

Good afternoon residents and Happy Thanksgiving. I hope this holiday is full of joy and plenty of food to share for you and your family. As a reminder, OnePortage – a local non-for-profit is hosting their annual Thanksgiving dinner for the community this Thursday from 2p.m. to 6p.m. at Willowcreek Middle School. This is a great opportunity for those in need, or who may not have family to spend Thanksgiving with.

This week will we cover some more important updates and as planned will discuss some more of our history here together.

I met again with individuals from the National Parks System at the lake front last week regarding the erosion concern at the lakefront. As you know, the heavy amounts of erosion taking place are, to say the least, discouraging. The 17 million dollar

facility's structure remains stable at this point in time, however I am still urging residents to not enter the area for safety.

The City continues in its efforts to reduce I.T. costs as well. The City staff is working with outside companies to help develop a strategic plan for the City's I.T. health. These companies are poised to help position the City as one that uses technology for the good of its citizens, and to help lower the stress and hassle that comes along with providing technological services to the residents as well as reducing costs.

As you will recall, we continue to accomplish many things here at City Hall. Decisions are made daily to ensure Portage continues to see its best foot forward. The last 8 months were

a whirlwind, and despite some setbacks, we saw tremendous growth and expansion.

Together we opened two new amenities for our residents.

First, the new Compost Site on Route 12. This was seen as a need for the nearly 40 thousand residents who call Portage home.

Next, we instituted a project to ensure our street signs met the Federal Highway Commission's standards. Any street name sign not in White and Black letterings will need to be changed.

With over 300 red signs alone, there is a ways to go. Not only must street signs meet the standard, but there are ever changing standards with other regulatory signs throughout the City as well.

Speaking of streets, in these last 8 months we paved.... A LOT.

Willowcreek, Destiny, Lute and Crisman just to name a few. In total we paved 13 roadways totaling over 30,000 feet or 5.76 miles in total.

We also secured funding for future road construction projects for areas like Willowcreek (North of Central), and the Willowcreek overpass.

Lastly for this week, we also saw the opening of several businesses. Including a second locations for Domino's Pizza and third for Dunkin Donuts. The opening of Dollar General on highway 20, and Big Time Burger and Brew in March at the Promenade.

Portage's continued growth will be what sets it apart, and provides for Portage to stand out as a model to its neighbors.

Thank you for watching this week, and I look forward to talking with you again soon.