



CITY OF PORTLAND NEWSLETTER

www.portland-michigan.org

August 2023



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.

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.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

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



PLEASE KEEP UTILITY METERS ACCESSIBLE

For meter readers to obtain an accurate reading from your utility meters it is important to keep landscaping and other vegetation surrounding them trimmed. Please check the area surrounding your utility meters to make sure that your meter reader has easy access. Thank you.



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.



UTILITY BILLING & PAYMENT INFORMATION

The City of Portland offers multiple options to pay your utility bill. Payments can be mailed to City Hall, placed in the drop box located in the drive thru at City Hall, or they can be paid electronically. For a fee, payments can be made by credit card online at www.portland-michigan.org/205/Online-Payments or by phone at 855-839-7004. For no fee, customers can also set up the automatic draft of payments on the 20th of each month by filling out an authorization form and returning it with a voided check.

The City also offers a paperless billing option to its customers. Instead of receiving a paper bill, you can sign up to receive your utility bill and newsletters by email. This service is free and will contain the same information you are accustomed to seeing on your paper bill. Forms are available at City Hall or <http://www.portland-michigan.org/301/Utility-Billing>.

Please call City Hall at 517-647-3205 with any questions.



VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City of Portland is looking for individuals who are interested in serving on a City Board or Commission. Please contact the City Clerk at 517-647-3211 for more information. Applications are available at City Hall or online at <http://www.portland-michigan.org>

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.



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

FLAG FOOTBALL:

2nd & 3rd GRADE –This league will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Practices are scheduled to begin the week of September 11, 2023. Cost is \$40 Residents / \$50 Non-Residents. **The deadline to register is August 21, 2023.**



Parent volunteer coaches are needed.

YOUTH SOCCER:

DK & K – Tuesdays and Thursdays

1st GRADE – Mondays and Wednesdays

2ND & 3RD GRADE – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Practices for all youth soccer leagues are scheduled to begin the week of September 11, 2023. **The deadline to register is August 21, 2023.**

Cost: \$40 Residents - \$50 Non-Residents



ADULT SOFTBALL:

COED & MEN'S FALL SOFTBALL – Games are scheduled to begin the week of August 20, 2023. **The registration deadline is August 7, 2023.**

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.

SPLASH PAD INFORMATION



The splash pad is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 7 days a week, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The water spray operates on a timer that is activated with the simple touch of a large button on the 3-foot-high bollard located at the west side of the splash pad.

Rules:

- Do not drink the water.
- Children 10 & under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Swim diapers are required for infants and toddlers.
- Pets are not allowed.
- No running or reckless behavior.
- No bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, or similar recreational equipment.
- No pool toys, floats, or chairs.
- No bathing soap, shampoo, or detergents
- Splash pad may be closed at any time due to weather, maintenance, or other operational concerns.
- Splash pad must be vacated at the first sign of thunder or lightening.

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