



# the Breeze

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

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Adult Coloring

Bell/Whittington Public Library  
Wed., Aug. 1, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page

### Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library  
Thu., Aug. 2., 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

All Summer Reading Program  
Reading Forms Due

Bell/Whittington Public Library  
Friday, Aug. 3, 5:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

### Can It Portland!

Meet at Joe Burke Pavilion

(Behind the Community Center)  
Sat., Aug. 4, 8:00 a.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

### Kid Katch

Indian Point Pier  
100 Highway 181

Saturday, Aug. 4, 9:00 a.m.-Noon  
For details, call 361.777.4670.

### Portland Farmers Market

Joe Burke Pavilion

(Behind the Community Center)  
Sat., Aug. 4, 9:00 a.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

### End-of-Summer Party

Portland Senior Center

Fri., Aug. 4, Noon

For details, call 361.643.9431.

## CITY OF PORTLAND

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive

Portland, Texas 78374

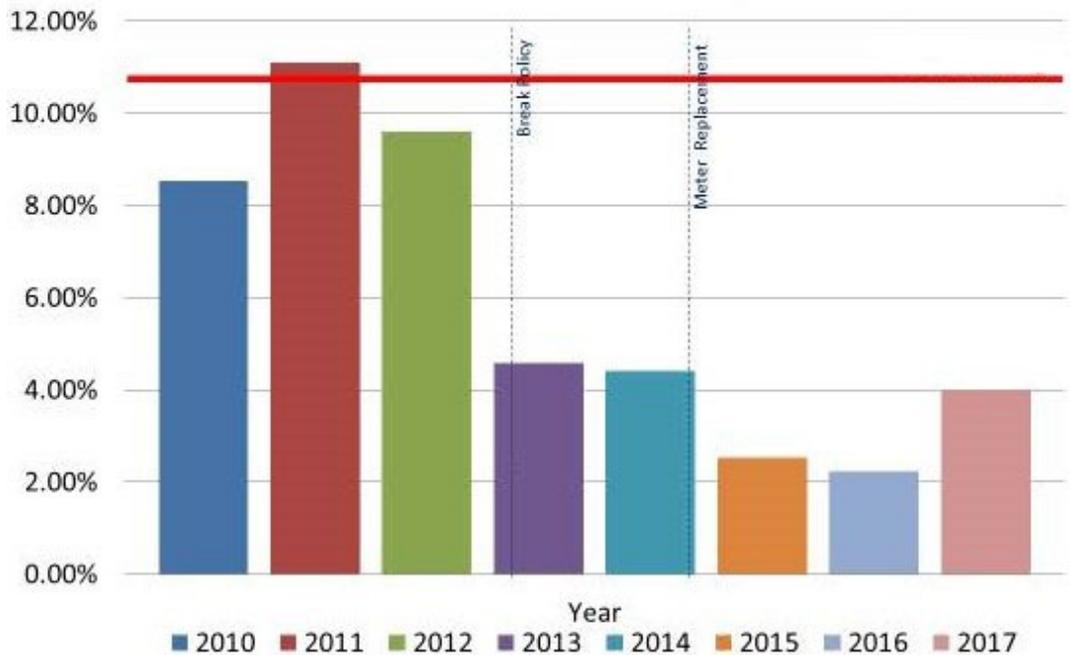
Phone: (361) 777-4500

Fax: (361) 777-4501

Comments or Questions:

webmaster@portlandtx.com

## Annual Water Loss Percentage



## WATER LOSS IMPROVEMENTS HELP KEEP RATES LOW

In the past few years, the City of Portland has made tremendous strides in improving the rate of water loss in the city. For water customers, better efficiency in how the City delivers water allows city leaders to keep water rates low. In fact, Portland continues to provide some of the lowest water rates in the area.

Water loss is the difference between water usage billed and total water pumped into the system. **From 2011 to 2016, the City reduced its water loss from 10.5% to 2.22%. Losses increased slightly to 4.04% in 2017,**

when Hurricane Harvey caused numerous water line breaks throughout the city. The City also had to turn over the water in its storage tanks following a water boil necessitated by the storm. **Officials project the water loss rate in 2018 likely will be between 3% and 4%, still less than half of the state average.**

The City took a two-pronged approach to the problem. Knowing that water lost even through the smallest leak adds up over time, the City be-

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## LABOR DAY HOLIDAY CLOSURES & TRASH SCHEDULE

City offices, including the Bell/Whittington Public Library and the Senior Center, will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day. Kidz Club will also be closed. The Portland Community Center will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Labor Day and during regular hours the rest of the holiday weekend. The Portland Aquatic Center will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. throughout the holiday weekend.

Trash and recycling services will operate on the normal schedule and will not be affected by the holiday.

## WATER LOSS IMPROVEMENTS...continued

gan taking a more aggressive approach to water leaks. While most cities don't address small or slow leaks, starting in 2013, crews began to act **quickly to repair any leak, whether large or small**, throughout the system. That same year, the City began **replacing outdated water meters with self-reading meters**—achieving better accuracy in meter readings and realizing a cost savings in personnel costs by replacing three meter-reader positions with one meter technician.

These measures have **resulted in \$575,000 savings to the City, which has helped avoid the need for significant rate increases for citizens**. It also means that the City will likely **pay off the 15-year, \$1.3 million utility revenue bond in about half the time**.

## SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY REMINDERS

It's the start of a new school year and that means that many residents, even those without students to pick up or drop off, will be driving in active school zones. These zones are vital to keep kids safe as they come and go to school.

Know the laws pertaining to school zones. For those with a new driver in the house, take care to be sure they're familiar with school zone laws. Fines in school zones are generally higher and the Portland Police Department is serious about enforcement.

- **Crossing guards DO have authority** at all school zone crosswalks
- **Drivers MUST STOP at all crosswalks** when a crossing guard and student(s) are in the crosswalk
- **Drivers SHOULD NOT proceed until the crossing guard signals the okay**
- **Drivers SHOULD NOT park in or block fire zones** or park in front of fire hydrants
- **Drivers SHOULD NOT stop in a lane of traffic to drop off a child**—it's dangerous
- **Drivers SHOULD NOT block crosswalks, side-walks, or driveway entrances/exits** to schools or parking lots
- **Cell phone use is not allowed in school zones**—use only hands-free devices

**As of Sept. 2, 2017, texting while driving is not allowed in Texas—not anywhere. Furthermore, no one under 18 may operate a vehicle while using a wireless communication device (except in a real emergency).**

## CITY OF PORTLAND E-NEWS SERVICE

To receive the *Breeze* and City E-News in your inbox, send an email to [enews@portlandtx.com](mailto:enews@portlandtx.com) and type *subscribe* in the subject line. This is a free service that lets the City keep citizens informed.

## END-OF-SEASON AQUATIC CENTER HOURS

With Portland kids heading back to school this month, the [Portland Aquatic Center](#) begins its end-of-season operating hours. Starting Monday, Aug. 13, pool hours will be:

**Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10:00 a.m.**

Competition pool only

**Mon.-Thu. 5:00-7:30 p.m.**

Competition pool only

**Saturday Noon-4:00 p.m.**

Competition and recreation pool

During the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-3, the Aquatic Center will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. so that residents can enjoy the pool during the long weekend. Operating hours for the fall and winter will begin in October.

The Aquatic Center is located at 2002 Billy G. Webb Dr., adjacent to the Portland Community Center. For information about programs, call 361.777.4637.

## MORE SUMMER FUN

### SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps wrap up with cheerleading and dance programs at the Portland Community Center. The final camps of the season are:

#### **Cheerleading Camp (Ages 6-16)**

Mon.-Thu., Aug. 6-9, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

#### **Dance Team Camp (Ages 6-16)**

Mon.-Thu., 6-9, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The cost of each camp is \$50 per participant. Register online from the Parks & Recreation page at [PortlandTX.com](#).

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

It's been a great summer and now it's coming to an end. So let's say goodbye to the Summer of 2018 with a celebration at the Portland Aquatic Center. This event is fun for the whole family with a DJ on deck, inflatables, and lots of pool-centric games and activities.

The Back-to-School Bash happens **Thursday, Aug. 9, from 8:00-10:00 p.m.** It's open to all ages. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$3 per person (no passes, please).

## CALENDAR NOTE

There's a major pool paw-ty just around the corner. Mark your calendar for **Pooch-A-Palooza H2O on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Aquatic Center.** Dogs only in the pool. Look for the September issue of the *Breeze* for more details.