

Hello residents, I hope your Thanksgiving was a time full of joy and plenty of left overs. In this week's video we are going to discuss recent news about a local business, the upcoming Portage Christmas Festival, and review some more of our accomplishments, amongst other items. So let's get started.

On Saturday the 23rd around 1:45am Sunset of Portage Bar had an incident that resulted in the injury of 3 individuals. I

convened a meeting of police, fire, code enforcement, building department, economic development and the City's attorney.

As a result of this meeting, I had asked the owner to keep his doors closed, unfortunately the doors remained opened

without incident; until the business can prove they have

complied with all local and state laws. Over the last 2 years or

so, there has been 18 plus incidents at this one location alone. Portage is building itself to be a proud City, welcoming all, but not to the extent of individuals being seriously injured in their time here. Portage is a safe community, and until the owners of this establishment can prove they will comply with these same standards the doors need to be closed. Rest assured residents that I will continue to push for Portage to remain safe. Our overall crime rate has dropped nearly 20 percent over the last few years as well, and I plan to see a decrease continue into the future.

This coming Saturday, December 7, is the City's Christmas Festival. Hosted by the Kiwanis, Toys for Tots and the City, we are expecting to have a spectacular time. The event goes from

2p.m. to 5p.m. and starts at the Portage Police Station. The Toys for Tots Toy drive will also be happening at the event- and if you bring a NEW and WRAPPED toy, you will receive one free food item. There will be great food, crafts for both small and big kids, free horse and carriage rides around Founders Square, the annual Christmas Tree lighting and to close things off Founders Square will light up at 4:30p.m. Remember to bring your camera, and don't miss out on this wonderful holiday event- I hope to see you there!

Today we swore in Diane Highlands to the Portage Police Merit Board. It's always an honor to carry on the continued commitment of the Highlands family to the Portage Police. Congratulations Diane!

The Crisman gateway project is now near completion, with Crisman Road now completely paved and painted now. The gateway project will be ready for spring, beautifying our Northside entry way.

This week we will again cover some of our recent accomplishments. After some vandalism at Hannah's Hope Playground we installed cameras to both help prevent future incidents, and improve safety at the park. We also closed the now, old, sewer building and installed a sewer/utility bill drop off box at City Hall – reducing operating costs. We implemented the new 700mhz radios for our emergency personnel – allowing for them to better communicate with other local emergency crews and local dispatch.

We started many committees, councils and commissions such as the Beautification Committee, Youth Council, and Welcome to Portage Committee.

Next, we opened the Lute Road Sanitation Access and Safety path on the East side of the road. It connects Swanson Road to Willowcreek Road.

The health of Portage is in the proof- many advancements and many improvements have taken place in these past 8 months.

Together, this growth will continue to push Portage forward.

Thank you for taking the time again to watch this week, and remember to keep your Portage Pride high- see you on

Saturday, and have a great week!