NEWS BREAK February 2017

Like us on Facebook! ***Click here for our Member Directory!***

Portage Chamber Annual Awards Celebration

It's time to recognize businesses and individuals for outstanding work and contributions. We invite you to join us at the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet and be part of the Business Event of the Year!

This year's banquet will be held at the Best Western, on Wednesday, February 8, 2017. The featured speaker will be Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch.

Network and get to know your fellow Chamber members while we recognize some of the activities of exceptional businesses and people whose service or performance positively contributes to the quality of life in the Portage community. This year we will be recognizing nominees in seven categories: Business Excellence Award (20 or more employees); Rising Business Star Award; Community Service Award; Educator Commitment Award; First Impression Award; Tourism Award; and the Susan Weyh Business Excellence Award (less than 20 employees).

You Are Cordially Invited

TO THE ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

FEATURING SPECIAL INVITED GUEST

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR REBECCA KLEEFISCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

5:30 P.M. REGISTRATION & CASH BAR
6 P.M. DINNER & SPEAKER

BEST WESTERN RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
2701 SOUTH HIGHWAY CX
PORTAGE, WISCONSIN

$35 FOR MEMBERS INCLUDES DINNER

- SEATING IS LIMITED -

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

February 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

Looking for a better understanding of your body and how to take action on improving your overall physical well-being? Jodi Monroe and Ben Hartman of Anytime Fitness will talk with us about the benefits of exercise and physical movement to help increase your employee morale and productivity at your business.

They will demonstrate a Functional Movement Screening, which is one of the most effective techniques for identifying asymmetries, postural issues and functional limitations. This can provide the knowledge to help reduce common injuries in the workplace as well as other limiting factors when it comes to production at your business.

Time: Lunch at 11:30AM, Presentation at Noon
Cost: Pay for your lunch at the restaurant
Date: Tuesday, February 7
Where: Portage Pizza Ranch, 2905 New Pinery Road

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

Welcome New Members

Clearly By Design

Portage, WI
Joanne Grey at 608-566-3046
Hand painted, custom art on glass, tile and more, along with instructional painting classes for all.

Connect By Design LLC

Portage, WI
Joanne Grey at 608-566-3046
We make connecting businesses and organizations with their patrons simple, instant and affordable, while increasing patrons' interest, traffic and sales.

J & J Fireball Lanes

817 E. Wisconsin St. Portage, WI
Jim Baures and Jeff Bender at 608-742-6638
A fun place to hang out with great food.

Business Profile - Connect By Design

Connect By Design LLC, representing SenText Solutions' services, is honored to be a part of the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce starting this January, 2017. Joanne Grey, the owner of Connect By Design LLC and an independent agent of SenText Solutions, has a passion for helping businesses of all sizes thrive by making their messages seen in three minutes or less. Connect By Design specializes in one of the most effective communication tools available, SMS marketing.

Joanne recognized an honest need for better communication and marketing tools used by many of her business friends. They were spending hundreds of dollars on advertising that didn't seem to bring solid returns. She was attracted to SenText Solutions' results, integrity and outstanding service. Since starting as an agent, Joanne has been pleased to work with many amazing businesses in this area. One of the most enjoyable things for Joanne is to see the direct benefits in

her clients' business when they see a profitable R.O.I. and returning patrons! Communities are stronger when businesses thrive.

Living and working in Portage since 2012, Joanne genuinely cares about the growth and development of the area businesses. She hopes to give back to the community through her participation in the Business Improvement District Board, which she volunteered to be a part of in December 2016.

While Connect By Design LLC is newly formed this year, SenText Solutions is a well-respected and established business started in 2011 and based in Connecticut. They have a proven track record of increasing a merchant's bottom line and retaining over 98% of the merchants who choose their services. With unparalleled customer support, low competitive pricing, powerful and many unlimited features, along with amazing flexibility in meeting the needs of ALL types of businesses, it's not hard to see why many businesses choose SenText Solutions as their marketing solution.

If you have any questions about these services, Joanne would be happy to hear from you: 608-566-3046 or jgrey@sentextsolutions.com.

VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

Habitat for Humanity®
of Wisconsin River Area

Be The Change!

Now Hiring

Community Outreach Coordinator

This full time position with Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area will focus on expanding our presence and outreach into the three counties that we serve: Sauk, Columbia and Iowa. Opportunities include event planning, social media marketing, fundraising and more while helping local low-income families achieve home ownership! Position based in Baraboo Habitat offices.

Benefits:

A monthly stipend, health coverage, a housing allowance, child care (if needed)
An end-of-service education award of $5,500 or a cash bonus
Build your resume while taking classes or holding an additional job
Advantage when applying for Federal positions

Desired Skills:

Writing/Editing
Recruitment
Community Organization
Communications
Fundraising/Grant Writing

For more information contact Tara: tara@hfhwisconsinriver.org

Learn more about a Year of Service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at: https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-vista

Position Starts April 2017

Habitat for Humanity - Portage is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 4pm. Volunteer opportunities consists of customer service, cashiering, salvaging metals, and more. They have a 25% off discount on the store for volunteers who put in 20 hours and more. Those interested should call Tara Noye, the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area, at 608-370-4932 or email tara@hfhwisconsinriver.org.

21st Annual Basketball Alumni Tournament

The 21st Annual Portage Alumni Basketball Tournament will take place on February 18 & 19 at various gyms in Portage. There will also be an "open gym" for players to shoot around and visit on Friday night, February 17 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Bartels Middle School (the former Turner High School).

Teams wishing to participate need to contact Sean Malone at 742-6754 by 4pm on Tuesday, February 6.

Historical Society seeking manager

Portage Historical Society is seeking a Museum Manager for the Museum at the Portage. The

Manager will be a self-starter who can work well with others and is familiar with the role of the Internet and social media in marketing. This is a part-time position (750 hours/year) and the wage is $14/hr.

For a complete job description send email to museumattheportage@gmail.com.

Gumz Farms up for Top Producer

Gumz Farms was one of three candidates for the AgDay 2017 Top Producer of the Year award.
You can check out the video (the segment begins at the 3:50 minute mark) to learn more about their business.

The fourth-generation run business uses dark, fertile soil to grow its vegetables while continually upgrading equipment and efficiency to maintain high quality and sustain the business well into the future.

For more information, contact Gumz Farms, N570 6th Court, Endeavor, at 608-981-2488.

Saint-Gobain up for MOTY Award

Twenty-six Wisconsin manufacturers, including Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics of Portage, have been nominated for the 29th Annual Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY) Awards.

The nominees showcase the strength and vibrancy of the manufacturing sector in our state. With nearly 500,000 state residents working in the manufacturing sector, Wisconsin is among the most manufacturing intensive states in the nation.

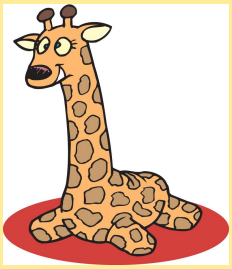
The MOTY program recognizes the state's top manufacturers of all industries and sizes for their commitment to good business practices, innovative processes, and productivity enhancements to help drive Wisconsin's economy. A total of four Grand Award winners will be chosen from categories based on company size.

Winners will be revealed at a black tie ceremony February 23 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Click here for the full list of nominees. Additional information can be found at www.wimoty.com or by calling 800-362-7301.

End of Winter Sale at Giggles for Kids

Giggles for Kids is having an End of Winter Sale on Saturday, February 25 from 9am to 4pm.

Take 30% off regularly priced toys and books to make room for new Spring merchandise at Giggles for Kids, located inside The Mercantile, 117 W. Cook St. For more information, call 608-745-5768.



GRAND OPENING WEEKEND CLASSES & ACTIVITIES BY DAY

TO REGISTER GO TO: www.midwestfiberartstrails.org/threaded-streams-grand-opening-weekend-2017/

ROLLING WOODS ESTATES

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

Office Space Available

Office space available on Cook St. A 3-room office, each room 13'x13', is just $450 with utilities per month. Ample parking! For more information, call 608-742-7300.

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

COMMUNITY BANK OF PORTAGE

FDIC

BWD

WWW.COMMBANKPORTAGE.COM

Get your Babyback Ribs from Pierce's

Pierce's will be grilling ribs again on Sunday, February 5 from 11am-4pm. Make this part of your Super Bowl party. Full racks of Babyback Ribs are priced at just $10. Call their Rib Hotline and place your order in advance at 608-742-2481.

Pierce's Marketplace Portage is located at 2915 New Pinery Rd.

SINCE 1924 PIERCE'S MARKETPLACE

Indian Trails Campground

608-429-3244

W6445 Haynes Road - Pardeeville

Alliant offering electric vehicle incentive

Any Alliant Energy customer (electric or gas) is eligible for a $10,000* discount on a Nissan Leaf if purchased by March 31, 2017. Offer is only valid on 'Retail purchase' for 2016 & 2017 LEAFs.

*The $10,000 incentive cannot be combined with any other Nissan special incentives

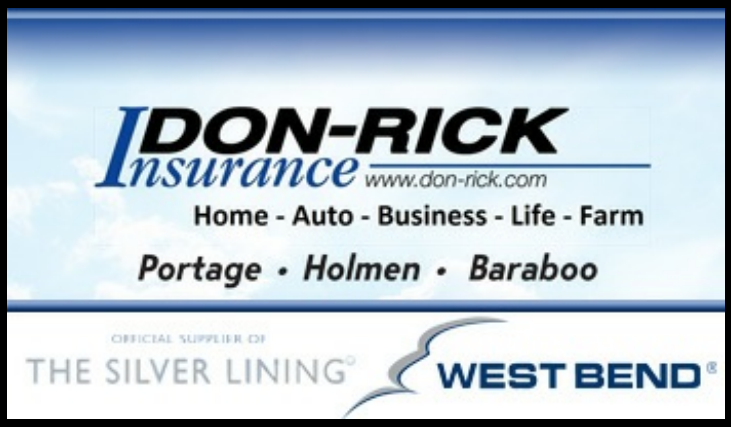
(lease, APR or rebates). A $7,500 tax credit may also apply to qualified buyers. See the attached flyer for more details.

Portage Lumber to host 4th Annual Ladies Night

Portage Lumber will be hosting its 4th Annual Ladies Night on Thursday, March 16 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

- FREE gift to the first 80 ladies through the door.
- FREE appetizers & drinks.
- Grand Prize baskets filled with goodies.
- Meet with local vendors to check out/purchase some of their latest & greatest products.
- 20% off most items storewide.
- Learn some useful and easy DIY skills and tricks for remodeling/renovating your home.
- Test out Milwaukee power tools and Dremel oscillating tools.
- Painting tips, flooring

Grab your girlfriends and join in for the evening - you won't want to miss this!
This event is FREE! Must RSVP by March 8, 2017. Please RSVP at Portage Lumber, by phone: (608) 742-7186, or by email: info@portagelumber.com.



FFA "Growing for Grants" Fundraiser at TSC

February 17- 26
Tractor Supply has partnered with the FFA to raise money for state level TSC/FFA grants. Customers can donate at the registers and 100% of the proceeds will directly support FFA. 10% supports state FFA programs and 90% funds the grant program in the state where the store is located. Customers will be asked if they would like to support the FFA by purchasing a $1 paper emblem.

Ribbon Cuttings & Groundbreakings

A ribbon cutting was held at Cascade Mountain to celebrate their $9 million expansion. Improvements include 8 new trails (for a total of 44 trails) plus two new chair lifts, additional snowmaking and Peak Lodge expansion. Cascade Mountain is located at W10441 Cascade Mountain Road. For more information, call 608-742-5588 or visit cascademountain.com.

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.

Chamber February meetings & events

1 Ambassador meeting at Community Bank 8am
1 Ribbon Cutting at Culver's Restaurant 10:30am
7 Business Luncheon at Pizza Ranch Lunch 11:30am
8 Annual Chamber Meeting & Awards Banquet at Best Western

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.

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.

February Community Events

Spread the word about your events by posting them on our website!

3 Hope House Support Group at Portage Public Library
3 The Flowers are Burning at Portage Center for the Arts Drury Gallery
4 UW Varsity Band at Portage High School
4 Family Valentine Event at Portage Public Library
4-5 Girl Scout Cookie Sales at Tractor Supply Company
5 Bingo at the VFW
5 Rib Fest at Pierce's Marketplace Portage
5 'Souper' Bowl Sunday at the VFW
7 Chamber Business Luncheon at Portage Pizza Ranch
8 Annual Chamber Meeting and Awards Banquet at Best Western Resort & Conference Center
9 'Smart' Cookie Sale at Divine Savior Healthcare
9-15 Buy 2, Get 3 Free Sale at Pierce's Marketplace Portage
11 Blend - Performing Arts Concert Series at Portage Center for the Arts
11 Meat Raffle at Jack's Tap for Carol Heisz Fmaily
11-12 Girl Scout Cookie Sales at Tractor Supply Company
15-19 USSMA Bonspiel at Portage Curling Club
16 Glass Painting Class at BonBon and Bordeaux
17 Hope House Support Group at Portage Public Library
17-19 Alumni Basketball Tournament
17-26 FFA 'Growing the Grants' Fundraiser at Tractor Supply Company
17 Bingo at Our House Senior Living
18 Purple Power Flower for Carol Heisz at Dino's
18 Saturday Theatre Workshop at Portage Center for the Arts
19 Bingo at VFW
23 Brown Bag Lunch at Portage Center for the Arts
23 Mosaic Garden Stone Class at The Mercantile
24 Chili Dine & Dash at Our House Senior Living
27 Portage Sharing Supper at 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