



[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Holiday Shopping Giveaway

A record number of receipts were collected during the 2016 Holiday Shopping Giveaway, making it an overwhelming success. Holiday shoppers turned in more than \$170,000 in receipts during the contest, which ran November 25 through December 16, doubling receipt totals from last season.



Congratulations goes out to the three 2016 prize winners: \$100 in Portage Green Gift Certificates to the winner of the December 2 drawing, Laurie Marish of Wisconsin Dells; \$100 in Portage Green to the winner of the December 9 drawing, Dennis Daniels of Montello; and the winner of the \$500 in Portage Green Grand Prize drawing held on December 16, Cherie Meyer from the Mauston area.

Shoppers who made purchases at participating businesses became eligible to win the three prize drawings that were held on Fridays during the contest. The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce along with Downtown Portage Inc. and the Business Improvement District organized the Portage Holiday Shopping Giveaway contest to encourage shopping at participating businesses this holiday season.



The Holiday Shopping Giveaway Grand Prize winner was Cherie Meyer (left) of Mauston, pictured here with Marianne Hanson, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce thanks all the businesses and individuals who

participated in the 2016 Holiday Shopping Giveaway for helping to make the contest a huge success.

Culver's Breakfast with Santa

Thank you to Culver's for making the 8th Breakfast with Santa another delicious success! Surrounded by the beautiful new interior of the restaurant, Santa was on hand to greet visitors who enjoyed a delicious breakfast done the Culver's way, capped off with a scoop of frozen custard!

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is very appreciative of the time and effort the Culver's staff contributes to this event each year.

Thank you to all the families who came and shared the many food donations for the food pantry.



Zephyr Weyh told his buddy in the red suit what he wants for Christmas. (We hope Santa delivered.)



Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk sold out of boxes again this year!! The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce provided 120 cookie boxes to this year's event, and sold out of those boxes at 10am that morning. Walkers were able to collect cookies from 26 Chamber member businesses this year.

Thank you to the businesses and those who participated in the 2016 Cookie Walk. For more information about the event, call the Chamber office at 608-742-6242.

You Deserve A
Sensational Smile!
Hart & Olson
Family Dentistry
Gerald Hart DDS • Matthew Olson DDS
608-742-3272

January Chamber Business Luncheon

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is offering another way to network with your fellow Chamber members and make those important connections that can help you in your business or career. Bring your business cards, brochures, or anything you wish to share with other members.

Luncheon Information

Justin O'Rourke of Continual, LLC will talk with us about actionable strategies for reducing business expenses for small and large organizations, as well as an overview of some common savings areas including shipping, utilities, telecom, wireless, waste and recycling, office supplies, etc.

Justin is the Vice President of Client Development at Continual. Continual is a cost containment company that specializes in a variety of expense areas, and the proud recipient of the 2016 CCEDC Startup of the Year Award. Justin has a Master's Degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology with several years of experience in private business management.



PLEASE RSVP. CALL THE CHAMBER AT 608-742-6242!

Date: January 3rd at 11:30am

Where: B&B Hitching Post, 2503 W. Wisconsin St.

Time: Lunch at 11:30AM, Presentation at Noon

Cost: Pay for your lunch at the restaurant

Biggest **SALE** of the Year!

5 DAYS ONLY! Join by January 6th



LOCK INTO 2016 RATES!

- Free Group Fitness Classes
- Personal Training Options for ANY Budget!
- Discounted Tanning & Massage*
- 14 Day 100% Money Back Guarantee
- Member at Another Gym? We'll Buy Out Your Membership!

*See club for details. Valid at participating locations.

33 AREA LOCATIONS

Visit anytimefitness.com to Find a Location Near You!



Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

Again this year the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce recognized one residence and one business for the efforts they put into enhancing their locations for the holiday season.

This year, 532 W. Wisconsin St., Sue and Joe Ferguson (pictured below) was named the winner of the holiday lights residential decorating contest.



Seubert Family Dentistry at 260 West Cook Street (pictured below) won the business category.

Each will win \$100 in Portage Green Gift Certificates for the honor. For a list of the impressive displays that were in contention, [click here](#) and check them out in person!



A word about the Wheel Tax

From the City Administrator...

Portage recently joined 17 other Wisconsin communities and counties and adopted a local vehicle registration fee or wheel tax of \$20/year starting in 2017. This fee is added to the annual state vehicle registration fee and all but \$0.17 is sent back to Portage to be used for transportation improvements in the City. The estimated additional \$200,000/year will be used to improve more local streets through increased resurfacing, chip sealing and crack filling projects in 2017. Portage has over 55 miles of local streets, almost 6 miles of alleys and over 8 miles of highways to maintain.

The wheel tax will be applied to newly purchased vehicles and vehicle seeking renewal and are kept in the City of Portage. Specifically the fee applies to automobiles, vans and sport utility vehicles (SUV) that qualify as a passenger vehicle, as well as trucks and dual-purpose motor homes (trucks that can be equipped with a slide-in camper unit) registered at a gross weight of 8,000 lbs. or less. Vehicles that are exempt from the wheel tax include: Antique, Collector, Ex-Prisoner of War, Historic Military, Hobbyist, Medal of Honor, Motorcycles, Mopeds, Motor Homes & Trailers.

The City Council chose to adopt the wheel tax due to the fact that Portage, like many Wisconsin cities, faced state imposed levy limits, stagnant State transportation funding, rising costs for road improvements that have all resulted in the City falling behind in our ability to maintain our roads. More information on wheel tax can be obtained [here](#) or contact City Hall at 608-742-2176.



Office Space Available

Office space available on Cook St. beginning January 1, 2017. 3-room office, each room 13'x13'. \$450 w/utilities per month. Ample parking! For more information, call 608-742-7300.



Ridge Motor Inn

Ridge Health & Fitness Center

2900 New Pinery Rd.
608-742-5306



DAVIS CONSTRUCTION
Asphalt Paving
PORTAGE, WIS.
608-742-7224



DAVIS CONSTRUCTION
Asphalt Paving
PORTAGE, WIS.
608-742-7224

Business Profile - Small Business Development Center

Help for Small Businesses To Start, Grow, and Succeed Throughout Wisconsin

If you own a small business, or are thinking of starting one, there's a free resource that you may not have considered. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is a Federal agency whose mission is to help small businesses start, grow, and succeed. With partners throughout the state, their Wisconsin staff is based in Milwaukee and Madison. Whether you need a business loan, are starting a new business or are considering the next stage in your growth, or you are thinking about federal contracting, there is someone to provide guidance along the way. Read about Wisconsin businesses that have benefited from SBA assistance.



SBA's core operations focus on the "Three C's": Capital, Contracting and Counseling. SBA also helps to spur innovation and strengthen the nation's competitiveness through successful investment and research and development (R&D) focused programs, as well as export and trade assistance. Finally, SBA also provides loan assistance to businesses of all sizes, homeowners and renters following natural disasters.

[Click Here to Read More...](#)



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Member FDIC

COMMUNITY BANK OF PORTAGE

BWD
Bank of Wisconsin Delta
Lake Michigan Division

WWW.COMMBANKPORTAGE.COM



Indian Trails Campground

608-429-3244

W6445 Haynes Road - Pardeeville

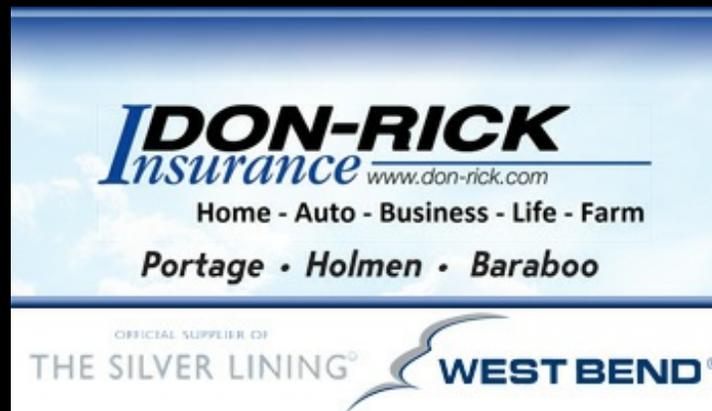
Host an 8th grader for a day

Bob Meicher, principal of Bartels Middle School in Portage, is looking for businesses to host an 8th grader for a day or part of a day. Each semester, 8th grade students take part in a job shadow day. Students pick an area that interests them, make some calls to set-up the day, make the visits, then reflect on their experiences.

If you're willing:

1. Please provide your company's name
2. A brief description of what your company does or what a job shadow for your company or position would entail.
3. A phone number and name of person to call to set up the visit (the student will make the call).

Call Bob at 608-742-2165 if you are interested in this opportunity or would like more information.



DON-RICK
Insurance www.don-rick.com
Home - Auto - Business - Life - Farm
Portage • Holmen • Baraboo

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF
THE SILVER LINING[®] WEST BEND[®]



Sign a 12 month lease and move in now with only a \$199 security deposit. One month FREE.
1 & 2-Bedroom Luxury Apartments
2552 Airport Road in Portage 608-745-2391

DSH seeking archives & anecdotes spanning its 100 years

Divine Savior Healthcare is celebrating 100 years in May 2017.

They are actively compiling personal anecdotes, artifacts and archives to tell the story of Divine Savior.



If you or someone you know could serve as a great resource to this project, please contact Haley Gilman at 745-5165 or hgilman@dshealthcare.com.



New Look Same Great Food!
We also Offer Catering for Business Events
Visit us at: 190/94 Portage
Open 24 Hours
Phone: (608) 742-6901

Ribbon Cuttings & Groundbreakings

A ribbon cutting was held at Love's Travel Stop, W9493 County Hwy CS, to welcome this new business to the area and as a new Portage Chamber member.

"Clean Places, Friendly Faces."

Featuring a convenience store, Hardee's Restaurant, and truck tire services. They are open 24/7.

For more information, call 608-635-2944.



- In-House Custom Rebuilt Transmissions
- Over 105 Units in Stock
- Large Parts Inventory
- Free Road Test & Transmission Repair Estimates
- Satisfaction Guaranteed!



3025 County Road CX
Portage, WI

608.742.5136
www.TrannyMan.net

Building Facade Improvements

A matching loans funds program exists for the purpose of upgrading and improving the exterior front, side and rear facades of existing privately owned businesses. The loan program will facilitate completions of many smaller scale exterior improvement projects.

Funding for this program was made possible through the City of Portage and Portage Area Chamber of Commerce's participation in the America's Best Communities competition, sponsored by Frontier Communications.

[Read the guidelines of the facade grant program.](#) [View the grant application.](#)



Blau Family
CHIROPRACTIC
& INTEGRATED WELLNESS

Your Wellness Oasis!
641 Latton Lane
608-742-1300

Chamber January meetings & events

- 3 Business Luncheon at B & B Hitching Post Lunch 11:30am
- 4 Ambassador meeting at Community Bank 8am
- 6 Ribbon Cutting to celebrate expansion at Cascade Mountain

Looking for a Hot Deal? See our list!

Check out our Hot Deals webpage for deals our Chamber members are offering. Have a Hot Deal of your own you want others to know about? Post your deals on our webpage and join the Hot Deal brigade! There is no charge for posting a Hot Deal, so post away! If you have questions, call the Chamber office at 608-742-6242 to get started.

**HOT
DEAL**

[Click here](#) to see the specials that are currently running!

Give Portage Green Gift Certificates

Portage Green Gift Certificates make an excellent gift. Used just like cash, the certificates can be

purchased from the Portage Chamber in \$5, \$10 and \$25 increments. Recipients of the Portage Green may redeem them at [these participating Chamber member businesses](#). By buying Portage Green Gift Certificates, you are helping to boost local business by keeping thousands of dollars right here in Portage. For more information, call the Chamber at 608-742-6242.

Got News?

What is your business up to? Pass along information and corresponding photos to graphics@portagewi.com and let us help spread the word about the great things your business or organization is doing. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

January Community Events

Spread the word about your events by posting them on our [website!](#)

1-31 Biggest Sale of the Year at Anytime Fitness

3 Chamber Business Luncheon

6 Holy Wisdom Art Group at Portage Center for the Arts Drury Gallery

6 Cascade Mountain Ribbon Cutting Expansion

20 Paintings by Barb Sjoblom - Meet the Artist at Tivoli(show runs through March)

21 North Country Drifters - Performing Arts Concert Series at Portage Center for the Arts

26 Brown Bag Lunch at Portage Center for the Arts- topic is Little Golden Books

29 Student Recital Series at Portage Center for the Arts

30 Portage Sharing Supper at Wayne Bartels Middle School

For more information about these and other events, go to www.portagewi.com.

Organizing an event or having a sale?

Submit your event or sale to us and have it appear on the Chamber website calendar of events. You may enter your event by [clicking here](#). Please note: Your submission will take a while to appear as the Chamber office first reviews the submissions before approving them to appear on the web calendar. For more information, please call our office 608-742-6242.

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is providing leadership for building a healthy economy and a high quality of life in the Portage Area.

 Like us on Facebook

Join Our Mailing List!

NEWS BREAK is a monthly publication of the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce. Please contact the Chamber if you have news about your business that you would like to include in the next issue. Our deadline is the 20th of the month. Email your news to graphics@portagewi.com.

www.portagewi.com