



# the Breeze

Official news from the City of **portland** the  
of possibilities.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Christmas in Portland

Thu., Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

### Parade of Lights

Mon., Dec. 5, 6 p.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

### Portland Opry

Thu., Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

### Pooch-a-Palooza

Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.

Kaiah Dog Park, 1000 Moore Ave.

For details, call 361.777.3301

### Christmas at the Library

Tue., Dec. 20, 10 a.m.

Bell Whittington Library

For details, call 361.777.0921

### Senior Christmas Party

Wed., Dec. 21, Noon

Senior Center

For details, call 361.643.9431

### Senior Noon Year's Eve Party

Fri., Dec. 30, 10:30 a.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

**For a complete list of events and activities, visit [PortlandTX.com](http://PortlandTX.com).**

## PORTLAND POLICE LAUNCH ONLINE CRIME REPORT

One of the best crime-fighting tools is citizen awareness. Greater awareness can allow people to modify or change their behavior in ways that may prevent them from becoming a victim. It can also serve as a reminder to lock doors and keep valuables out of sight—simple things that can make a real difference in keeping crime at bay.

To help keep Portland citizens in-the-know about what's happening in the city, the Portland Police Department has rolled out an online crime reporting program. It can be accessed from the Police Department's homepage on the City's website at [PortlandTX.com](http://PortlandTX.com).

Crime data, for offenses ranging from animal calls to vandalism, can be viewed in a graph format or on an interactive map. Citizens can view incidents that occurred during the past 7 days, past two weeks, or up to the past 30 days. Data is updated daily and viewers can pick any or all of the offenses listed for a comparative graph or a location map showing the selected offenses. For more detailed information, viewers simply click on the incident.

Feeling safe is paramount in any community. While Portland PD and City officials would like citizens to use the program to increase their awareness of activity in their area and in the community in general, the program also allows police to spot possible crime trends in specific areas and deploy resources to prevent or stop criminal activity. Safe communities are a partnership between people and law enforcement—and Portland is one of the safest communities in the Coastal Bend.

## HOLIDAY EVENTS, ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

Everyone looks forward to Christmas in Portland (Dec. 1) and the Parade of Lights (Dec. 5). And puppies everywhere are awaiting Pooch-a-Palooza (Dec. 10), but the holiday activity line-up goes on throughout December.

**Kidz Days** is a full-day program for children ages 5-12, in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It's offered Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 26-30, and can be used for a single day or multiple days. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kidz Days will be held at T.M. Clark Elementary, located at 2250 Memorial Parkway. The cost is \$20/day per child. Those who book two weeks in advance can get a \$15/day per child rate. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 361.777.3301.

**Celebrate Christmas at the Bell Whittington Library's holiday party** on Tuesday, Dec. 20, from 10 to 11 a.m. There will be lots of yuletide fun and a chance to take a selfie with Santa. And the library will **ring in the New Year kid-style** with a family movie, refreshments, and party favors on Friday, Dec. 30, starting at 10 a.m. These events are free and no registration is required.

**Teen Library Lounge**, a weekly program geared to teens in grades 7-12, will be held Thursday, Dec. 1, 8, and 15. Video games, snacks, crafts, or just hanging out with friends are all part of the program.

The Bell Whittington Library is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. For information on these or any of the programs offered at the library, call 361.777.0921.

## CITY OF PORTLAND

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive

Portland, Texas 78374

Phone: (361) 777-4500

Fax: (361) 777-4501

Comments or Questions:

[webmaster@portlandtx.com](mailto:webmaster@portlandtx.com)

## WINTER SEWER RATES

The City of Portland uses the winter months' average of December, January, and February for sewer calculations. Water usage in these winter months is used to set residential sewer rates for the coming year, so be aware of any unnecessary water usage, including dripping faucets or leaking toilets.

These simple water conservation tips are useful throughout the year, but can result in substantial savings when instituted during the winter months.

- Pay attention to those dripping sounds and repair any leaks
- Only run the dishwasher with a full load
- Don't leave the water running when it's not being used
- Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 860 home fires caused by holiday decorations occur each year. An additional 210 home fires are caused by Christmas trees each year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays:

- Water your Christmas tree daily.
- Keep all decorations at least three feet away from heating equipment or an open flame.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.
- Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations are marked for proper use.
- Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage before using.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES, TRASH/RECYCLE SCHEDULE

**Christmas:** City offices and the Bell Whittington Library will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 26. The Portland Community Center will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24 and Sunday, Dec. 25. The Portland Senior Center will be closed Monday, Dec. 26.

**New Year's:** City offices, Bell Whittington Library, and the Portland Senior Center will be closed Monday, Jan. 2. The Portland Community Center will be closed Saturday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 1.

**Trash/Recycle Collection:** Trash and recycle collection will run on a normal schedule during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

## WORK STARTS ON TRAIL CONNECTION

Construction of an elevated bridge to connect two of Portland's most popular parks, Violet Andrews Park and Sunset Lake Park, began in late November. Alman Utilities and Construction, Inc. is the contractor on the project, which is being funded through a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation. The bridge and trail connections should be complete by late spring of 2017.

Called the Railroad Hike and Bike Project because of its location on land that was formerly used as railroad right-of-way, the project is part of Portland's Park Master Plan, which details the need to develop additional trail connections in the city. The bridge and trail connections are budgeted at \$400,000, with the federally funded grant from TxDOT covering about 80% of those expenses and the City of Portland paying any remaining costs from hotel occupancy revenues.

## LIBRARY OFFERS ADULT COLORING NIGHT

If the holidays awakened your inner child, continue to nurture it at the Adult Coloring Night event on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bell Whittington Public Library. The event is free, and coloring books and colored pencils will be provided.

Coloring books for adults have been around since the 1960s, but more and more adults are turning to coloring to reduce stress and relieve anxiety. In fact, coloring for adults has become so popular that five of the top ten best sellers on Amazon are adult coloring books. It's easy to understand why—coloring is fun, it's easy, and it lets you be creative.

So whether you're new to the trend and simply want to see if it's right for you, or you caught the coloring bug early but want to be part of a group, join us for Adult Coloring Night at the library.

The Bell Whittington Library is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. Programs are offered throughout the year for all ages, including teens and adults. For information about this or other events and activities at the library, call 361.777.0921.