

Good afternoon residents!

This past week the City staff, myself, council members, the Greater Portage Chamber of Commerce and many residents showed up to the grand opening of the Open Air Pavilion. Staff enjoyed a luncheon, with food provided by local businesses such as Strack & Van Til, and Cappo's. If you have not seen it yet, I encourage you to watch the small commercial on the City's Municipal Facebook Page. Also, anyone interested can now rent the pavilion space. If interested, please contact the Portage Parks Department at 219-762-1675.

Next, some road work updates.

First, Willowcreek Road. This project started on July 15. As of now, Willowcreek is completely paved. Landscaping work from Allen's Lawn Care has been completed- with more to come

later. The crosswalks were scheduled to be in place today, however, this is now scheduled until tomorrow, Tuesday the 10th. The final phase is here.

Next, Lute Road. The asphalt has been placed. The project is also near completion; just pending lane striping.

Robbins Road is also near completion. New ADA ramps, curb work and pavement have all begun to take shape.

Central Ave East continues to also be worked on. The traffic lane has been switched over to the South side of the street.

New sidewalks, and asphalt is placed. The North side will be done prior to the winter season.

Storm sewer work is completed on Hamstrom Road.

The Old Porter Road Bridge near Oak Tree Mobile Home Park, is also now open.

Fallen Timbers has also seen a lot of work this past week. With curb installation, and sidewalk installation starting.

As with all these projects, I want to continue in asking for the resident's patience, the construction work will end soon.

In other updates, I received another call from US Steel this past week about a release of oil from outfall 004. This outfall is near the Portage Lakefront Pavilion. In response, IDEM and DNR were also contacted. Clean up crews arrived promptly, and began work immediately. I continue to hold our mills to a higher environmental standard than has been present these past few weeks. In response to these events, I have implemented an "Emergency Response Phone Call Protocol" that will ask Arcelor and US Steel to contact 911, and then our local fire department will call me directly to be informed of this

information. Then, as should follow, you the resident will be informed.

I have knocked the dust off of our 4 year transit study. This means, I am calling for a committee to be in place that will facilitate public outreach that will survey the needs of residents, and how this project ties into our sidewalks and trail systems. The transit study is the first step in securing a public transportation system for the City of Portage.

Soon this week we as a City, and ourselves as a Country, will remember the horrific events that took place on September 11, 2001. I encourage all who are able to find a local news broadcast that is sharing information about the event, to tune in. As a City, in the beautiful country of the USA, we mourn

with the family members, friends and co-workers who still experience the effects of this tragedy, today.

Lastly, a quote from Herb Caen, a journalist, "A City is not gauged by its length, and width, but by the broadness of its vision and the height of its dreams."

God bless, and see you next week!