



John M. Cannon

Mayor

Efficiency & Excellence

Good afternoon residents!

This is your Mayor again with more updates and more information for the City of Portage. In this week's video we will continue to discuss the chemical dump into the East Arm of the Little Calumet River. Plans for County Line Road and Willowdale Storm Water Projects, and more Willowcreek and Central Ave project updates. Also some good news regarding the Route 20 south, Crisman and Willowcreek Road Federal funding.

This past week I have been in constant conversation with IDEM supervisors and other various entities, including State Senators, regarding the chemical dump into our Little Calumet River. The reason for these daily conversations is to ensure that the proper individuals are constantly informed regarding any changes or updates to the situation. We learned through chemical analysis testing that the chemicals dumped, cyanide and ammonia-nitrate, are now at a no-detect level. This means that over the course of several hours and days, samplings were taken both from the Little Calumet River and from the shoreline, and the result of testing, was non-detect. This testing however has not ceased and will continue to be done until all violations of ArcelorMittal's permit findings are resolved. Indiana American Water has opened up their Ogden Dunes inlet, and continues to monitor the water.

I have asked ArcelorMittal to replenish our fish supply, double the estimated amount of total fish kill (6000 total replenishment). I hope this to not only help to re-establish the fish population, but that it will also help the environment to return to a more natural state. In addition, this helps those who use our waterway for recreational activities such as anglers and those who wish to spend time with family near the lake front.

ArcelorMittal is now committed to ensuring that the City of Portage is informed promptly, and regularly for any type of chemical dump. I, as Mayor, will continue to hold them to this standard. Residents of this beautiful city should be the first informed of any potential dump, accidental spill, or other various things that could impact both their safety, and the safety of the environmental life at our lake front and waterway. Rest assured that I will continue to hold Arcelor to a higher standard than those before me.

Next, Willowcreek Road. WOW! Crews continue to work to finish this project promptly, and ahead of schedule so that residents can finally enjoy the new paving other miscellaneous upgrades to Willowcreek Road. I walked down Willowcreek Road last week and I am excited to finally see paving so close to finishing, and painting of the traffic lanes. Residents, again I want to thank you for your patience in this long process; it will be over very soon! In other Willowcreek Road news, my ongoing quest to receive funding, I have been in discussion with NIRPC to secure Federal tax dollars for the Willowcreek Road overpass and Crisman Road from route 20 south to the Toll Road



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entrance. We are very close to securing this funding, and I will update you as I learn more.

I also walked the East of Hamstrom Central Ave storm water project. Meeting with various crews at the job site to get an update on the progress being made. Crews are working hard and diligently to have most of the major construction done near November 1st of this year. The goal is to have all of the project's area paved prior to the harshness of the winter season. To the residents who frequent this area, or live here, I also want to thank you for your patience for this well needed project.

I have directed our Portage Storm Water team to present a long term plan on, or before, September 15th to begin working on upgrading our West side of the City storm water infrastructure. This plan will focus on the area between County Line Road and Willowdale Road.

Budget meetings have also occurred this past week. Department heads met with the budget committee to shore up our 2020 budget.

Also, this past week I met with local realtors to discuss the potential of starting a, "Welcome to Portage" committee. This will help to welcome to new families moving into the City of Portage.

Before I go today, I wanted to share an inspiring quote from John Wooden. "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

Thank you for tuning in this week, see you soon!