

Thanks for joining me this week. In today's update I will discuss last week's happenings in YOUR City Government. As usual, I will also give you some upcoming info on the week ahead.

This week every resident of Portage received a letter going over storm water facts and information. I hope all residents found the information useful.

Last Monday I was given GREAT news. Our Portage Police Department reported the Crime Statistics for the first six months of 2019. You may remember from a prior City address, similar to this one, that crime was down in the first three months of this year. Year over year crime... 2019 compared to 2018... in the City of Portage has decreased by 8.95%. These statistics put us on pace for more record crime decreases. Fact: the last 7 years has produced the lowest crime numbers in the past 33 years! I want thank every Officer, Clerk, Detective and the Administration for all of their great work! I also want to extend a big THANKS to YOU...The Portage Community. Whether you are watching as a resident of Portage, or perhaps a visitor to Portage, it takes work of the entire community to have these record low crime statistics. Job well done. We all deserve a pat on the back.

Speaking of great work, YOUR Economic Development Team started plans on a REALLY GREAT addition coming SOON to our City. The details are currently not public, but I promise the details will follow soon. Stay tuned to my weekly City address for updates. YOUR Economic Development Department is also working on updates to our Downtown Master Plan. Your Mayor's Administration hopes to have an announcement of a NEW and EXCITING plan for our new and developing downtown area along Central Avenue. To give you a quick hint, this announcement will include a project happening in the vicinity of Willowcreek Middle School, continuing east, to Hamstrom Road along Central Avenue.

Wednesday of last week, I participated in an Honored Senior Event at the Porter County Fair. I'd like to share with you a little known fact: The City of Portage has the premier committee, the Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee, focusing on bettering our senior's quality of life. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, "Our seniors are the connections to our past and our teachers for our future." The Portage Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee is an AMAZING group of volunteers that provide services, entertainment and care for our Senior Citizens. It's another GREAT reason for folks who are approaching retirement age to choose PORTAGE to stay, or relocate to. Thank you all for what you do!

Last week, members of my Administration and I visited with the Director of Portage's Port of Indiana. He updated our team on happenings going on in Our International Port. New UPGRADES and new BUSINESS EXPANSIONS are happening soon. Another great update, the Port of Indiana will welcome the USS Indianapolis, which will soon join the fleet of our UNITED STATES NAVY FLEET. Its commissioning takes place RIGHT HERE in Portage, Indiana, on Saturday, October 26th. Our Portage Fire, EMS, and Police Departments are working closely with our United States Military and Government agencies with regard to logistics and security for this HUGE event. Many high level dignitaries will be joining the event. I encourage everyone to be a part of this historic event, even if it's witnessing this massive vessel from shore before the event.

Onto a new topic... We have GREAT news coming to US 6 at the Old Harbor car dealership. As reported in prior City addresses and also in the local media, Castle Subaru is moving to the location very soon. They will begin with limited operations in mid-August. YOUR city's dedicated and hard-working planning and community development team has recently met with the Castle Management. They are working on a plan for better accessibility and traffic flow, perhaps a connection to the shopping plazas to the east and west. Rest assured, your Mayor's Office will work hard and efficiently with Castle Subaru's team to move forward with a REALLY GREAT plan.

Our City's Project Manager and I met with the City of Lake Station officials on the paving of County Line Road and other cooperatives ideas we can collaborate together on in the near future.

So now...Onto this week...Weather-permitting, Willowcreek Road will begin having fresh pavement on the outside lanes on Friday. As I have discussed in a prior City address, this road has not been paved since the year 1997. This is an exciting time for our City, but we must remember to be patient and safe.

This week I will be swearing in two new Police Officers. Welcome to the team, and welcome to the Portage Family!

This week I will attend a meeting at the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, also known as NIRPC. I plan to remind them about my request from a few months back...Their help to help find funding to pave the Willowcreek Road overpass/viaduct. This project is a part of YOUR City's Overall Paving and Safety Plan.

As you can see...Your MAYOR and your CITY government is working each day and each week for the betterment of OUR CITY. At every level of City Government, we are working hard to streamline communication with you to a better level.

Quoting President Reagan, "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." Here in this office, it's about getting results based on facts and not the credit that is taken.

Until next time, God Bless you and yours, and see you soon.