

the Breeze



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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Coloring for Grownups

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Wed., May 1, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Book Selection: **The Cold Dish**

Thu., May 2, 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Portland Farmers Market

Joe Burke Pavilion

Sat., May 4, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

Play It Safe

Portland Aquatic Center

Sat., May 4, Noon-2:00 p.m.

(This will be a free swim day.)

For details, call 361.777.4670.

Game Day

Portland Senior Center

Wed., May 8, 1:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.643.9431.

Mother/Son Dance

T.M. Clark Elementary

Fri., May 10; 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 each mother/son duo;

\$7 each additional child

For details, call 361.777.4670.

CITY OF PORTLAND

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive

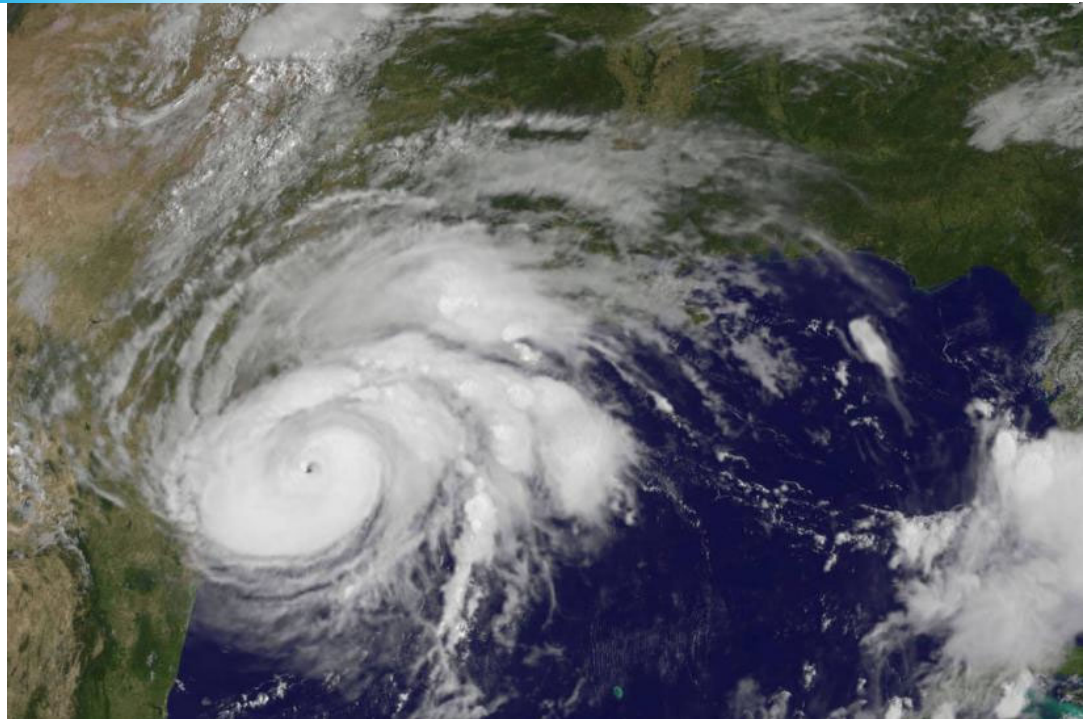
Portland, Texas 78374

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Comments or Questions:

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BE PREPARED: HURRICANE SEASON STARTS JUNE 1

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through November 30, with peak activity between mid-August and mid-September. Early predictions are for a below-average season this year, with activity at about 75% of the average season.

A weak El Niño and cool Atlantic waters are two of the limiting factors this year. By comparison, 2018's hurricane activity was about 120% of the average season. (Experts had predicted an average season for last year.)

The seasonal outlook calls for 13 named storms and five hurricanes. Of the five predicted hurricanes, two are expected to spin into major hurricanes—Category 3, 4, or 5—with sustained wind speeds of 111 mph or greater.

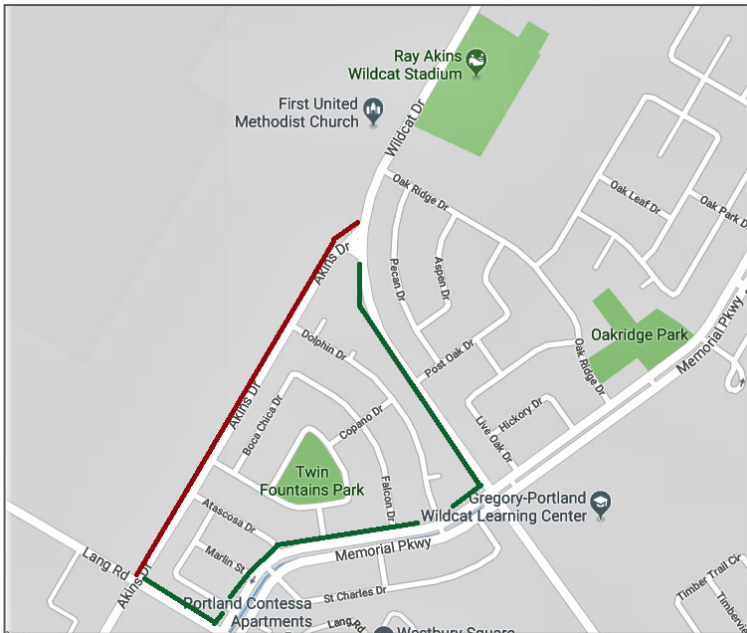
One of the biggest lessons from Hurricane Harvey in 2017 is that major

storms can change course and increase in severity quickly. Only a few days before Hurricane Harvey hit the Coastal Bend, it was rated as a Category 1 or 2. Being prepared well in advance of a major storm can keep your family safe and help to protect your property.

The National Weather Service has a wealth of information about preparing for a hurricane. The site, located at Weather.gov, contains information from experts about everything from gathering supplies and planning your evacuation to securing your home. Look for the link to **Hurricane Safety Tips & Resources**. A link to the site can also be found in the HIGHLIGHTS section on the City of Portland homepage at PortlandTX.com, where it will remain throughout the season.

AKINS DRIVE TRAIL PROJECT UNDERWAY

Construction has begun on the Akins Drive Sidewalk/Trail Project. The project should be complete by mid-summer. Memorial Parkway offers an alternative for those that might normally walk along Akins Drive. This route avoids the construction area all together.



This project was ready to start in the summer of 2017, but issues with the contractor forced the City to halt the project at that time. A portion of the funding is being provided through the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which is managed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Before the City could get the project back on track, it had to be resubmitted for approval to TxDOT. The project was re-approved by TxDOT late last year.

Since a portion of this project is being paid through federal funds, the construction schedule must be dictated by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Delaying the project until the end of the school year would have put federal funding in jeopardy and could have meant delaying the project indefinitely. City leaders chose to move forward on the TxDOT schedule to avoid further delays. Leveraging federal funds for this project allowed the City to allocate local funding for other City street and infrastructure projects.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES & TRASH/RECYCLE SCHEDULE

City offices, including the library and senior center, will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. The athletic areas in the Portland Community Center will be open during normal hours. Trash and recycle collection will be conducted on the normal schedule and will not be affected by the holiday.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Registration for A *Universe of Stories*, the Bell/Whittington Public Library's Summer Reading Program, kicks off May 24. The self-guided program allows participants to track their reading to qualify for great prizes. It's all free and patrons of all ages are invited to participate. There will be family-focused programs every Friday in June and family-friendly movie presentations each Friday in July. More details will be provided in the June issue of the *Breeze*.

SUMMER FREE PLAY AT SPORTS COMPLEX

City leaders and City staff are working to provide free play time this summer at some of the athletic fields at the Sports Complex, located at 721 Buddy Ganem Drive behind Gregory-Portland High School. Some fields at that location would be open for kids and families to play on a regular basis.

Free play will be scheduled throughout the summer school break from June through August. The concession stand will be open during free play times. For details about days and times, a schedule for free play will be available on the homepage of PortlandTX.com in the HIGHLIGHTS section. A link to the updated schedule will be posted on the City's Facebook page and sent through the City's e-news platform.

FITNESS CENTER RE-OPENING IN MAY

Construction is almost complete on the athletic side of the Portland Community Center. Officials are planning to re-open the gym and fitness areas in May. A new reception area and foyer, along with state-of-the-art equipment in the weight and cardio areas are highlights of the fitness center.

The ballroom and meeting space areas of the Community Center remain under construction. All construction is anticipated to be complete in December. Look for updates on the City Facebook page and in City E-News, as well as on the homepage of PortlandTX.com.

