

Good afternoon. This week we have some more updates and news about the City of Portage. We will cover the recent Christmas Festival at Founders Square, the recent opening of the Lute Road Sanitary Access and Safety Path, Crisman Road, IT savings, a Catalyst Sport Resort update and we will again cover some of our important history here together.

This past Saturday was the City's annual Christmas Festival. The event started at the Portage Police Station and was full of great family fun. The event was a huge success. Many of you enjoyed the free carriage rides, hot chocolate and food. One of our own Portage Police Officers read his Christmas story to each of the children present – a wonderful annual tradition.

Next, we lit the Christmas tree sitting inside the station and finally moved outside to countdown the lighting up of Founders Square. It was a great time had by all, young and old – and was a great way to bring in the Christmas Spirit.

The Lute Road Sanitary Access and Safety path opened this past week. I made my way out to it and walked the entire path.

Soon this path will have lighting for safety, and will allow our sanitary teams to access their lines that reside just south of the pathway. This is a very much needed path that provides residents better safety as they walk or bike down Lute Road.

The path is located on the south side of Lute and connects from the trail head near Swanson Road to just west of Destiny Street.

I also made my way out to Crisman Road to see the final project pieces coming together. Crisman Road (north) will serve as a “Welcome to Portage Gateway” that welcomes both returning residents and visitors to our great City. A local landscaping company has begun planting seasonal plants at the site. It’s a great piece of infrastructure that will help in upscaling our northern side of the City.

As you know from previous updates, my administration has been working with several IT companies to reduce its overhead spending on IT solutions. With some current proposals in, the City looks to have the potential to save 160 thousand dollars in 2020 versus 2019. This comes with changing printer

agreements, software changes, and eventually hardware changes.

Some good news on the Sport Resort area. Catalyst Life Style – who was the original developer of the Sport Resort area on the north side of the City. It has officially come out of bankruptcy court. The City is poised to pursue many options regarding this land.

Lastly, let's continue to discuss some of our history here. You may recall we instituted a truck restriction ordinance that prohibited trucks over 12 tons to use our City streets. We also got the truck driver training school to stop using Willowcreek

Road and Central Avenue for their testing purposes – saving our infrastructure's integrity.

Soon a new City app will be available to download on your smart phone. This app will allow you to connect with Portage better than ever and will promptly update you on important City updates. This is an addition to the already in place Portage Police App that instantly notifies you of safety concerns, review City ordinances, and obtain other various pieces of information.

The chemical dumps of 2019 were horrendous. One measure of precaution that myself and staff put into place was our emergency response phone call protocol. This required local steel mills to contact 911, who would contact our fire department and then myself and future administrations.

The City also secured 2 major grants. First Community Crossing – The one million dollar grant – the max amount allowed – paid for 50 percent of a project's cost. The funding went to directly to Willowcreek Road. We also secured a grant for Imagination Glen Park for 200 thousand dollars with a 200 thousand dollar match from the Redevelopment Commission. This grant project allows for the park's upgrade.

Thank you again for watching the weekly update video this week and in case you missed the announcement, my farewell City address will be on December 23.

Take care and God bless.