



CHRISTMAS IN PORTLAND

The 13th annual Christmas in Portland event, sponsored by the City of Portland and the Kiwanis Club of Portland, will be held Thursday, Dec. 1. Festivities include photos with Santa, Christmas crafts, face painting, cookie decorating, Christmas bingo, letters to Santa, hayrides, winter carnival games, refreshments, and appearances by Rudolph and Frosty! Parents, be sure to bring your cameras to take photos with Santa.

The event is free, but participants are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to donate to Christmas for Kids Year-Round. Make a difference in the life of a child in our community! (All toys will be donated.)

* **Thursday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

(Photos with Santa start at 5:00 p.m.)

* **Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr.**



PARADE OF LIGHTS

Santa Claus is coming to PORTLAND! Welcome Santa to town as he travels the illuminated parade route through the community. The 2016 Christmas in Portland Parade of Lights begins at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5. This year's theme is "Blue Christmas." This is a FREE event.

* **Monday, Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m.**

PARADE OF LIGHTS REGISTRATION*

Individuals or companies interested in participating in the parade must register floats. Forms are available at the Community Center. For more information, call 361.777.3301.

* **Floats must be registered no later than Tuesday, Nov. 29**

Coming in December **POOCH-A-PALOOZA**

Calling all canines! Come to the Kaiah Dog Park and let Santa know what you want for Christmas! Straight from the North Pole, Santa and his elves will be taking photos with your pooch. This is a free event for you and your pet, but Kaiah Dog Park rules will still be in effect. Bring a pet food donation to participate. All donations will go to Portland Animal Control and Last Chance Rescue. For more information, call 361.777.3301.

* **Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**

* **Kaiah Dog Park, 1000 Moore Ave.**



FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Cities must grow to remain healthy, and the key to long-term success is sustainable growth. That means growth that balances economic development, protection of our environment, and our societal needs in such a way that we continue to grow without compromising our present and future quality of life. This delicate balance requires a lot of long-term planning.

Historically, Portland has succeeded as a community by focusing on being the best family oriented community in the Coastal Bend. We do that by promoting single-family home development, providing family oriented services and programs and keeping the community safe and clean. In July 2016, Portland had an inventory of 885 new, platted single-family lots in 15 subdivisions. Two hundred of those lots are currently available for permitting. There were 803 additional lots in two new subdivisions in the preliminary planning phase, bringing the total number of lots under construction or in the planning stage to 1,688. On a per capita basis new construction in Portland outranks all other area cities except Port Aransas.

The real estate market in Portland continues to lead our neighbors in several ways including increases in the return on investment for single family homes and having faster turnover times for homes on the market. In July, the median home price in Portland was \$218,000.

As development occurs around Portland, we will benefit from new jobs, as well as retail and commercial growth. But, we must balance those positives against a need to keep Portland the high-performing community it has always been. Sustainable growth is one of the keys to our future success.

CHRISTMAS TREE MAKERSPACE

Join Mrs. Dorothy as she guides you step by step in making a gorgeous lighted topiary Christmas tree. **Space is limited, so REGISTER early.** A \$15 donation is suggested to cover the cost of materials. For more information, call 361.777.0951.

* **Bell/Whittington Library, 2400 Memorial Parkway**

* **Saturday, Nov. 5, 10:30 a.m. or Thursday, Nov. 10, 6 p.m.**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, for the Thanksgiving holidays. Trash and recycle collection for **Thursday, Nov. 24 has been rescheduled for Saturday, Nov. 26.** We hope you have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving!

CITY OF PORTLAND

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www.portlandtx.com

Comments or Questions: webmaster@portlandtx.com

SENIOR SERVICES EVENTS

Silver Sneakers

This is a comprehensive fitness program geared to older adults. Silver Sneakers aerobics is a chair-based fitness class. It focuses on retraining useful movements that may decline with age. This is a great class with activities paced for you and set to fun, catchy tunes.



* **Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m.**

(No Silver Sneakers Nov. 24-25)

* **Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr.**

* **Free for Silver Sneakers members; \$4 for non-members**

Senior Dances

Join us at the Portland Community Center for our monthly Senior Dances. Grab your dancing shoes and come out for live music, food, fun, and lots of dancing!



* **Friday, Nov. 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m.**

* **Senior Center, 601 Wildcat Dr.**

* **Cost: \$3 per person**

Game Days

Games Galore! Don't be stuck playing the same old games! We have Game Days at the Senior Center on the second Wednesday of each month. Join us for light refreshments, cards, dominoes, and bingo.

* **Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1:00 p.m.**

* **Senior Center, 601 Wildcat Dr.**

* **Game Days are FREE**

Portland Opry

Did you know we have any Opry in Portland? We have joined the Opry circuit of Coastal Bend to bring you evenings filled with entertainment and fun! So come on down and enjoy the show!



* **Thursday, Nov. 10, 7:00 p.m.**

(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

* **Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr.**

* **Hot food is available for purchase**

* **Cost: \$7 per person**

For questions about Senior Center programs, call 361.643.9431.

BELL/WHITTINGTON LIBRARY

THE BELL/WHITTINGTON LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED NOV. 24, 25, 26 FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS.

After School Program with Mrs. Dorothy

The After School Program is offered every Monday. Join us for crafts, science fun, movies, and snacks. Open for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade.

Dates/Times: Nov. 7, 14, 21, 27;

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Toddler Time with Mrs. Dorothy

Toddler Time meets every Tuesday. The program features stories, finger plays, and crafts for little ones.

Open to babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Dates/Times: Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 10:00-11:00 a.m.



Story Time with Mr. Kippy

Join us for stories, songs, laughs, and reading fun every Thursday.

Dates/Times: Nov. 3, 10, 17; 9:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Teen Library Lounge with Mrs. Ledezma

Games, food, and fun for kids in grades 7-12.

Dates/Times: Nov. 3, 10, 17; 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Contact the Library at 361.777.0951.

DISPOSING OF COOKING OILS

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

Improper disposal of fats, oils, and grease rendered from holiday cooking is a common mistake. Cooking oils and grease should never be disposed of in the drain or garbage disposal. They may congeal, block pipes, or cause a sewer backup. Dumping them in the yard isn't a solution since November and December can be rainy. The oil residue may run off into the storm drains and into the bay without being properly treated.

Instead transfer grease or oil to an empty, heat-safe container and cover, freeze, and throw out with the trash. You can also mix cooking oils with unscented kitty litter 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 frying oils you can store it 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 fatty substances should be disposed of in the trash, not in your sink.

Keep your holidays fun and free from the stress of plumbing problems that can easily be avoided with a few simple steps.