

Good afternoon residents! Your Mayor here with another weekly update for the City of Portage. This week, we are going to discuss some meetings that took place in my office, more road construction updates, and about the upcoming State of the City Address this week.

So, let's get started. I met this week with some staff members of ArcelorMittal. In light of the recent dump, I have been continuously asking for a fish replenishment, daily outfall monitoring, and much more. In these discussions, we began to make headway for restoration. While this process cannot happen overnight, I am confident that we will reach a resolve soon.

I also met with our beautification committee. The job of this committee is to help Portage make an impact in not only the way we look, but by the way we will continue to look in the future. This team is working hard to make sure that all aspects of the city are thought of. The committee consists of local residents, business owners, realtors, and others. It is wonderful to see these individuals taking pride in Portage.

These types of committees are a great way for residents to get involved in the daily operations of the City. I have continued to call for the formation of several committees such as, the Veteran's Commission, Welcome to Portage, and more. Some have begun to take shape! If you are interested in learning more, call City Hall at 219-762-5425.

On Friday we rose the POW/MIA flag in recognition of those never forgotten in battle. This takes place on the 3rd Friday in September- called POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The City continues to progress forward. As we evolve together, I want to invite you to the State of the City Address. The address is required by State Statute and will provide information about where Portage has been this year and a quick look at what in store for next year, and how we will get there together. The event starts this Thursday, September 26, at 7pm in Woodland Park's Sycamore Hall. All residents are welcome to attend in person, or watch the event live on our City's Municipal Facebook page.

Now on to the newest road construction updates. Each of our current road construction projects are slated to be done prior to the winter season. While projects like this can be delayed to both weather and unforeseen complications, rest assured that this work will come to end.

Willowcreek Road as many have now seen, is paved. Line striping is almost complete, new crosswalks are installed, new ADA compliant sidewalks, and landscaping have pushed the Willowcreek Road corridor into the 21st century. Willowcreek Road North from Central Avenue to the Indiana Toll Road Bridge project will begin June 2020. Bids are to begin taking place this November.

The Crisman Road project from US HWY 20 to Old Porter Road, by Fire Station 2, is being constructed. The next step, is to secure funding for the Crisman Road/Willowcreek Road overpass. The City, and myself, have met with NIRPC to begin the process on this, securing the Federal funding. As I mentioned last week, the Crisman Road/Willowcreek Road overpass is safe, and is to be maintained by the Porter County

Highway Department. The County will continue to ensure the resident's safety regarding the infrastructure of this overpass.

County Line Road is now also completely paved. This project was in conjunction with the City of Lake Station. Funding is received from a grant to the City of Portage, with the cost being recouped from the City of Lake Station soon. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future of County Line Road, it is right for neighbor to do so.

Residents, this week has been full of important items. I want to extend my personal thanks to you for remaining patient through all of these projects. As has become my theme with these videos, keep the Portage Pride going strong, and full steam ahead Portage!