

News Break - November 2017



Representatives of the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce attended the State of Wisconsin Business & Industry Luncheon at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison on October 16. The event featured House Speaker Paul Ryan, Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce President /CEO Kurt Bauer. The winner of the Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest, Oshkosh Corporation's Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, was announced at the luncheon.

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

[Click here for our Member Directory!](#)

Text PORTAGE to 51660

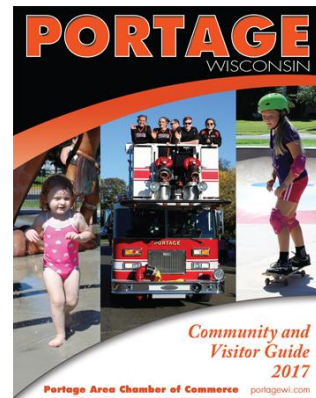
to receive information about upcoming Portage events

Last Call to Advertise!!

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is planning the 2018 Community Guide & Membership Directory. Your opportunity to advertise in the guide is now. Our advertising representative, Jacklyn Ewerdt, has been contacting businesses to advertise.

The guide could be the first exposure your business receives from those relocating or visiting our community. The number of guides printed next year will be 20,000 and should be out in March 2018.

For more information about this great publication, call the Portage Chamber office at 608-742-6242.



**Our pipelines are
monitored 24/7, 365.**



Social Night

MEET MIX MINGLE

with other Young Professionals at our Chamber member business.



- Learn to Curl !!!
- Try a Bowl of Chili
- Packer Game at 7:30pm



Monday, November 6, 2017
Portage Curling Club, 107 W. Albert St.
Doors open at 5:30pm

*Free Admission - Prizes
Bring a Friend!*



RSVP Preferred by Friday, November 3:
Portage Area Chamber of Commerce
608-742-6242 www.portagewi.com

Brought to you by:

LAUNCH PORTAGE
young professionals

Young Professionals building leadership skills, networking and socializing to create a culture of community involvement through the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce.



We're Hiring!

- Flexible Hours
- Part-time
- Full-time
- Ski Free!
- Have Fun!
- Retirees Welcome!

www.cascademountain.com

Submit your 2018 Events!

Are you planning an event for next year? Get it posted on our web community calendar at portagewi.com. One of the most popular viewed of the Chamber website pages, the calendar allows you to submit your own events. Please note: Once an event is submitted, the event will not immediately appear on the calendar; Chamber staff will first review then post.

Simply click this [link](#) and submit your event. If you have questions, please call the Chamber office at 608-742-6242.

November 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

Come learn about the new body cameras that are being used by the Portage Police Department. Chief Ken Manthey will be giving us an overview of how the cameras are used by police officers.



PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHAMBER AT 608-742-6242!

Date: Tuesday, November 7

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

Where: Portage Pizza Ranch, 2905 New Pinery Rd.

Cost: Pay for your lunch at the restaurant



Welcome New Chamber Members

Guided Journey of Wisconsin, LLC

Mindy Lewison at 608-620-9629

Bringing comfort to those that are suffering through the death process, both family and friends, as well as the loved one who is dying.

Columbia County CASA, Inc.

311 E. Wisconsin St. Portage, WI 53901

Darryl Teske at 608-745-9977

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) promote the best interests of a child in need of protection or services.

Business Profile - Gates Collision

Although Gates Collision Repair is a trusted Dane County name for 27 years-and consistent Best of Madison Gold winner-it's experienced remarkable growth since 2014, accelerating from six locations to 17, with 170 employees now repairing 15,000 vehicles each year. They acquired the Body Shop that Hill Automotive owned back in January 2017. They are thrilled to be a part of the Portage community.



The staff understands that experiencing a car accident is stressful, and the process of getting a car repaired, finding a replacement vehicle and filing insurance claims can add to stress, too. This is why Gates Collision Centers strive to make the entire process of repair and claims processing smooth and streamlined.

They understand that most of their customers have never been in an accident. They want to make their customers feel comfortable and take the stress out of the process. Their goal is to have their customers drop off the car, they will handle the details and work directly with the insurance companies. Their customers are dealing with experienced collision repair estimators and claims handling experts.

Gates Collision prides itself on its concierge customer service. That concierge service includes offering online virtual repair estimates, pick-up and delivery of customer vehicles, a nationwide warranty, glass replacement, paintless dent repair and offering free replacement vehicles, which are onsite for three days to customers who do not have rental car coverage.

Gates Collision also offer interest free payment assistance program, handles the insurance paperwork and serves as the liaison between the customer and insurance company.

Gates has partnerships with trusted vendors such as Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Safelite Auto Glass and Dentsmart that help the repair process go smoothly. Gates Collision has partnerships with more than 100 insurance companies and car dealerships as well.

Being invested in current training and technology ensures that customer vehicles are properly repaired. Gates Collision Centers have also invested in a dedicated Aluminum Clean Room to properly repair Aluminum vehicles, such as the Ford F series trucks and numerous European manufactured and luxury vehicles.



Best of Madison

Nearly 30 years ago, Gates Collision Centers opened its first locations in Madison, where the company has won several Best of Madison awards. Over the years, Gates Collision has expanded to other cities in Wisconsin, including Portage, as well as locations in northern Illinois.

Commitment to communities

In addition to its commitment to superb customer service, Gates Collision is invested in the communities it serves. For example, over the past seven years Gates Collision has partnered with several charitable foundations to repair 15 vehicles donated by insurance companies and has given them to families in need.

Gates Collision Centers-Portage is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Their address is: 3015 County Hwy CX, Portage, WI 53901. They can be reached at 608-745-9301 or at gatesportage@gatescollision.com

To learn more about our award winning company, please visit Gatescollision.com

UW-Platteville Chancellor to visit Portage

You are invited to a special Community/Business Roundtable event at the Business Enterprise Center, 1800 Kutzke Road, as UW-Platteville Chancellor Dennis J. Shields will be visiting Portage on Thursday, November 30 from 1pm to 2:15pm.

Chancellor Shields looks forward to an informal dialogue to discuss ways in which the university can assist with economic and workforce development. Many of UW-Platteville's students and alumni are from and/or reside in the Portage area and the university wants to be a resource that is helping to drive community success. Some of those resources include internships, co-ops, student group research projects, professional training, distance learning, mentoring programs, and career spotlighting.

Please RSVP to the Chamber at 742-6242 or pacc@portagewi.com prior to November 24.



**World-class care
is closer than you think.**

Job Fair at Goodwill

Goodwill of South Central Wisconsin is holding a Job Fair at their location at 2902 American Legion Drive in Portage. The fair will be held on Tuesday, November 7 from 11am to 3pm. For more information, please call 608-852-2253.



7th Annual Drawn-Down Hoedown

The Portage Rotary will be holding their 7th Annual Draw-Down Hoedown at NorthShore Restaurant on November 3. Proceeds from the event will go toward scholarship and other local projects. Individual tickets are \$100 and include dinner and 2 drink tickets. Table sponsorships are \$500 and include 6 tickets.

Cocktail hour from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. [Click here](#) for more information.



2018 Health & Wellness event

The Optimist Club of Portage and members of the Portage Area School District are looking for interested businesses/organizations to participate in a community health & wellness event in January 2018--An evening where community members can stop by one location and visit different "booths" to meet individuals from local businesses/organizations and get important information about healthy activities &/or resources available in the Portage area.

The date and time of the event will be established once participating organizations/businesses have been determined. If you would like to participate in the event, or just learn more about it, you may contact Ann Fenley at anniefenley@gmail.com or 608-235-4769.



Petro-Iron Skillet

We also Offer Catering for Business Events

Visit us at: 190/94 Portage

Open 24 Hours

Phone: (608) 742-6901

Pauquette Park Pavilion fundraiser

Come out to eat at Pizza Ranch with your family and friends on Thursday, November 2 from 4pm to 8pm. The Portage Service Club Association is raising funds to build handicap restrooms and a pavilion at Pauquette Park. 10% of your bill will be donated to the Pauquette Park Pavilion Fund.



Toppling pop-tab record

Mercedes Alves, the young Portage girl collecting pop tabs to honor her late brother, is on her way to breaking the Guinness Book of World Records for tab collecting in one year. She can use your help in

collecting the tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Madison before her deadline of Feb. 1, 2018. Her current tally is around 2.1 million tabs collected.

Drop off your tabs at the Ridge Motor Inn at 2900 New Pinery Road or by calling Mercedes' father, Joe, at 608-477-2215. Good luck, Mercedes!

PACT presents SPAMALOT!

The Portage Area Community Theatre presents Monty Python's SPAMALOT! with performances on November 9-12 & November 17-19 at the Portage Center for the Arts. Lovingly ripped off from the classic 1975 film comedy Monty Python and the Holy Grail, join King Arthur and his knights of the round table in their search for the grail.



Seats are limited. Tickets are available at www.portagecenterforthearts.com or at the Portage Center for the Arts, 301 E. Cook St. For more information, please call 608-742-5655.

This advertisement for Trans Works Transmissions LLC has a red background. On the left, the company name "TRANS WORKS TRANSMISSIONS LLC" is written in a stylized font. In the center, a list of services includes: "- Over 100 units in stock", "- In house custom rebuilt transmissions", and "- Satisfaction guaranteed". Below this list is the website "www.trannyman.net". To the right, contact information is provided: "CONTACT US 608-742-5136" and "3025 Cty Rd CX Portage, WI". At the bottom right, there is a logo for "Certified Transmission" with the tagline "The Job Done Right... At The Right Price" and a photograph of a technician in a blue uniform working on a vehicle.

A word from ADRC about Silver Alerts

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Columbia County would like to share some information about Silver Alerts. A Silver Alert is issued when there is a reasonable belief that the missing person's disappearance is a result of cognitive impairment, the request is made within 72 hours of the disappearance and there is sufficient information to share with the public.



If your loved one is missing, your first step is to call your police department. In order to help law enforcement respond quickly, you should be sure to keep the following on hand: a recent photo of the person in electronic form; a current picture of the vehicle that the person may be driving with a description of any markings on the vehicle, such as vanity license plates, dents or bumper stickers. For more information, call the ADRC at 1-888-742-9233.

CASA program returns to county

Columbia County is welcoming back the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children) program after a several year absence. Soon, juvenile and family court judges will once again implement the CASA program in their courtrooms, appointing trained volunteers to promote the best interests of a child, who is a victim of abuse and/or neglect and under a Children in Need of Protection or Services order.



A CASA volunteer visits a child or children's home on a weekly basis to ensure the child is safe, to ensure compliance with the court order, and to determine whether the child is getting the services he/she needs. The volunteer provides a judge with relevant information about the child to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future.

Research findings show children who have been assigned CASA volunteers tend to spend less time in court and less time within the foster care system than those who do not have CASA representation. Judges find that CASA children also have better chances of finding permanent homes than non-CASA children.

Volunteers and donations are needed. For more information about the local CASA program, contact Darryl Teske, Columbia County CASA, Inc. Executive Director, at 608-745-9977.

Columbia County CASA

Invites you to our:

OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING

**COCHRANE COURT - PORTAGE
311 E. WISCONSIN ST - SUITE 207E
THURSDAY - NOV 16TH
3-6 PM
PROGRAM AT 4PM**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a non-profit organization that provides a voice for abused and neglected children under the legal protection of the court system.

Come learn who we are, what we do, and how YOU can be the voice of a child here in Columbia County

For inquiries call 608-745-9977 or email info@columbiacountycasa.org

Rhyme Recognized For Service Excellence

Recipients of the prestigious Gold Award award must commit to a full audit of individual technician and overall service department performance by BEI Services, the nation's only unbiased source of service and equipment performance benchmarking. Rhyme has proven to meet or exceed national performance standards in areas relating directly to customer satisfaction.

What this means for you as their customer is that you can be confident that their Service Department will:

- Be courteous and professional.
- Reduce the number of return visits and lower service costs.
- Be stocked with the right parts through improved inventory to ensure machines are fixed the first



- time, allowing for maximum up time.
- Monitor and grade the technician's performance in 11 different service performance areas.
- Meet and exceed efficiency goals.
- Invest in the ongoing development and training of Service Management staff as well as Technicians.

In addition to receiving the Gold Award for the entire Service Department, Rhyme has 14 technicians that were individually recognized including: 5 Diamond Level, 7 Platinum Level, and 2 Gold Level Service Excellence recipients. For more information, contact Rhyme, N6832 Hwy 51 South, at 608-742-3747.



Ridge Motor Inn
Ridge Health & Fitness Center
2900 New Pinery Rd.
608-742-5306

Run a flyer in the newsletter

Run a flyer in the Chamber newsletter or weekly news for just \$20. Spread the word about your event or business. We'll take the ad as a pdf or jpg no larger than 8.5"x11". The deadline for submitting an ad in the weekly news is Noon on Wednesdays or the 20th of the month for the monthly newsletter.



You Deserve A
Sensational Smile!
Hart & Olson
Family Dentistry
Gerald Hart DDS
Matthew Olson DDS
Brian Hart DDS
608-742-3272
225 Gunderson Dr.

Text PACC to 51660

to receive information about upcoming Chamber events

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.](#)

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!

Ribbon Cuttings

A ribbon cutting was held at Gates Collision Centers, 3015 County Hwy CX, to welcome this new business to Portage. Gates Collision Centers is excited to announce the opening of their 17th location in Portage. They are looking forward to serving our community and providing quality Collision Repairs with their world class customer service.

Please visit gatescollision.com for more information or call 608-745-9302.



A ribbon cutting was held at Walmart, 2950 New Pinery Rd., to celebrate the completion of their interior remodel project. For more information, call 608-742-1432. We congratulate Wal-Mart on their grand re-opening after their 13-week remodel. New store features include: a pick-up station for online shopping, low profile produce area, updated electronics for the future and 17 new self-checkouts. In addition, they awarded \$7000 in grants to local organizations!



A ribbon cutting was held at Kentucky Fried Chicken, 2990 New Pinery Rd., to celebrate the completion of their major remodel of both the interior and exterior.

The restaurant was built 28 years ago, and was last remodeled 14 years ago. While the familiar design of the old building may have some nostalgic appeal, it's time for a fresh look. KFC is remodeling every restaurant in the United States over the next couple years, and the Portage location is the second remodel project in the state of Wisconsin.

The restaurant is owned by KFC franchisee Mike Kohlman, who owns 5 other locations in small Wisconsin towns. "We brought Kentucky Fried Chicken to Portage in 1977, back when Jimmy Carter was President," said Kohlman. "Portage has been very good to us, and this town deserves the best-looking KFC you've ever seen." For more information, call 608-742-2777.



Chamber November Meetings & Events

- 2 Meeting at Jack's Tap to plan the arrival of the CPRail Holiday Train 11:30am
- 6 Launch Portage Social Night at Curling Club 5:30pm
- 7 Business Luncheon at Pizza Ranch 11:30am lunch, speaker at noon
- 8 Ribbon Cutting at Neil's Wine House 5pm

16 Ribbon Cutting at CASA office in Cochrane Court 4pm
23-24 Chamber office closed for Thanksgiving
24 Santa Fly-in at Portage Airport 10am

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.

November Community Events

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

- 1 Healthy Living with Diabetes Class at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 1-3 Free hearing test at Miracle-Ear
- 2 Our House Senior Living "All Things Senior Expo" at Ho-Chunk Gaming - WI Dells
- 2 Paint your Pet Event for Columbia County Humane Society at The Ball Room
- 2 Pauquette Park Pavilion Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch
- 3 Teen Origami Day at the Portage Public Library
- 3 Portage Rotary Draw-Down Hoe Down at The NorthShore
- 4 City of Portage Fall Clean Up
- 4 Portage Music Boosters Fall Auction
- 4 Portage United Methodist Church Fall Bazaar
- 4 Trivia Night at St. Mary's
- 4-5 Portage High School presents Cabaret at the PHS Auditorium
- 6 Launch Portage Social Night at Curling Club
- 6 Footcare Program at Portage Public Library
- 6 Social Night at Portage Curling Club
- 7 Chamber Business Luncheon at Pizza Ranch
- 7 Job Fair at Goodwill of South Central Wisconsin
- 8 Bingo at the Portage Senior Dining Center at City Hall Basement
- 8 Columbia-Sauk SHRM Meeting
- 8 Healthy Living with Diabetes Class at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 8 Ribbon Cutting at Neil's Wine House
- 8 Hiring Event with Our House Senior Living
- 9 'Smart' Cookie Sale at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 9 Painting Autumn Leaves Class at The Mercantile
- 9-12 Portage Area Community Theatre presents SPAMALOT! at Portage Center for the Arts
- 9 Veteran's Day event at Blau Family Chiropractic
- 10 Free Chili Lunch at Our House Senior Living for Veterans of the community
- 11 Harvest Dinner at Portage Presbyterian Church
- 11 Meat Raffle at Jack's Tap
- 12 Walsh's ACE Hardware Ladies Night
- 13 Last Will & Estate Planning workshop at Portage Public Library
- 15 Healthy Living with Diabetes Class at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 16 Ribbon Cutting at CASA office in Cochrane Court
- 16 VFW Meat Raffle Night
- 16 Women's Night Out at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 17 Bingo at Our House Senior Living
- 17-19 Portage Area Community Theatre presents SPAMALOT! at Portage Center for the Arts
- 18 Warrior Holiday Bazaar at Wayne Bartels Middle School
- 22 Bingo at the Portage Senior Dining Center at City Hall Basement
- 23 St. Mary's Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- 24 Santa Fly-in at Portage Airport
- 24 Holiday Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting at Commerce Plaza
- 24 Portage Presbyterian Church Chili Dump at the Holiday Parade
- 24 Create a Mixed Evergreen Porch Pot at Edgewater Home & Garden
- 25 Santa's Real Live Reindeer
- 25 Small Business Saturday and Downtown Elf Hunt
- 27 Portage Sharing Supper at Wayne Bartels Middle School

29 Endeavor Sharing Supper at Endeavor Elementary School
30 UW-Platteville Chancellor visits Portage for discussion at Enterprise Center

Weekly Recurring Events

New Movie Mondays at Portage Public Library at 10am

Beer Bucket Bingo at Jack's Tap every Monday at 6:30pm

Portage United Methodist Church Bible Study at Heritage House, Tuesdays at 10am

Portage United Methodist Church Worship Service at Heritage House, Tuesdays at 11am


Griefshare at Portage United Methodist Church, Thursdays at 2pm

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