

Good afternoon! It's great to speak to you again! I hope you and your family were able to enjoy Halloween together, and also enjoy all your candy! There are some important items to cover in this week's video. Including another excessive chemical dump into our water way from US Steel and some further items regarding IDEM's report of ArcelorMittal's Cyanide and Ammonia exceedance. Also, Central Avenue East and Crisman Road project updates, leaf pick up, and the newly released Police App.

Last week IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) reported on the violations of Arcelor's August permit violations. In the report IDEM condemns Arcelor on a list of almost 50 different violations. Of these, many include employee safety risks, environmental risks, permit violations of certain outfalls, policy/procedure violations, and much more.

As you know, I have been spearheading for Arcelor to be appropriately fined for these violations, to replenish our fish supply, and to adhere to tighter regulations from IDEM and the EPA.

I instituted a contact procedure for the local mills to follow.

The process includes for the mills to contact 911 when a spill, or dump, comes about. When 911 is contacted, they will then contact our fire department, who then contact myself. Our Pre-Treatment coordinator is also notified when such events happen, as well as entities like Indiana American Water – so that we can take pre-cautionary measures in keeping our water safe.

Currently, there are no fine amounts in the report from IDEM- however as this litigation continues – I will continue to pursue

the highest fees possible, in addition to the other requests already made.

Next, US Steel. I learned this past week that US Steel experienced a release of excessive hexavalent chromium into our water system. This is the same chemical released in extreme excess in 2017. In response to the exceedance, Indiana American Water shut down their Ogden Dunes treatment plant – and redirected their intake to another location. As I have stated, I find this continued behavior from our local mills unacceptable. While I am aware “accidents” can occur, I still believe that incidents like these are 100 percent avoidable. IDEM continues to investigate the failure at US Steel, and cleanup efforts took place. The exact amount of chemical released has not been disclosed yet, however, it was in excess of their permit amount. For those wondering what

hexavalent chromium is, it is a compound that acts as pigments in things like paint, ink or plastic and as anticorrosive agents in paints and primers.

I know many are concerned that such chemicals should never enter our water way. I also believe this, and this is why I continue to push for tighter policies, proper communication and amendment of permits for these entities – in the best interest of keeping residents and our local environment safe.

Portage High School's cross country team competed in the State Championship this past Friday in Terre Haute. They had some great accomplishments. I commend all of you on your dedication, team-work, and personal advancements in this great accomplishment! Thank you for bringing Portage Pride to the City!

Central Avenue East final surfacing is now underway. Our crews are waiting on some work to be done by NIPSCO – prior to completing the project. This project started in October 2006, and finally in 2019, we put our best efforts forward to have it completed. Paving will be finished by the end of this week. Many years and much hard work took place to complete this project, a long and drawn out process – but we are finally reaching the end.

Crisman Road was also milled this past week. Binder is set to be placed today. Several traffic lane changes will occur during these processes, so please use caution in the area. Surfacing is also scheduling to take place November 6 and 7, again weather permitting.

Leaf pick up is also underway. Our Leaf-Vac crews are going throughout the City, following different zone patterns each day of the week. Three units are running this week, with plans to send up to six units for pick up next week. Three units are out this week, since it is bulk garbage pickup week. Please help us by raking leaves from your yard to the edge of your property – but not into the street. Thank you to the street department for their daily hard work!

Portage Police Department released their mobile app yesterday. This app provides great insight into the City, and allows for instant notification of emergencies and other things like road-closures. If you haven't downloaded it yet go to your app store – and search Portage Police Department.

Thank you for taking the time to tune in again this week! Take care, and God bless.