



the Breeze

Official news from the City of **portland**^{the}
of possibilities.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Portland Parks & Recreation offers programs for all ages throughout the year. Visit PortlandTX.com for a complete listing.

Adult Coloring

Wed., April 5, 6 p.m.
Bell Whittington Library
For details, call 361.777.0921

Teen Book Club

Thu., April 6, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Whittington Library
For details, call 361.777.0921

Egg Hunt

Tue., April 11, 10 a.m.
Bell Whittington Library
For details, call 361.777.0921
(Bring a basket)

Game Day

Wed., April 12, 1 p.m.
Portland Senior Center
For details, call 361.643.9431

Portland Opry

Thu., April 13, 6 p.m.
Portland Community Center
For details, call 361.777.3301

Mystery Book Club for Adults

Thu., April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Whittington Library
For details, call 361.777.0921

CITY OF PORTLAND
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PLAY IT SAFE PROGRAM KICKS OFF SWIM SEASON



In the United States, the number one killer of children, ages one to four, is drowning. And Texas is first in the nation for the number of children that drown in pools each year. It's a top ranking that no one wants.

On **Saturday, May 6**, the City of Portland will launch the 2017 swim season with its award-winning Play It Safe pro-

gram. The event will be **held at the Portland Aquatic Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr.** It features free swim time at the Aquatic Center, along with water safety sessions, rescue demonstrations, CPR instructions, and information about keeping a home pool safe. **Hours are noon to 2 p.m.** *...continued on page 2*

SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Republic Services does not collect household hazardous waste as part of their garbage and recycling collection service. The City of Portland, through an interlocal agreement with the City of Corpus Christi, allows residents to dispose of household hazardous waste (pesticides, paints, chemicals, etc.) at the **J.C. Elliott Collection Center, located at 6594 Greenwood Drive.**

Portland residents may use a recent water bill or a current driver's license as proof of residency. While residents are not directly charged for drop offs, Corpus Christi charges the City of Portland a fee per drop-off, so please consider collecting your household hazardous waste items and taking them in a

single trip rather than taking a few items in several trips.

Collection of hazardous waste is strictly regulated so be certain your items are all acceptable for collection at the center. Some of the items NOT accepted include: ammunition, asbestos, building materials, butane cylinders, electronics, explosives, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, propane cylinders, radioactive material, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, tires, refrigerators, freezers, and TVs. For a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, along with complete instructions, visit the homepage of PortlandTX.com.

WINDFEST, APRIL 7-9



Windfest is right around the corner, so make plans now to attend for a day or the entire weekend. Dates are Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 9. Gates open at 6 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. on Saturday, and noon on Sunday. Gate entry is \$5 each day and \$10 for headline entertainment on Saturday evening. Wristbands for entry into the carnival range from \$15-\$25, depending on the day and time.

The event is held on the grounds of the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr. For events and activities at this year's festival, visit Windfest.org. Thanks to the Portland Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center for Windfest 2017. The City of Portland is proud to be a partner for this annual event.

MOTHER & SON DANCE, MAY 12

Surf's Up at the 4th Annual Mother & Son Dance as this year's event takes on a beach theme. The event happens Friday, May 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr.

All school-aged boys and their mom or mom-figure (aunt, grandmother, etc.) are invited to share a night to remember. A deejay will provide the music.

Tickets are \$15 for each mom/son duo; additional tickets are \$7. (A photographer will be on hand for photos, which can be purchased for an additional charge.)

To purchase tickets, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 361.777.3301.

GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER CLOSURES; TRASH & RECYCLE SCHEDULE

City offices including the senior center and public library will be closed on Friday, April 14, in observance of Good Friday. The Portland Community Center will be open for normal business hours on Good Friday, but the Center will be closed on Sunday, April 16, for Easter Sunday. Trash and recycling will operate on the normal schedule.

PLAY IT SAFE...continued

The City will also provide free Water Watcher tags. Created to act as a drowning prevention tool, Water Watcher tags designate one adult to constantly supervise the pool without allowing distractions, like cell-phones, texts, or even conversations. The adult wears the tag and serves as the "water watcher" until he or she relinquishes the tag and is replaced by another adult. To ensure the "water watcher" remains alert, the tag and "water watcher" responsibility should be rotated between adults every 10-15 minutes.

Children often drown silently—many times with people nearby. An alert adult focused on what's happening in the pool could have time to see a problem and prevent a drowning. The program can also be used at lakes and beaches.

The City of Portland began the Play It Safe program in 2014, following the deaths of two children in backyard pools. It was designed to ensure the safety of private swimming pools, enhance the swimming ability of young children, and educate residents about proper emergency response actions. The program has earned the Municipal Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal League.

STORM WATER SAFETY

It's illegal in Portland to cause pollutants to get into the City storm water system. Violators may be fined up to \$2,000. But the reasons to pay attention to storm water—where it goes and what's in it—go well beyond legal matters.

Contrary to popular belief, City storm drains don't carry storm water to wastewater treatment plants. Instead storm water, and any material it picks up along the way, empties into a storm inlet and ends up in the nearest water source. In Portland, that's either Corpus Christi Bay or Nueces Bay.

That means debris, such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and even grass clippings blown into the street and swept into the storm drains, get washed into the bays where it can harm plants, fish, wildlife, and people. Hazardous household waste, like insecticides, pesticides, paint, and solvents pose an obvious threat, as well. These and other materials can be conveyed into the storm water system via city streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and/or detention basins, and drainage channels.

For information on proper disposal of waste or hazardous materials, visit PortlandTX.com.