



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Polar Bear Swim Club

(Through Feb. 28)

Mon-Fri., 6:30-9:00 a.m.
or 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Aquatic Center

For details, call 361.777.0792

Adult Coloring Time

Thu., Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Bell Whittington Library

For details, call 361.777.0921

Mystery Book Club

Thu., Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Bell Whittington Library

For details, call 361.777.0921

Senior Dance

Fri., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

Portland Opry

Thu., Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m.

Community Center

For details, call 361.777.3301

Valentine Makerspace for Teens & Adults

Thu., Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m.

and Sat., Jan. 21, 10:30 a.m.

Bell Whittington Library

For details, call 361.777.0921

Kidz Dayz

Mon., Jan. 16, 7:00 a.m.

T.M. Clark Elementary

2250 Memorial Parkway

For details, call 361.777.3301

CIP PROJECTS: A LONG-TERM APPROACH TO FUTURE

Reinvestment in the Portland community dominates the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the coming year. Infrastructure projects, like streets and the water/wastewater system; improvements to the City's system of parks and trails; and refining or redesigning some of the city's recreational amenities are all part of the program.

In general, capital improvement projects include projects involving buildings or facilities with a total estimated cost of \$100,000 or more, including design, engineering, and other preconstruction work. Capital improvement expenditures may also include the purchase of major equipment and vehicles, such as public safety/emergency vehicles, valued at more than \$100,000 with a life expectancy of 15 years or more. For planning purposes and to ensure that dollars spent on high-value capital improvement projects are well managed and optimized, the Portland City Council adopts a five-year CIP each year. This yearly review and update of the CIP ensures that City leaders will continue a long-term approach to the future of Portland.

Parks & Trails



Municipal Park and Sports Complex Improvements

Improvements to Portland's Municipal Park (13-Acre Park) include five baseball fields, which will also be suitable for softball and soccer play; a covered playground with splash pad, a covered basketball court, a walking/jogging track and covered fitness station, concession areas, and shade structures. The fields feature artificial turf, dugouts, sports lighting, covered spectator seating, dual-lane batting cages, and scoreboards. Additional amenities at Municipal Park include a picnic area with grills and additional parking.

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CITY OF PORTLAND

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive

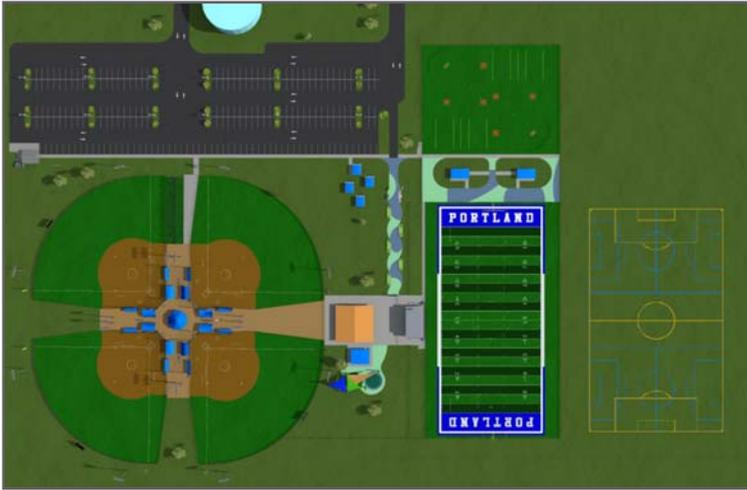
Portland, Texas 78374

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Comments or Questions:

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The Sports Complex project includes four softball fields that will also be suitable for baseball and soccer, a youth football field that can double as a UIL soccer field, a multi-purpose turf field, concession areas, a playground with splash pad, shade structures, and a picnic area with grills. The artificial-turf fields will feature sports lighting, covered spectator seating, scoreboards, and dual-lane batting cages and dugouts on the softball fields.

Both projects should be completed by late summer 2017. Hellas Construction, an industry leader in sports facility construction, will build the two projects valued at \$17.9 million.



Design and construction on the Portland Community Center rehabilitation and expansion, which was also approved in the bond election, is slated for 2018-2019.

Railroad Hike & Bike Trail

Construction of an elevated bridge to connect two of Portland's most popular parks, Violet Andrews and Sunset Lake, began in November. 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. It is anticipated to cost \$400,000. Project costs will be paid through a Transportation Enhancement grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, which will cover about 80% of those expenses, with the City of Portland paying any remaining costs from hotel occupancy revenues.

Alman Utilities and Construction, Inc. is the contractor

on the project. The bridge and trail connections should be complete by late spring of 2017.

Akins Hike & Bike Trail

Construction is expected to start this year on the Akins Hike & Bike Trail, between Wildcat Drive and Lang Road. The \$430,000 project includes a new sidewalk and biking surface.

Infrastructure

Streets

Preserving and protecting the city's infrastructure, especially streets and the water/wastewater system, consistently ranks as one of the highest priorities in the CIP. Well-maintained streets and roadways protect property values and enrich the quality of life for Portland citizens. The 2017 budget allocates \$1 million for maintenance and rehabilitation of designated streets. This includes rehab and overlay of streets or street segments with severe damage requiring major repair, and sealcoat maintenance on designated streets where sealcoat is sufficient to revitalize the street, adding 7-10 years to its life. In 2014, streets were evaluated and assigned a Pavement Condition Index score as part of the Comprehensive Street, Parking Lot, Sidewalk, and Trail Master Plan. That condition assessment is used to schedule street maintenance according to the greatest need.

Other projects include continuation of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Curb Ramp Compliance Program—Phases 1 and 2. This is an ongoing project to ensure compliance with accessibility guidelines provided by the ADA. It is funded each year from the the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (\$80,000) and General Fund reserves (\$20,000).

Utilities

The next phases of ongoing utility line replacements continue this year. The projects are scheduled to be bid in the early part of this year and are necessary to maintain the city's underground water and sanitary sewer infrastructure—replacing aging pipes, particularly in older parts of town. The project also may include moving some utility lines and meters as necessary.

Phase I of improvements to the City's Public Works Center is slated to begin this year. This facility serves as the service hub for street and utility maintenance in the Portland. The project will include construction of buildings, and parking lots and driving surfaces for City maintenance vehicles and equipment.

Work continues to extend sanitary sewer to all residents and businesses in the Doyle Addition on the

city's west side. This phase of the project connects individual buildings and homes to the sewer mains installed in the first phase of the project. It is being funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with additional funding from the Texas Water Development Board. The balance will be funded through Water/Wastewater reserves.

The City has also begun an Inflow and Infiltration Study of conditions that may permit unwanted flows of storm and ground waters into the sanitary sewer system. The study should help ensure that the City remains in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's standards for storm and ground water flows.

Recreational Amenities

Indian Point Pavilion

The Indian Point Pavilion will see some changes this year. Currently in the design stages, construction is expected to start this year on the conversion of the existing Indian Point concession building to an observation deck and public gathering spot/special venue. The \$400,000 project should be complete by mid-year.

Sunset Road Boat Launch



For years, Portland residents have wanted a boat launch area to provide access to Corpus Christi Bay. This year they'll get it. The project and its associated parking lot, located along the bay front of Sunset Road, are valued at \$1,000,000. The project will be paid from an equal combination of a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife and funds from the City's General Fund reserves.

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE, FEB. 10



The 8th Annual Father/Daughter Ball happens **Friday, Feb. 10, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** Current tunes along with favorites from "back in Dad's day" will dominate the playlist of the professional deejay as the evening's masquerade theme tempts daddy/daughter duos to the dance floor. Semi-formal attire is encouraged for this special evening.

This year's ball promises to be bigger and better than ever. Food and karaoke will be served up in the Community Center ballroom; while the dance portion of the event has been moved to the gym. The fun photo booth and sundae bar—both popular favorites—return this year. Photos by professional photographers will be available for an additional cost. More food stations and multiple photographers should make for shorter lines and more fun.

All school-age girls are invited, along with their father, grandfather, uncle, brother, or other father figure. Tickets are \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional child, and can be purchased at the Portland Community Center and all Kidz Klub sites.

The Father/Daughter Masquerade Ball takes place at the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Drive. For details and ticket information, call 361.777.3301.

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY CLOSURES & SCHEDULES

City offices, Bell Whittington Library, and the Portland Senior Center will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Portland Community Center, the Aquatic Center, and the skate park will be open and operating on a normal schedule.

Trash and recycle collection will not be affected by the holiday and will operate on a normal schedule.

CITY OFFICIALS PREPARE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT SESSION

With the next session of the Texas Legislature scheduled to start in January, city leaders have developed the legislative agenda for Portland. As a general policy, the City seeks to preserve its current authority to govern the city, its citizens, and its property—while opposing any legislation viewed as detrimental to the health, welfare, and safety of Portland citizens, that mandates increased costs or loss of revenues, or that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City.

The City has identified three levels of importance to state legislative endorsement: Priority, Actively Support/Oppose, and Endorse.

- Priority means the City will actively pursue support or opposition to the policy.
- Actively Support/Oppose means the City will aggressively attempt to influence passage or defeat of a measure.
- Endorse” means the City will make its support or opposition known, but will not actively pursue the issue.

City of Portland’s 2017 Legislative Agenda

Priority

- The City supports legislation that empowers municipalities to regulate development of wind farms with the municipality’s extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- The City supports legislation that requires disclosure to the tax appraisal authority of the sales price of real property after the sale of such property.
- The City supports legislation that provides incentives and/or funding for municipal water conservation projects that reclaim wastewater effluent and “gray water” systems.

Actively Support or Oppose

- The City Council opposes legislative efforts, known collectively as revenue cap legislation, that would reduce the maintenance and operation rollback rate for cities to a level below the current rate of 8 percent.

Endorse

- The City will support legislation, or revisions to regulations, that limits the imposition of fines and penalties for environmental violations against municipalities to only those violations shown to have been intentionally committed or are the result of gross negligence.
- The City supports passage of the new long-term, sustainable funding sources for transportation infrastructure; and the dedication of existing revenue generated from taxes, fees, or receipts related to transportation for the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of roads, rail, and public transportation.
- The City supports appropriating adequate funding for the Fiscal Years 2017-2019 biennium for the State of Texas to partner with local project sponsors to implement one or more seawater desalination projects to provide an uninterrupted water supply and have corresponding positive impacts for water supplies in adjacent regions that will strengthen Texas’ economy and sustain economic prosperity.
- The City supports expansion of the health and safety authority of municipalities for limited regulation of underground pipelines.
- The City supports legislation to limit texting while driving.

LIBRARY TO HOLD “TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY”

Saturday, Feb. 4, is “Take Your Child to the Library Day.” This is part of an international initiative to encourage families to take their children to the local library. The books and other materials offered at the library can open the door to a world of learning, adventure, and fun for every child. If your child hasn’t been to the library yet, this is a great opportunity to visit...and if he or she has been to the library, this is a great time to visit again. Magician John O’Bryant will perform at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

The Bell Whittington Library is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. For more details, call 361.777.0921.