



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS
CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH**



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, unwrapped 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.

Call the Community Center at (361) 777-3301 for more information

Register 2 weeks in advance and pay a discounted fee of \$15 per day

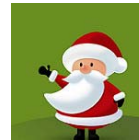
MUNICIPAL COURT

Two Ways to Pay a Ticket

City of Portland Municipal Court is now offering two ways to pay a ticket either online or over the phone. If you would like to pay online, you can go to the City of Portland website at www.portlandtx.com and hit the payment button on the front page or you can go to the website www.trafficpayment.com. If you would rather pay over the phone, call 1-800-444-1187 and you can speak to a representative who will take your payment over the phone. You must know the Ticket Number or your Driver's License number and the amount due. Traffic Payment takes Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. Not all cases may be paid in lieu of court; particularly if you are a minor or a juvenile. If you are unsure whether or not you can pay your citation online, or if you need further assistance, please contact the court at 361-777-4543.

UTILITY BILLING

Utility customers who mail their utility payment should mail their payments a day or two earlier than they have in the past. The U.S. Postal Service is taking longer to process mail these days. All payments received after the 15th of the month are subject to late penalties. To avoid penalties, please mail your payments 5-7 days before the 15th.



BELL WHITTINGTON LIBRARY



Santa will be paying us a visit during Mr. Kippy's story times on Thursday, December 17, at 9 and 10 AM! Please note: Mr. Kippy will NOT be here December 24 & 31. Instead of Mr. Kippy on the 31st, we ask you to... RING IN THE NEW YEAR (WELL, SORT OF...) WITH OUR SPECIAL CELEBRATION ON DECEMBER 31 FROM 10 AM TO 12 NOON! FOR KIDS IN PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE. We'll have a movie, goodies, noise makers, party hats, and "mocktails!" Miss Dorothy knows how to throw a party!



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. Since we are sharing the Library with others, it is imperative to behave in a civilized manner!



Trash Services will not be affected by the Christmas or New Year's Holidays. Please be sure your carts are placed on your regularly scheduled day.

SENIOR SERVICES

December 10th, 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.



December 4th, 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.



December 8th, 3:30 PM **TEA PARTY** **Senior Center**

Come 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



December 16th & 17th, 6PM **TOUR OF LIGHTS** **Senior Center**

Come to the Senior Center for cookies, hot chocolate, and a tour of Portland to view the Christmas lights. The first bus will leave at 6:15PM, additional tours will be added as needed.

FREE



December 23rd **CHRISTMAS PARTY** **Senior Center**

Join us for this free event of cookies, punch, music, door prizes, and lots of fun!



December 31st, 10:30AM **NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY** **Senior Center**



Do you want to ring in 2016 but don't want to stay up all night? Join the fun at the 7th Annual Noon Year's Eve Party! We will count down to noon with music and light refreshments, then toast the New Year with sparkling cider as the clock strikes 12! Dress in your best and come party with us!

PUBLIC WORKS

Let's Talk Trash!

It is frustrating when the trash and recycling carts are not picked up on the assigned day. Sometimes the cause is an oversight by the driver, but there can be other reasons. Please review the items below to be sure that you are complying with trash and recycling cart requirements to avoid unnecessary aggravation.

- * Carts must be placed outside by **8am** on your assigned day. You may know what time the driver usually arrives, however if there is a replacement driver, the route may be serviced differently.
- * Carts may be placed outside as soon as 5pm the day before your pickup and must be removed by 7am the day after your pickup. Do not leave carts out all week long.
- * Carts must be placed **four (4) feet from any obstructions**. This includes mailboxes, parked cars, bulk trash piles, and anything else that inhibits the truck from picking up the cart.
- * **Do not park next to carts**. If you see a cart set out for servicing, be sure you are at least four (4) feet away.
- * Carts should be placed with wheels toward the curb with the lids closed properly. If the carts are overloaded, they will not be serviced until the overage is removed.
- * The only debris that will be removed is the debris inside the cart. **Bags of debris placed beside the cart will not be picked up**. The drivers are not allowed to wait for you to refill the carts. If an additional trash or recycle cart is needed, contact Public Works at 361-777-4601. Extra carts are available for an additional charge on your utility bill.
- * The carts cannot weigh more than **50lbs**. This is because the hydraulic lift on the truck is unable to lift anything exceeding that weight.
- * Do not use the recycling cart for an extra trash can. Items that can be recycled are paper, household metals (tin and aluminum), and plastic.
- * Appropriate items for trash carts are: dry kitchen refuse; all meat, vegetable and fruit refuse; domestic paper of all kinds; domestic rags; clothing; paper containers; rubber; small pieces of scrap wood; cardboard boxes; weeds, grass and tree limbs; tin cans; bottles; glass; small domestic scraps of iron, tin, wire, or any other metals (in small quantities); and all other typical approved household waste.

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The Land of Possibilities

