years, being Mayor is a whole different level. I would like to thank all the citizens and staff for their great support, the department heads for their patience, the county for bringing me up to speed on their projects and a special thanks to my wife. Pam has been a real trooper in this big change in our home life. Could not ask for more.

There are two seasons in Wisconsin, construction and winter. Portage is no different. This year's construction projects are in full swing; skate park, soccer fields, street and alley projects. Many of these will be covered in detail in individual department reports.

Economic development in Portage has also been very active. Steve Sobiek, Director of Business Development & Planning summarized the recent business development occurring in the City over the last 6 months in his section of this newsletter. The level of new construction and redevelopment of vacant buildings has been increasing and continues to be very promising. Aldi's has broken ground and expected to open this fall. AMM, a metal fabrication business, is a relocating to Portage to begin operations this fall after remodeling a vacant building. There are others that are in the early stages of discussions. The good thing is both new construc-

tion is underway and empty buildings are being filled. The County's Gateway project along the Canal is on schedule and that landscape continues to change on a daily basis. The City partnered with Columbia County and the Wisconsin DNR to clean up that section of the canal at very little cost to the City or the County.

Do you have a great idea for Portage? Maybe a project you would like to see completed? Then come and express your ideas at a listening session. The first one will be July 25, 2016 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Portage Library (253 W Edgewater St) in the Bidwell Room. This is an opportunity for residents to express their opinions on how to keep Portage moving forward, or just to listen to what your fellow citizens have to say.

If you are not comfortable with the above approach and you have an issue, please let me know your concerns either by contacting me at 608-697-7065, email at rick.dodd@portagewi.gov or send a letter to my attention at City Hall. I have already had several calls and letters on issues. Some items are an expression of your concerns and do not require a response. If you would like a response, please let me know.

In August, I will assemble a multi-disciplined group for the purpose of developing a mission statement with guidelines to chart a vision for the City. This will provide the guidance for creating the objectives that will define the City's position and the starting path for us to get there.

Portage is **your** City and it takes everyone's involvement, small or large to move it forward and keep it a great place to live.

Have a great summer.

From the City Administrator

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, there are a lot of new and exciting developments occurring in Portage this summer. While I cannot cover everything here, I wish to update you on several of those developments and introduce you to some new faces at the City.

City Employee Changes

As you may be aware, Shannon Schultz resigned from the Library Director position after accepting a position with the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction in April. The Library Board concluded their search and selected Jessica Bergin, who will begin her duties as Library Director on July 11, 2016. Ms. Bergin is a Library Director for small community outside of Lawrence, KS and is relocating to Wisconsin. Lynn Harthorne, Adult Services Librarian was appointed as Interim Library Director until a successor was selected.

Also at the Library, Sheril Lannoye will retire end of July after (22 years) as a Library Assistant.

The Portage Police Department is in the final stages of hiring several new officers. In early June, Rich Hoege, a longtime Columbia County Deputy was appointed to the Patrol Lieutenant position. Lt. Hoege, succeeds Penny Kiefer, who retired after 38 years in February. Brandon Koziol was sworn in on June 27 to begin his field training as a Patrol officer. Ofc. Koziol was a member of the Lodi Police Department for the past 2 years. Ofc. Koziol replaced Ofc. Welbourn, who resigned earlier this year to accept an offer from his hometown Police Department in Hudson, WI. On July 11, Katelyn Kalmerton will take the oath after being selected from a group of recent graduates from the MATC Police Academy. Ofc. Kalmerton was selected to fill the Patrol Officer vacancy created when Ofc. Schutz was promoted to Sergeant to succeed Sgt. Malchow, who retired in March.

Lastly Brad Wilson, a Crewperson with the Public Works Streets Department for 28 years retired July 1.

Summer Projects

As you'll read in other sections of this newsletter, the City has a significant number of capital projects underway or wrapping up already this summer. Each year, the City tackles one major street reconstruction project in which not only the surface pavement is replaced but underground infrastructure is either installed or replaced (or both). This year, River Street was that project. This \$1.25 million project consisted of replacing a 1 mile of pavement, ½ mile each of water and sewer mains, installing new storm sewers, installing new sidewalk and replacement of drive approaches.

Additionally, the next phase of the Veterans Memorial Field Complex (VMFC) improvements this year consisted of the removal of that section of Townsend St (between Superior St. & Wauona Tr) to allow the construction of 2 soccer fields at the former Lawton and Siegel field locations and new lighting for the High School, Youth Soccer Association and City recreation programs. The softball diamonds at this location were removed with plans underway to construct new fields on the north end of the VMFC in 2018. In the interim, the School District granted permission for the use of their ball diamonds for softball league play.

At the end of June, ground was broken for the construction of the new skateboard park in Goodyear Park. Also in June, a brand new "Dream Court" outdoor basketball facility was constructed at Collipp-Worden Park through donations and funding from Fairway Independent Mortgage and the Nancy Lieberman Charities. The existing basketball court at Collipp-Worden will get a facelift later this summer. Lastly, a Killed in Action memorial is being constructed at Bluestar Park as a result of donations through the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veteran Association.

The Water Department is adding onto their Utility office, located at 135 Northridge Drive to accommodate the relocation of the maintenance crews and equipment from their building on the corner of Slifer Street and Airport Drive. The 10,000 sf addition will be completed by December, 2016 after which the Parks & Recreation maintenance crews and equipment will relocate from their antiquated facility on Fair Blvd in the VMFC.

Finally, another section of the Canal will be cleaned up by the time this newsletter is mailed. A cooperative project between the City of Portage, the Wisconsin DNR and Columbia County resulted in the remediation of the contaminated soils located in the section of Canal between DeWitt and Adams Streets, same location that Columbia County is constructing their new Administration and Health & Human Services Buildings this year.

Many of these projects would not be possible without the benefit of partnerships and generosity the City has with groups like the Chamber of Commerce, Portage Service Club Association, the Portage Area School District, the Kiwanis, Portage Family Skatepark, the Veteran's Organizations and many more groups and individuals. Thank you!

Shawn.Murphy@portagewi.gov

Election News

When is the next election?

Partisan Primary – Tuesday, August 9, 2016

What's on the ballot?

U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats, and District Attorney.

Where do I vote?

Lower level of the City Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street

What hours are the polls open?

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Are you registered to vote?

Check your registration status here <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

Not Registered or need to Update your Voter Registration?

Stop by the City Clerk's Office to update your registration or to register to vote now.

You need to provide a valid proof of residence document when registering. Acceptable proof of residence documents can be found on the city's website: www.portagewi.gov.

Photo ID Required at the Polls

Photo ID is now required at the polls before a voter can cast a ballot. Plan now to make sure you have an acceptable photo ID to vote. An acceptable photo ID is not required to include a current address. Check out www.bringit.wisconsin.gov for acceptable photo IDs.

Voter Registration Mailings

You may have received mailings from the Voter Participation Center. The City of Portage is not part of this mailing, nor does it provide any mailing list to the organization. To unsubscribe from the mailing list, follow the instructions in the letter. If you receive this mailing and have questions about your voter registration status, you can contact the City Clerk's office at 608-742-2176, or visit <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

Absentee Voting

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is 5:00 p.m., August 4, 2016. Remember you are required to include a photocopy of photo ID with your request.

In-person absentee voting hours at the City Clerk's Office: July 25, 2016 through August 5, 2016. Must present photo ID to vote.

Interested in being an Election Worker?

Complete the form on the city website: www.portagewi.gov, and submit to the city clerk's office.

Want to contact the City Clerk's Office for information?

By telephone: 608-742-2176

By mail: City Clerk, 115 West Pleasant Street, Portage, WI 53901

By email: marie.moe@portagewi.gov

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Portage Fire Department



The Portage Fire Department, consisting of a full-time Fire Chief, a full-time Secretary, a full-time Fire Inspector, 4 full-time Engineers, and 23 paid-on-call firefighters has responded to 157 calls for service through June this year. Over the last few months we have lost a

few firefighters due to them leaving the area for their jobs and/or family. We are currently looking for people who have the time to dedicate and join our department. New members will be issued a full set of turnout gear and other personal protective clothing needed for the calls that they will respond to. There is a lot of training for members when they first get on, so new members are assigned a mentor who will assist them through their 30 hour training sheet and will also help to familiarize them with department procedures and tools that we use. Members will attend MATC Firefighting classes (ie: Entry Level, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazmat). If anyone is interested in becoming a firefighter, applications can be picked up at the fire station or can be found on the City's website: www.portagewi.gov. Anyone having questions can also call the station at 742-2172. Applications for paid-on-call firefighters can be turned in at the fire station office Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In addition to the MATC classes, the fire department holds in-house monthly training drills as well. Generally there are 2 training drills per month. These drills are held at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the different shifts that members work at their full-time jobs. Monthly meetings are also held after the first drill of the month.

The City of Portage has an ordinance requiring each building in the city to have a street number affixed to their building that is at least 2 ½" high on a background of not less than 3". This must be visible to be easily and readily seen by a person of ordinary eyesight on the public street or highway upon which the building abuts. This is extremely important for emergency responders to insure they are able to locate the correct address. We will also be sending out letters to properties that are not in compliance as a reminder to display the building address. This relatively inexpensive measure could

save your life.

Currently we are working on several fund raising projects to construct a training facility at the old former Musky Club site (and former Waste Water Treatment Plant) on Wauona Trail. These fund raising projects include: Culver's Work Day, (6/14/16) Pizza Hut Delivery (6/23/16), Fire Truck Rides (7/9/16) Take your Brat to Work (8/12/16), Pizza Hut Delivery (9/15/16), Pancake Breakfast (9/25/16), and Pizza Ranch Work Night (10/10/16),

This training facility will allow us to do training that we are unable to do even with some donated properties/houses. Our plan is to build several props on that location that will allow us to do the training that we would otherwise have to travel to the Madison Training Center to accomplish. It is our intention to re-purpose this site to accommodate large scale field burns, building fire training exercises, confined space rescue, water rescue, and hazardous materials response. Also, some of the existing buildings are in good enough shape to readily use for our storage.

I would also like to remind residents that the batteries in their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced twice a year. Replacement batteries are available here at the station for residents to pick up during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday and Sunday. If anyone needs assistance with installing these batteries or smoke/carbon monoxide detectors you can contact the department at 742-2172 for assistance. The batteries we receive are donated each year by Rayovac Corporation.

On behalf of the department I would like to thank the Mayor, City Administrator, Portage Council Members, Township Chairpersons, and all of the citizens of the City of Portage and the four surrounding Townships that we cover for their continued support throughout the year. It is very much appreciated by all members of this department.

Fire Chief Clayton Simonson Jr.
119 W. Pleasant
608 742-2172
Clayton.Simonson@portagewi.gov

Portage Police Department

Pedestrian Crossing Safety:

Pedestrian safety is everyone's responsibility. With the warm weather finally here and with school out for the summer, we have lots of people of all ages out walking. If a pedestrian is crossing the street at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, the drivers of motor vehicles must yield the right of way. Attached to this newsletter is an educational pamphlet on pedestrian safety.

Spring Drug Collection:

On Saturday, May 16th, we had our annual spring drug collection at Walgreen's. Officer Teresa Johnson was assisted by CSO Jerilyn Jerome and members of her Triad group as well as DSH EMS members. Forty pounds of prescription drugs were collected. The total State of WI had a record total of 62,618 pounds. We will be doing another collection in the fall but please remember that we have a drop box in our lobby that you can come in anytime during business hours and drop off your outdated/unused prescription drugs.

Bike Rodeo:

We had our annual bike rodeo on Saturday, May 7th, and Officer AJ Brauner and CSO Kevin Todryk were assisted by members of the Kiwanis Club as well as DSH EMS members. They gave out bike helmets (Salvation Army donated 180 child and adult helmets) and children were allowed to test themselves on an obstacle course which included realistic signage. Two new bikes were raffled off and citizens were allowed to purchase recovered bikes for a very reasonable price.



Officer AJ Brauner explaining the bike course to several children

Officer Brauner and CSO Todryk and retired Lt. Penny Kiefer getting a bike "road-ready"

VIPS (Volunteers In Police Services)

After having another successful Citizen Police Academy in March of 2016, we had more citizens who wanted to become volunteers for our police department. Our department and the City of Portage are so fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers to assist us with the various functions around the city including parades and trick or treating. If you live or work in Portage and would like

to sign up for the 2017 Citizen Police Academy, please contact either Lt. Keith Klafke or Chief Ken Manthey.

Click-it or Ticket Campaign:

Our department participated in the annual Click-it or Ticket Campaign during the designated time frame including the Memorial Day weekend to encourage all motorists to buckle up. Studies have shown that thousands of lives are saved every year across the country by motorists simply buckling up every time they get in their vehicle. We're up to 86% compliance in Wisconsin (compared to 84% last year) but this is still below the 88% national average and the over 90% average compliance of all of our bordering states.

K-9 Fundraisers:



We have ordered "Plush K-9's" and we will personalize them to represent Portage PD. (The above photos are from the Green Lake County Sheriff's Department.) They will be on sale for \$20. Other departments have done very well with the sale of these.

We also have our first annual Portage Police K-9 Golf Outing scheduled for July 30th at 8:00 AM at the Portage Country Club. Proceeds will go to pay for vet bills, equipment and training. It's a four person scramble with a shotgun start. (\$50 for members or \$60 for non-members) This includes golfing, food and hole prizes. There will also be a silent auction. Deadline for the sign-up is July 23rd, 2016. You can register at Portage PD or the Portage Country Club. Please make checks payable to City of Portage K-9 Unit. Please contact:

- Sgt. Ben Neumann at 608-742-2174 ext. 401 email: benjamin.neumann@portagewi.gov
- Or Mark Braska at 608-742-5121 email: mbraska@pga.com

Chief Ken Manthey
Ken.Manthey@portagewi.gov

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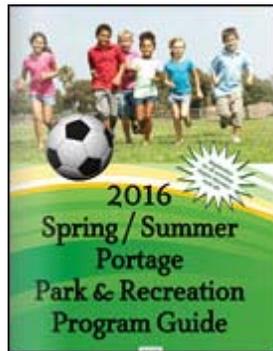
Alderpersons

- Mayor: Rick Dodd (2019)
608-697-7065
Rick.Dodd@portagewi.gov
- District 1: Mary E. Hamburg (2017)
410 E. Edgewater St., (608-742-8284)
mary.hamburg@portagewi.gov
- District 2: Mark Hahn (2019)
202 Winnebago Ave., (608-742-3307)
mark.hahn@portagewi.gov
- District 3: Dennis Nachreiner (2017)
2628 Pine Ridge Court, (608-742-2045)
Dennis.Nachreiner@portagewi.gov
- District 4: Doug Klapper (2018)
117 West Mullett Street, (608-742-7503)
doug.klapper@portagewi.gov
- District 5: Jeffrey F. Monfort (2019)
307 E. Howard St., (608-742-1020)
jeffrey.monfort@portagewi.gov
- District 6: William A. Kutzke (2019)
1121 W. Conant St., (608-742-4970)
william.kutzke@portagewi.gov
- District 7: Mike Charles (2017)
214 W. Franklin St., (608-617-9511)
mike.charles@portagewi.gov
- District 8: Martin Havlovic (2018)
2835 Northridge Dr., #4, (608-617-4087)
marty.havlovic@portagewi.gov
- District 9: Rita A. Maass (2017)
204 Schneider Street, (608-697-7242)
rita.maass@portagewi.gov

The Portage Park & Recreation Department

Greetings! There is much to be excited about if you take a gander through City parks and activities within the City of Portage! A few of the most visible are the construction of the youth and high school soccer facility located at Veteran's Memorial Fields, the construction of the skate park facility within Goodyear Park, the construction and installation of a Killed in Action Memorial monument within Blue Star Park, a new pond spray fountain to be installed at Pauquette Park and Bridal Pond, and the upgrade and installation of the new basketball courts and dream court facility at Collipp-Worden Park. These projects are all made possible through strong partnerships with the Portage School District, Portage Boys Hoops Club, VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Portage Youth Soccer Association, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Portage Chamber of Commerce, General Engineering Company, countless community members, the City of Portage and more!!

In addition to all of the new amenities and facilities in the City's Parks, the recreation staff continues to add and update program offerings for area youth. The 2nd annual programs brochure (pictured to the right) is available online, in our office, at City Hall and at all elementary school locations. This



booklet is JAM-PACKED with 16 pages of summer fun! It wouldn't be fair if I did not mention two great summer attractions, Goodyear Park splash pad and Silver Lake Beach. Both locations are in full operation until September and offer fun for the entire family, with no cost for attendance. The splash pad is open daily from 10 am until 8 pm and Silver Lake is staffed with lifeguards from 11 am until 8 pm. Concessions are available at Silver Lake during staffed hours so don't forget to come with an appetite!

We encourage you to visit our parks and recreation website at <http://portage.recdesk.com> and to get out, be active and enjoy any of the number of great facilities and activities that the City of Portage provides to area residents.

Dan Kremer
Manager of Parks and Recreation

Facility Rentals:

Many facilities are available for renting for your next gathering. Park shelters and larger buildings at

Veteran's Memorial Fields are all available for a fee. Our fee structures for park shelters are as follow

	Resident	Non-resident
Weekday	\$20	\$25
Weekend	\$30	\$50



Park Shelters available:
Collipp-Worden, Goodyear, Pine Meadow, Pauquette, Riverside, Silver Lake, Sunset

* Veteran's Memorial Fields Buildings prices vary, visit

the website for more details

Recreation Programs

Our summer youth program schedule is set for 2016. Our classic programs (T-ball, soccer, masters baseball, swim lessons, etc.) are back for another year. In addition, we have a variety of new programs to offer the community in 2016. We rolled out a Creative Craft corner that has activities for youth looking for enrichment activities, a parent's night out activity that allows you to run errands or have a date night without your children for an evening, new volleyball programs, and a free throw competition. Check out our program guide ASAP to register for activities.

Fall Dance Program

Our second annual fall dance program will begin in late September or early October. Class dates are announced by August 1st and registration begins shortly after. Our dance program is a recreational dance style that incorporates a relaxed learning environment for introductory and medium skilled dancers. Our instructors teach each age level two routines which will be performed at a recital and the end of the program. For more information and to register, continue to check our website.

Portage Community Pool

Did you know that the City of Portage and Portage Community School District have a partnership to operate the community pool located at Rusch Elementary School? The school district maintains the pool and the City administers the activities and pool operations. The pool offers morning and evening open swimming and lap swimming at various times. In addition, fall, winter/spring, and summer swim lessons. A complete

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pool schedule is available on the parks and recreation website; times change frequently so please check the schedule frequently.

2016 Summer Swim Lessons Schedule is as follows

Parent Child Lessons (6 months to 3 years old)
Red, White, Blue Lessons (3 years old to 1st Grade)
Level 1 – 6 (1st grade and up)

Session 1 June 20 – July 1
Session 2 August 1 – August 12

Evening 1 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
July 5 – August 4

Evening 2 (Monday – Friday)
August 8 – August 19

A complete swim lesson schedule is viewable in our office and online. Swim lessons fill fast so don't delay if you wish to register for a summer session. Fall and Winter/Spring dates are announced in July and November.

Emerald Ash Borer Update – City of Portage

What is being done in regards to the Emerald Ash Borer I keep hearing about? This question is starting to become more frequent within the City and the answer a lengthy one. As you recall, an invasive beetle named the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed within the City in 2015. At that time, the first step in the process after discovery was to develop a plan to successfully manage the current ash tree canopy along with the canopy as a whole to assist the City in the future if something similar becomes a threat. EAB will kill any and all ash trees that are left untreated and thus pose a significant challenge when trying to address the best management practice.

At the time of discovery, the City began looking at the data revolving the City's tree canopy. What was identified was that the City's partial tree inventory was not sufficient to accurately provide estimates on the various options of management (complete removal, proactive removal, replanting, partial or complete treatment, etc.). With that in mind, the City determined performing a complete park and street tree inventory would be the best practice in developing a management plan. The City of Portage wrote a grant application to the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Grant Program and was awarded \$11,250 to conduct a tree inventory. That inventory is currently being performed as you read this article and data will become available sometime in

July. The data will provide the baseline that will guide City officials and elected leaders on the management practices and which route the City will ultimately take.

With the inventory currently being conducted, the City has started ramping up its tree planting practices by planting 40 trees within boulevards and City parks in the spring of this year. Those 40 trees were made up of a diverse mixture of genus and the City plans to continue to diversify all planting practices going forward. The City will look to prioritize areas that are in need of new trees as well as affected areas from ash tree removals and develop a sustainable number of plantings that will be spread out over the future planting seasons.

As with any street tree issue, we encourage you to contact the City if anything looks like it needs further investigation on public trees. The City will perform the inspection and manage the public tree at no cost to the resident. Residents looking for arborists to help manage their private trees or private ash tree(s) can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/documents/UFconsultants.pdf> and find a listing of a number of certified arborists and companies across the state. This list is not all inclusive, and residents are cautioned to be wary of any companies who make promises of saving a tree or "curing" a tree.

In addition to that resource, the Wisconsin DNR has another information area in relation to EAB and that information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/urbanforests/eabtoolbox.html>. These informational sources are free avenues for anyone looking to learn more.

Please continue to check the newspaper, City website and social media pages for when more information becomes available about the City's ash tree management. The Parks and Recreation Board along with Common Council will be visiting this topic in the fall of 2016. Don't hesitate to call 608-742-2178 with additional questions.

Contact us:

Dan Kremer

Manager of Parks and Recreation

Dan.kremer@portagewi.gov

608-742-2178 x 12

Leslie Hawkinson

Administrative Assistant

leslie.hawkinson@portagewi.gov

608-742-2178 x 11

Nan McDonald

Pool/Beach Supervisor

aquatics@portagewi.gov

Business Development and Planning

New Facade Improvement Loan Program Available to Businesses

A new City of Portage loan program is now available to businesses and commercial building owners for building façade improvements, including painting, masonry/brick cleaning, awnings, lighting, window repair and replacement, materials, labor, entrance rehabilitations/replacement, architectural assistance, exterior restoration, and signs.

The intent of the program is to assist existing businesses with a funding mechanism to upgrade or improve exterior, front, side and rear building facades for the purpose of creating attractive commercial business districts, and enhancing the image of Portage.

Exterior renovations for existing commercial buildings within B-1, B-2, B-3, and B-4 Business zoning districts, as well as Portage Chamber of Commerce members located within the City limits are eligible. Non-profits operating a commercial enterprise in compliance with City requirements are also eligible within these parameters

Eligible project costs must be a minimum of \$3,000 and be completed within one year. A 20 percent match is required by the applicant. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000., with all loans carrying an interest rate of 2%. 50 percent of the accrued interest paid on the loan will be refunded to loan recipients upon timely repayment of the loan. Other loan program conditions also apply as enumerated in the Street

Facade Improvement Loan Program Guidelines.

This new program was made possible with funds from Portage's America's Best Communities grant award, sponsored by Frontier Communications. For additional information, loan program guidelines, and an application, contact: Jean Mohr at jean.mohr@portagewi.gov or 742.2176.

Business Assistance and Loan Programs

A number of existing business assistance and loan programs are also available including:

- City, County and other Revolving Loan Fund programs, as well as energy efficiency loan programs, for businesses.
- Business assistance, counseling and business plan assistance programs -- all free of charge -- through SCORE (Madison.score.org) and the Wisconsin Small Business Development Centers (sbdc.wisc.edu.)
- State (wisconsinhistory.org) and Federal Historic Tax Credit Programs (nps.gov) for buildings in the Downtown Historic District.
- State and Federal Tax Credit Programs, including the New Markets Tax Credit, for businesses wishing to expand in Portage.
- Portage Enterprise Center offers new and start-up businesses affordable flex office/assembly-light manufacturing bay space.

Contact Steve Sobiek for further information at: steven.sobiek@portagewi.gov at 608-617-7121

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Innovation Champions Kick Off Meeting. A new resource group for Portage area entrepreneurs and inventors is forming called the *Innovation Champions*. The group will offer entrepreneurs support, resources, mentoring and other assistance. The first kick off meeting will be held July 21 at 5:00pm at the Divine Savior Health Care meeting room, 2817 New Pinery Road. Jeff Hamilton, President of Sprecher Brewing Company, will be the main speaker. Contact Steve Sobiek at 608-617-7121.

New Businesses and Development

Aldi's has broken ground on a new 20,000 sq ft grocery store at 2941 New Pinery Road. The store will open in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Compass Counseling has expanded with a new location at 1508 New Pinery Road.

Fastenal is opening a Portage retail store in the Northridge Mall, 2800 New Pinery Road

Frankie's Pizza recently opened at 2555 New Pinery Road.

Hart and Olson Dental, 225 Gunderson Drive, will be expanding with an exciting new addition recently approved by the Plan Commission.

Jack's Tap has opened at 1207 Dunn Street.

Lifekeepers is expanding, opening a second office location in Portage.

ReStore has opened in Portage at 1450 E. Wisconsin Street.

Tall Paul's has opened at 214 W. Wisconsin Street.

Zombyte Repairs has opened at 107 W. Cook Street.

The Portage **Culver's Restaurant**, 2733 New Pinery Road, will undergo an exciting makeover and expansion later this year.

Renovation of the existing **County Court House building**, including exciting interior, exterior and adjacent building and parking lot changes and

additions, is in the planning stage with approval expected by the City's Plan Commission this summer.

Rolling Woods Estates on Airport Road is building several more up-scale apartment buildings as part of its Phase 2 development this summer.

Ship-Rec Logistics (a former Portage Enterprise Center tenant) has expanded and has completed extensive renovation of its new location in the former Sharp Shooters building at 2520 W. Wisconsin Street.

News and Events

Broadband Upgrade for Industrial Park. Frontier Communications will upgrade broadband in the Portage Industrial Park area later this year. Internet download speeds are expected to increase to 40 Mbits/s with the installation of a new 10,000 ft broadband loop.

Portage High School and Career Fair will be held October 28, 8:30am-2:30pm, at Portage High School. Target audience includes High School students from Portage, Cambria-Friesland, Poynette, Pardeeville, Montello and Westfield. Portage manufacturing and other business wishing to participate and share info on available jobs and careers can contact Marianne Hanson at 742.6242 pacc@portagewi.com

The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) will be in Portage in July and September filming a segment on the city to air on the British TV program Great American Railroad Journeys.

The Portage Community School District's Building Trades program has recently completed the first new home, 401 School Road, in the Pate's Place development. The 3 bedroom, 1,728 sf home on .52 acres is currently for sale. Info on the homes can be found at: www.Portage.k12.wi.us

Weinbrenner Shoe Company has developed a line of men's dress shoes named after Portage. The company did a recent photo shoot in the city, and several Portage landmarks and buildings will be in the company's upcoming catalog. A Community Celebration in Portage will be hosted by Weinbrenner later this year to celebrate the new Portage shoe line.

Public Works

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

Yard Waste:

- Materials for collection should be placed on the street, not the alley, by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of a brush collection week.
- During brush collection, the City will also collect **bagged** leaves and grass clippings.
- Material placed at the street for collection shall be easily accessible and shall not be hindered in any way by any obstruction(s) such as a mailbox, tree, utility pole/pedestal, guy wire or fire hydrant.
- Material shall be placed at the street for collection and shall be bagged, boxed or securely bundled.
- Material needs to be less than 60" in length, less than 5" in diameter, and less than 50 pounds in weight. Any material placed for collection that does not comply with these criteria will not be collected.

City Ordinance 66-202 states it is illegal to rake or blow any leaves or grass clippings into the street or storm gutters on the street. This is done to prevent contamination to waterways and to prevent clogging of storm sewers. Residents will be ticketed for illegal dumping and pay the cost of hauling and disposing of material off site.

Airport Road Drop Off Site

Reminder that this site is for use by City residents only. Please deposit brush, leaves and yard waste only. **NO BAGS ALLOWED.** Areas are designated for brush and leaves. Wood chips are available for the taking, free of charge to residents along the north end. This site is no longer used for dumping of concrete, asphalt, or miscellaneous fill. Violators will be ticketed for illegal dumping and pay the cost of hauling and disposing of material off site.

Garbage & Recycling Collection

Collection schedules may be found on the City Website under Public Works Department. Portage operates a drop off site for recyclables at 606 Washington Street, across from the City Garage.

Lost/Stolen Garbage Carts

It's the policy of the City of Portage to require resi-

dents to purchase new or replacement garbage carts should a cart be damaged, lost, or stolen, even through no fault of the homeowner. Please contact City Hall at 608-742-2176 for the replacement cost.

Building Permits

Residents must obtain building permits for construction and remodeling projects. Any project that involves improving, altering, converting, repairing, extending or demolishing a building or structure requires a building permit. Permits are also required for land disturbing, erosion control, storm water, plumbing, heating, electrical, accessory buildings, decks, fences and signs. Permit applications are available at the Municipal Building. Permits must be obtained before construction begins. Permit fees double for projects started without a proper permit. Please allow 3 days for processing permit applications.

UTILITY NEWS

Water Utility

The Portage Water Utility mailed the Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all customers in June. The utility continues to test and monitor the city's water supply in accordance with DNR requirements. To ensure utility customers continue to receive quality drink water, crews will be flushing hydrants throughout the City through the month of October. If you did not receive a CCR, contact Portage Utilities at 608-742-4727.

This summer, construction will begin on an addition to the Utilities Office and well located at 135 Northridge Drive. The 10,000 sf addition to the existing well house and utility office will house the utility maintenance crew and equipment, currently located on the corner of W. Slifer St and Airport Rd. Once constructed is completed, next spring Parks and Recreation maintenance crews and equipment will move into the former water utility maintenance building and vacate their current building located at the Fairgrounds.

Waste Water News:

The Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), located at 1601 E. Wisconsin Street is required to annually obtain Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit from the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The permit regulates wa-

ter quality, illicit discharges, public information/education, storm water and erosion control measures. Additionally, the City must annually file a Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) with the DNR that provides information on the treatment processes, discharges to the Wisconsin River and financial information on the sanitary sewer utility. The City received an "A" rating for its CMAR.

Reminders:

- Never put any kind of grease in a drain. Running hot water doesn't help. The grease cools, solidifies, and constricts the line causing a clog.
- Only put bathroom tissue in a toilet. Other paper products (including **"Flushable Wipes"**) and rags don't deteriorate quickly and get lodged in lateral sand mains.
- Don't connect French drains, sump pumps or other flood control systems to your sanitary sewer. Not only is it illegal, but debris and silt will clog your line
- Don't place medications of any kind down a toilet or sink. They don't break down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and pass through to the Wisconsin River. You can safely and legally dispose of any medications at the Portage Police Department (for free).
- Backed up sewer lines, line breaks, sewage odors, and overflowing manholes are emergency situations. **If this happens after 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, or on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, call 742-2174.**

Mercury

- Mercury is a highly toxic metal that kills. Please do not flush any broken household items down the drain or place in trash. Example of household items: Mercury Thermometers, old Thermostats that control HVAC in your home, and all fluorescent light bulbs.
- To properly dispose of mercury please contact Columbia County Recycling and Solid Waste at 608-742-6651 or City Hall 608-742-2176.



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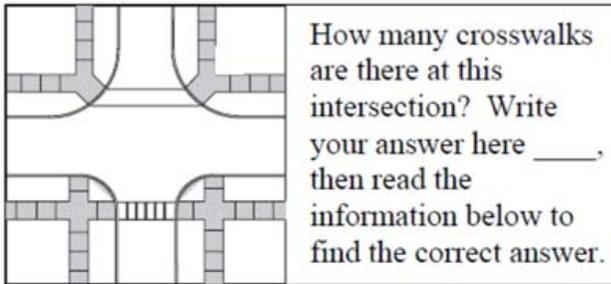


Who is a Pedestrian?



Pedestrians are young, old, and every age in between. Some have not yet begun to walk and need to be carried or pushed in a stroller. Some have difficulty walking and need the help of canes, walkers, wheelchairs or other mobility devices (manual or motorized). You have been a pedestrian at some point today, even if it was just getting to your car.

What is a Crosswalk?



A crosswalk, by definition, is the extension of a sidewalk across a street at an intersection, whether the crosswalk is marked or not. Crosswalks can also exist at non-intersection locations when clearly indicated by signs, lines or other markings on the street. Thus, there are four crosswalks in the picture. Two of them are marked with lines and two are unmarked.

A pedestrian's rights, and the responsibilities of a driver towards a pedestrian crossing the street, are the same whether or not the crosswalk is marked with paint, and regardless of the type of markings used.

Driver Responsibilities at School Crossings

*When approaching a school crossing where there is an **adult school crossing guard**:*

- all drivers must follow the directions of the school crossing guard.
- If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the driver shall stop at least 10 feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs you to proceed.
- The *owner* of a vehicle involved in a violation of this law is liable for the violation and can receive a ticket in the mail based on the adult school crossing guard's report.



Driver Responsibilities Near School Buses

*When approaching a **stopped school bus** with its flashing red warning lights on,*

- you must stop your vehicle at least 20 feet from the bus, whether you are coming from the front or the rear of the bus, and
- you must remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or the operator turns the flashing red warning lights off.
- The *owner* of a vehicle involved in a violation of this law is liable for the violation and can receive a ticket in the mail based on the school bus driver's report.



Rights & Responsibilities of Drivers and Pedestrians at Intersections

Intersection without Traffic Signals



Driver Responsibilities

When a pedestrian is crossing a street at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, and there is no traffic signal:

- **drivers must yield** the right-of-way to the pedestrian crossing within the marked or unmarked crosswalk..
- It does not matter if the driver has a stop sign at the intersection or if there is no stop sign, you must yield the right of way to the pedestrian.
- When turning, you must yield to both pedestrians crossing the street you are on and those crossing the street you are turning onto.
- “Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian” means the operator of a vehicle is required to reduce speed, or stop if necessary, to avoid endangering, colliding with or interfering in any way with pedestrian travel.

Pedestrian Responsibilities

- To not suddenly enter the street if a vehicle is so close that it is difficult for the driver to yield to the pedestrian.
- Note that this rule has less to do with the speed at which a pedestrian enters the street and more to do with the distance between the pedestrian and the approaching vehicle.
- Is the vehicle far enough away from the crosswalk, given the speed limit and roadway conditions, for the driver to be able to yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian?

Intersection with Traffic Signals



Pedestrian Responsibilities

If there are pedestrian signals, you must abide by those signals.

- A pedestrian can begin to cross the street only when the WALK signal is lit.
- Flashing or steady DON'T WALK, or a countdown number display, means do not begin crossing. If you have already started, you may continue to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone.
- The time a pedestrian has to cross the street is the sum of the WALK time and the flashing DON'T WALK time.
- If there is a button to push for the pedestrian signal, you have to push the button or else the WALK signal will not come on.
- If there is no push button, the walk signal should come on every time there is a green signal.

If there are no pedestrian signals,

- you may start to cross the road in any marked or unmarked crosswalk when the signal is green.
- Pedestrians facing a red signal when there are not also pedestrian signals can cross the street if they can do so safely and without interfering with any traffic on the street.

Driver Responsibilities

Drivers turning across a crosswalk on a green signal, or making a right turn on red, must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk before turning.

Other Rules for Pedestrians

Crossing Mid-Block

- At a marked mid-block crosswalk, your rights and responsibilities are the same as at an intersection crosswalk
- If there is no crosswalk, which will typically be the case, you can cross a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk as long as you yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

Walking along a Road

- *If there are sidewalks*, you cannot walk in the road except while crossing the road at a crosswalk.
- *If there are no sidewalks*, you must walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, and move out of the way when other traffic comes towards you.
- You are prohibited from walking along an expressway or freeway when signs have been erected indicating this prohibition.

Bicycles on Sidewalks

Bicyclists in Portage can ride on sidewalks except where buildings abut the sidewalk. In these areas it is difficult for bicyclists to see pedestrians and to yield to them when they are exiting buildings or crossing the sidewalk at intersections, alleys or driveways

Bicycles riding on sidewalks, must yield to pedestrians and give an audible warning when passing pedestrians traveling in the same direction. At intersections and other sidewalk crossings (alleys, driveways), a bicyclist on the sidewalk has the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians

Other Rules for Drivers

Whenever a vehicle is stopped at an intersection or crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear must also stop to let the pedestrian cross the street

Blind pedestrian law: drivers must stop no closer than 10 feet to a pedestrian carrying a white cane or walking stick or with a guide dog, and must take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the pedestrian. The fact that the pedestrian may be violating any of the laws applicable to pedestrians does not relieve the driver of this duty.

Stopping, Standing and Parking are prohibited for

the safety of pedestrians in the following areas:

- On a crosswalk;
- On a sidewalk or sidewalk area;
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb
- Within 15 feet of the end of a safety zone
- Within an intersection (includes T-intersections)
- Where signed (be especially aware of restrictions signed near schools).

Parking is prohibited:

- Closer than 15 feet to a crosswalk.
- Wherever else parking restrictions are signed.



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Important Dates

2016 Brush Collection Weeks:

August 1-5
September 12-16
October 3-7
November 7-11

Holiday Garbage Schedule

Monday, September 5, 2016 garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Thursday, November 24, 2016 garbage & recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Monday, December 26, 2016 garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, December 27, 2016

More Dates to Remember in 2016

Labor Day Sept 5th, 2016 closed

Thanksgiving November 24 – 25, 2016 Closed

Christmas Eve (Observed) Friday Decmber, 23rd, 2016 Closed

Christmas Day (Observed) Monday, December 26th, 2016 Closed

New Years Eve(Observed) Friday, December 30th, 2016 Closed

New Years Day (Observed) Monday, January 2nd, 2017 Closed



"Where the North Begins"

Nuisance Animal Feeding

What are you feeding in your backyard?

Just a reminder, Sect. 6-110(c) of City ordinances, Sec 6-110 Prohibited and Protected Animals, Fowl, Reptiles and Insects states, *"No person or persons shall engage in artificial feeding of any wildlife --- except songbirds"*.

Leaving your pet's food unattended overnight encourages other animals to eat from that bowl. This bowl of food invites vermin such as skunk, raccoon, gray fox, as well as feral cats to come and eat. This behavior increases the possibility of spread of disease to your pets as well as interactions with you and your pets.

Feral and/or stray cats kill birds and small mammals, aiding in the depletion of endangered species (birds, turtles, frogs). They are excellent hunters and will survive in the wild without humans feeding them. Even if the feral/stray cats are well fed, they continue to hunt wild prey.

Please insure that when feeding your pets outdoors, that their food and water is not accessible by other wildlife.

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Treasurer

Looking to Make Improvements to your Home?

The City of Portage has received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).



The CDBG is a 0% interest, deferred loan that can be used by Homeowners, Homebuyers, and Rental Property Owners (monthly payments) that meet the program's requirements.

The CDBG money can be used for various eligible repairs and replacements including:

Handicap accessibility adaptations, heating systems, water heaters, plumbing and electrical systems, insulating attic and sidewalls, exterior improvements, including roofing, painting, siding, porch repairs, lead-base paint removal.

Information is available on the city's website www.portagewi.gov; under City Departments; Treasurer; Community Development Block Grant Program.

For more information contact:
MSA Professional Services
Sue Koehn
800-552-6330 skoehn@msa-ps.com

DOG & CAT LICENSING: Spayed/Neutered \$8.00; Non \$13.00

Due by January 1ST of each year; a late fee of \$5 will be added April 1ST; or 30 Days of ownership; or 5 months old. Forms are available at www.portagewi.gov and at City Hall. If paying through the mail please include a copy of the rabies vaccination and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

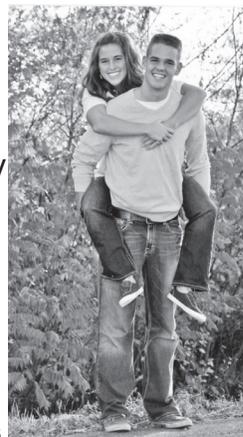
Reminder: Ordinance 6-120 limits the number of pets (dogs or cats) to four on any residentially zoned lot without prior approval of the common council.

2nd Half Payments for 2015 Property Taxes –
Due by July 31, 2016; Paid to:
Columbia County Treasurer
P.O. Box 198
Portage, WI 53901
Treasurer@co.columbia.wi.us
608-742-9613

Electronic payments and tax bill information can be found on:
www.co.columbia.wi.us
For assistance contact the Columbia County Treasurer.

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office@portagedentists.com

Portage Library

New Hours!

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:30 pm
Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Closed Sundays

The Portage Library is located at 253 W. Edgewater Street, Portage, WI. Contact us at 608-742-4959 or email at info@portagelibrary.us. See our website at www.portagelibrary.us.

Check out the Program/Events calendar <http://www.portagelibrary.us/calendar/month> for all that is happening at the Library this summer

Summer Lunch Program

Free summer lunch is being offered at the library again this year! Free lunches for children under 18 will be served in the library from 12:05 P.M. to 12:40 P.M. June 6 - August 11. Lunches are served Monday through Thursday and are completely free to kids and teens under 18. Meals are based on USDA nutrition guidelines and no application or proof of income is needed to participate. Meals will also be offered at

Goodyear Park (by the splash pad) from 11:15 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.

Get a Library Card

Any Portage area resident is eligible to receive a free Portage Public Library card with proof address and an acceptable photo ID.

Free Public Computer Use

With a library card you can use the Internet and Microsoft Office software for free. You can reserve a computer in advance, or simply log on to an open computer with your library card number and PIN. Printing is \$0.10 per black and white page or \$0.25 per color page. Please see our Public Computer Use Policy for further details. If you have a laptop or other device, you can also use the library's wireless connection for free.

Meeting and Study Rooms

Any of the three study rooms can be booked immediately based on availability. Meeting rooms are for meetings with six or more people and require an application form in advance.

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Administrator

115 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2176, Ext 324
shawn.murphy@portagewi.gov

Assessor (Accurate Appraisal)

800-770-3927
info@accurateassessor.com

City Clerk

115 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2176, Ext 333
marie.moe@portagewi.gov

Fire Department

119 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2172 (non-emergency)

Library

253 W. Edgewater Street,
608-742-4959

Municipal Court

115 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2258
dawn.wilcox@portagewi.gov

Parks & Recreation Office

806 Silver Lake Drive,
608-742-2178
dan.kremer@portagewi.gov

Police Department

117 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2174 (non-emergency)

Treasurer/Finance Director

115 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2176, Ext 334
jean.mohr@portagewi.gov

Utilities Office

135 Northridge Drive,
608-742-4727

Engineer/Public Works

115 W. Pleasant Street,
608-742-2176, Ext 325
aaron.jahncke@portagewi.gov

Business Development/Planning

1800 Kutzke Road, Suite 109
608-617-7121
steven.sobiek@portagewi.gov

Snow Emergency Line

608-742-2176 x335

Sewer Back-Up (After Hours)

608-742-2174