



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU!

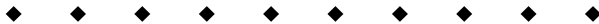
PARKS AND RECREATION

Dec. 1st - 14th

TOY DRIVE

Community Center

The Portland Parks and Recreation Department will host a toy drive to benefit "Christmas For Kids Year Round." Drop off a new, un-wrapped toy at the Portland Community Center from December 1-14, 2015. Make a difference in our community by making Christmas just a little brighter for children in Portland!



Dec. 3rd, 5:30pm CHRISTMAS IN PORTLAND

Community Center

The 12th Annual Christmas in Portland event, sponsored by the City of Portland and the Kiwanis Club of Portland, will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Parents, be sure to bring your cameras to take pictures with Santa!

Festivities will include:

- ◆ Pictures with Santa
- ◆ Hayrides
- ◆ Winter carnival games
- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ Appearances by Rudolph and Frosty!



All participants are encouraged to bring a new toy, in the original

packaging but not gift wrapped, to this free event to be donated to our "Christmas For Kids Year Round."



Dec. 7th, 6pm

PARADE OF LIGHTS Community Center

Santa Claus is coming to...Portland! Welcome Santa to town as he travels the illuminated parade route through the community. The 2015 "Christmas in Portland Parade of Lights" will begin at 6 pm on Monday, December 7th.

Individuals and companies that are interested in participating in the parade may complete a registration form available at the Portland Community Center.

*** FLOATS MUST REGISTER BY DECEMBER 1ST ***

School Holidays

KIDZ DAYZ

Community Center

Kidz Dayz is an all-day recreation program offered during school holidays and teacher in-service days. (Note: this program is not provided on City holidays.) Children in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join the fun at T.M. Clark Elementary. Activities will include arts and crafts, organized recreational play, games, prizes, and fun. Morning and afternoon snacks provided, children must bring their own lunches.

UTILITY BILLING

Reading Water Meters

All 5,000 plus water meters in Portland are read every month. Meters that are in clear view and easy to locate can reduce costs of having to conduct re-reads. You can assist City water meter readers and the Utility Billing Department to be more efficient by practicing the following actions:

- * Keep all items such as trash canisters, potted plants, vehicles and debris off the meter box
- * Keep shrubbery and other landscaping from obstructing clear and easy access to the meter box. Meter readers are unable to read meters if tree limbs are placed on the meters.

Your efforts in this area are much appreciated by the meter readers and maintenance personnel, and may be appreciated by you when quick access to the shut-off valve is necessary. Meters are normally read between the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. City meter readers are identified by wearing shirts with the City logo on them.

Utility Deposit Increase

The City requires new customers to post a deposit when opening a utility account. The utility security deposit rate has increased for some categories. The table to the left shows the new rates in effect as of October 21, 2015.

Nonsufficient Funds Fee Increase

The City has increased the fee for a nonsufficient funds check (NSF) from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Customers will be required to pay the NSF check by cash, money order or credit/debit card, with the \$30.00 fee included. Payment of NSF charges must be made in person only- no phone calls.

Meter Size (In Inches)	Residential	Commercial*
5/8 or 3/4	\$ 90.00 <u>150.00</u>	\$ 100.00 <u>150.00</u>
1	150.00 <u>200.00</u>	225.00
1½	350.00	350.00
2	N/A	450.00
3	N/A	525.00
4	N/A	650.00
6	N/A	1,000.00



CITY OFFICE SCHEDULE

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

City Hall and the Public Works Building will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holidays.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



CITY OF PORTLAND
 1900 Billy G. Webb Drive
 Portland, Texas 78374
 Phone: (361) 777-4500
webmaster@portlandtx.com



BELL WHITTINGTON LIBRARY

Book-A-Palooza was a roaring success! Thanks to the cooperative efforts of GPISD's Cati Partridge and her volunteer workers, the Portland Library and our volunteers, the First United Methodist Church and its volunteers, a generous Coastal Bend Community Foundation grant, an HEB grant, and donations from Half Price books and Scholastic Books, we hosted more than 1,500 people and gave away nearly 5,000 books!

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped in any capacity! We are very grateful for all the wonderful effort put into this event!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Every Monday from 4-5 PM for Kinder through 6th grade. Join us for crafts, science fun, movies and snacks! We have a great time!

TODDLER TIME



Every Tuesday from 10-11 AM we host a story time for babies, toddlers and preschool age children. Mrs. Dorothy presents stories, finger plays and crafts for little ones!

TEEN LIBRARY LOUNGE

Every Thursday from 4-6 PM, Teens are welcome to drop in and enjoy snacks, board games, video games and crafts.



CHRISTMAS MAKERSPACE/ POINSETTIA WREATH



Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 AM, and Thursday, November 19 at 6 PM. Space is limited, register in advance by coming by or calling (361) 777-0921

There is a \$15 materials fee payable at the door.

MILES FOR MEALS

North Shore Country Club in Portland
 Saturday, November 7th, 5:30 PM check in
 For details and to register go to www.athleteguild.com

It's an annual glow-in-the-dark night run benefitting the Food Bank of Corpus Christi and the surrounding San Patricio County food pantries, sponsored by HEB!

Wear your glow gear as you run or walk. Join us after the event for food, fun and photo ops! Strollers and well-behaved pets welcome!

SENIOR SERVICES

November 5th, 5:30 PM

PORTLAND OPRY

Community Center

Don't miss the Opry! Doors open at 5:30 PM. Join us for dinner! Hot food available at additional cost. The show starts at 7 pm, and you will be blown away by the amazing talent we have here on our Portland stage! So come on down and enjoy the show! Thursday, November 5, 6:30-9:30 PM Cost is \$7 per person.

Tues, Thurs & Fri, 10:30 AM SILVER SNEAKERS

Community Center

The Silver Sneakers Fitness Program is a comprehensive older-adult fitness program that addresses the needs of the Medicare population (age 65+). Silver Sneakers is a chair based fitness class focused on retraining useful movements that decline with age. This is a great class with activities paced for you, set to fun, catchy tunes. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10:30 AM.

No cost to Silver Sneakers members; \$4 for Senior Citizens

November 5th, 6:30 PM

SENIOR DANCE

Community Center

Join us at the Portland Community Center for our monthly Senior Dance. Grab your dancing shoes and come out for live music, snacks, dancing, and fun! Friday, November 5th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Cost is \$3.00 per person.



November 11th, 5:30 PM

VETERAN'S DINNER

Senior Center



The City of Portland would like to express its gratitude to all who served our country with an Annual Veterans' Dinner. This is a FREE event for veterans! Please sign up early, as space is limited. Wednesday, November 11, 5:30-7:30 PM at the Senior Center.

Free for veterans, \$3.00 charge for non-veterans

December 8th, 3:30 PM

TEA PARTY

Senior Center

Join us for an elegant tea party at the Senior Center. Door prizes and appetizers will be provided, in addition to a wide variety of teas on Tuesday, December 8, 3:30-5:30 PM **FREE**



PUBLIC WORKS

Fats, Oils, and Grease – Here comes Holiday Cooking!

Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease rendered from holiday cooking is a common mistake. Turkey frying, ham roasting, whatever your main course - please collect and dispose of these drain-clogging substances properly. Cooking oils and grease should never be disposed of down the drain or garbage disposal. Fats, oils and grease may congeal, block pipes and cause a sewer backup. Not a pleasant experience during the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season. Additionally, dumping these types of substances into the yard is not a solution. November and December can be very rainy months in Portland. The oil residue may run off into the storm drains and into the bay without being properly treated.

Safe Disposal of Leftover Cooking Oils

- * Use an empty, heat safe container to transfer the cooled cooking into; cover, freeze, and throw out with the trash.
- * You can also mix cooking oils with unscented kitty litter or another absorbent and dispose of in the trash. *Do not use scented or disinfectant types as there may be a flammable reaction.*
- * If you have gallons of turkey-frying oils you can also store oil for later use. Oil can be kept for up to six months and reused for up to six hours of fry time. Strain the oil first, and then store in the freezer.
- * Food scraps, shortening, butter, batter, icing, sauces – any type of fatty substance should be disposed of in the trash, not in your sink.

Keep your Holidays fun without the stress of avoidable plumbing problems.