



CITY OF PORTLAND NEWSLETTER

www.portland-michigan.org

September 2023



CITY OFFICES CLOSED



City Offices will be **CLOSED Monday, September 4th** for the Labor Day Holiday.

HYDRANT FLUSHING



Water Department crews will conduct the semi-annual preventive maintenance program on the City's water system from September 18th through September 29th when they systematically flush all fire hydrants. Please call Rod at 517-647-2948 if you want to know when crews will be in your area. **Remember, rusty or discolored water can occur after flushing.** Make sure to check your tap water before washing clothes, and let the water run until it is clear before using.

TAXES ARE DUE OCTOBER 2ND

Property Tax Bills and Estimated Tax Payments are due on Monday, October 2nd by 4:30 P.M. at City Hall. Checks must be made payable to the *City of Portland*.



PORTLAND IS BECOMING A GIGABIT CITY!



HomeWorks Connect, the fiber internet and phone division of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, broke ground on its project to construct a city-wide gigabit fiber network to provide internet and phone services to City residents and businesses. Customer connections in the City of Portland are planned to begin occurring as early as late summer or early fall 2023. To learn more, visit <https://www.homeworks.org/210-2/city-of-portland/> or call 517-647-1258.



FALL LEAF REMOVAL

The leaves will start falling soon! DPW crews can serve you better for loose leaf pickup if leaves are placed in long narrow rows at the curb. Please keep limbs, branches and rocks out of leaf piles as these items can damage the leaf machine. Leaves can also be placed in paper yard waste bags for pickup. Residents can also self-haul leaves to the compost pile located behind the horse arena at Bogue Flats. Please **DO NOT** place any animal waste in leaf piles; these piles will not be picked up. Under the Refuse Ordinance the burning of brush and leaves is prohibited.

The last day for loose leaf pickup will be Monday, December 4, 2022. Please have leaves raked to the curb by 7:00 A.M. on December 4, 2022. After that date, leaves may be placed at the curb in paper yard waste bags for pickup.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



In 2018, the City of Portland received a Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant to assess the City's wastewater infrastructure and identify necessary capital improvement needs. The results of this detailed analysis demonstrated there are high priority improvements that need to be addressed for the system to continue providing reliable service to the community while protecting public health and the environment. To address the needed improvements, the City pursued subsidized loan and grant funding through EGLE's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The City was required to bond out for the project as well as pass costs on to the residents in the form of two rate increases. The first increase of 28% took place in July 2022, the second increase in the amount of 25% went into effect in July 2023. Construction is well underway and is expected to continue into 2024.

In addition, to the wastewater rate increase the City Council approved a 5% increase to water rates to address inflation and future planning for a new well.

BRUSH PICK UP REMINDERS

BRUSH PICKUP PROCEDURE - The City is divided into two areas for pickup; Area #1 is east of the Grand River and south of Grand River Ave (the east side) and Area #2 is the rest of the city. Brush pickup for Area #1 will be on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and Area #2 will be picked up on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Brush should be neatly stacked with ends facing the same direction that are no longer than 8' in length (brush piles) and no branches should be larger than 6" in diameter. Small branches and twigs shorter than 2' should be bound together, placed in paper biodegradable bags, or containers that will be returned to your yard. Stumps and root balls will not be picked up. Please do not place brush behind or close to signs, fire hydrants, trees, etc.

Brush may be placed curbside the Friday before pick up until 7:00 A.M. on pick up day. Brush should be placed in the curb lawn and not placed in the roadway pursuant to City Ordinance.

The D.P.W. will accept self-haul brush Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. These services are for City of Portland **RESIDENTS ONLY** for maintenance of their yard; not lot clearing. This service is not for contractor use.



ENERGY SMART PROGRAMS

The City of Portland Electric Department offers several Energy Smart Programs to its customers. Visit <https://mienergysmart.com/portland/> to find the programs available to you, along with the links to download rebate applications.

PORTLAND COMMUNITY FUND NEWS

The Portland Community Fund Association is beginning their 50th year of helping residents of the Portland School District. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens, now and for generations to come. We accomplish this goal with the help of Portland residents, schools, churches, businesses, and organizations. If you are interested in joining the Community Fund our next meeting is Thursday September 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at 144 Kent St. (Senior Center).

Our projects include a coat drive and giveaway in October, a Christmas Giving Program in December, and Grant Allocations to local and county organizations in March. Our sub-chapter, Backpacks for Bellies provides food to students in need.

Fundraising – All donations directly impact residents of the Portland School District. If you would like to donate, please send a check to the Portland Community Fund Association, P.O. Box 524, Portland, MI 48875. Please visit our website at portlandcommunityfund.org for more information or to consider making a one-time donation or committing to a monthly gift via PayPal or as a payroll deduction. You can also visit us on Facebook.

Saturday, October 21st, will be our annual Coat, and Boot Drive. More details to come via social media or on our website.

For more information on the recreation programs below please contact Erin at 517-647-3207 or at efair@portland-michigan.org

NEW RECREATION SOFTWARE:

This fall, Portland Parks & Recreation will transition to a NEW online registration software – RecDesk. This user-friendly and mobile-friendly system not only allows for easier registration for programs but will allow the Department to offer online pavilion rentals for the first time. The anticipated launch date is October 1, 2023. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

Online Registration at:
www.portland-michigan.org



PARKS & CEMETERY:

PAVILION RENTALS – Available through the Parks & Recreation Department. Reservations can be made up to one year in advance for the pavilions at Community Lake, Bogue Flats, Thompson Field, William Toan Park, Joe Tichvon Park, and the Red Mill. For more information call Parks & Recreation at 517-647-7985, Portland City Hall at 517-647-3205 or visit City Hall to make a reservation. City Hall hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT – Artificial flowers securely fastened in urns and still in good condition will be left in the urns. Those not secured or in poor condition will be disposed of by staff. *Reminder: glass vases, urns, and other glass containers are not permitted.* Please call 517-647-7985 with questions.



PICKLEBALL IS AVAILABLE IN PORTLAND!

Portland High School has four beautiful courts ready for play at any time. Organized playing times are Monday through Friday at 9:00 A.M., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 P.M. All ages and abilities are welcome. For further information, contact portlandpicklers@gmail.com.



DOG REMINDERS

Please pick up after your dog. According to City Ordinance all dogs must be secured by a leash while on any public property. Also, dogs are not allowed to defecate on any premises other than their own, unless the person in possession of the dog promptly cleans up any feces deposited by the animal. Violators may be cited and fined up to \$500.

CITY MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall. *City Council members are Mayor Jim Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem Joel VanSlambrouck, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Amanda L. Johnston, and Erica Sheehan*

Downtown Development Authority meets at City Hall at 7:00 p.m., on the fourth Monday of each month.

Portland Area Fire Authority meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Portland City Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals meets at City Hall at 7:00 p.m., on the second Monday of the month as needed.

Planning Commission meets at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Parks Board meets at City Hall at 5:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month.

Board of Light & Power meets at the Electric Department, 4:00 p.m., on the last Tuesday of each month.

Mayor Barnes is available to meet with citizens at City Hall on the Sat. following Council meetings from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

CITY OF PORTLAND

259 KENT ST • PORTLAND, MI 48875
PHONE 517-647-7531 • FAX 517-647-2938
HOURS (M-F) 8:00-4:30

www.portland-michigan.org

The City of Portland is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CITY HALL 647-7531

Assessor	647-2943	Income Tax	647-2941
Ambulance	647-2935	Parks	647-7985
Cemetery	647-7985	Police(Records)	647-2947
City Clerk	647-3211	Police(NonER)	647-7521
City Manager	647-2931	Recreation	647-3207
Code/Zoning	647-2931	Streets	647-6129
DDA	647-5027	Wastewater	647-6926
Electric	647-6912	Water	647-2948
Fire/Burn Pmt	647-4111	Treasurer	647-2933
Fire/Business	647-2950	Utility Billing	647-3205

MISS Dig

Call "811" Before Digging



Anyone performing any type of underground work should call "811" before digging. This is a **free** service that allows all utility companies to visit the area where you intend to dig to mark out the underground utilities. This **free** service will help YOU avoid damaging utility lines or harming yourself or the public while you are working near utilities.

Examples of projects that need to have a MISS Dig request submitted are:

- Public or private commercial excavation
- Decks and Patios
- Trees and Shrub planting
- All gardening and landscaping
- Swing Sets
- Signs
- Foundations
- Tents
- Fences
- Mailbox Posts
- Room Additions
- Swimming Pools

Even Hand digging can cause damage. Over 25% of utility damage is from homeowners.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig

Visit the [MISS Dig website](#) to request MISS Dig service or dial "811" to speak to a representative.

Why so many flags? What do they mean? Can I remove them?

DO NOT remove the flags until the work is completed or after 21 days.

Color Key:

White -	Area of Proposed Excavation	Blue -	Water
Pink -	Temporary Survey Markings	Purple -	Reclaimed water, irrigation
Red -	Electric	Green -	Sewer
Yellow -	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane	Gray -	Used to Erase Marks
Orange -	Phone and Cable		

What do you mean FREE?

When MISS DIG 811 is contacted, the public facility companies are notified to mark the location of their underground lines. Public facilities are marked for FREE by facility company representatives known as Locators. The Locators paint lines and/or place flags to mark the approximate location of underground public lines.

5 Steps to Safe Digging:

1. Call MISS DIG 811 at 811 or go online to elocate.missdig811.org
2. Wait for utilities to be marked.
3. Check status at status.missdig811.org
4. Respect the flags and marks.
5. Dig with care!

"Damage Prevention is a Shared Responsibility".

It's the LAW! It's fast and it's FREE!!!