



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Free Play

Portland Sports Complex (721 Buddy Ganem Dr.)

Thu., July 4, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,
and weekdays during the summer
from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For details, visit PortlandTX.com.

Dive-In Movie

Portland Aquatic Center

Thu., July 11, 9:00 p.m.

Families welcome; \$3 per person
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Flick 'n Float Movie

Portland Aquatic Center J

Fri., July 12, 9:00 p.m.

Adults only; \$3 per person
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Family Game Night

Portland Aquatic Center

Thu., July 25, 8:00 p.m.

Regular admission rates apply.
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Under the Sea Theme Day

Portland Aquatic Center

Sat., July 27, 1:00 p.m.

Regular admission rates apply
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Classic Movie Night

Portland Senior Center

Wed., July 31, 5:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.643.9431.

Portland Parks & Recreation offers programs for all ages

[Visit PortlandTX.com for
a complete listing.](http://PortlandTX.com)

CITY OF PORTLAND

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INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE CRITICAL TO PORTLAND

Improvement and maintenance of Portland's infrastructure has been a focus at City Hall for years. These projects, whether improvements or maintenance, represent reinvestment in the Portland community. They improve the quality of life of residents and help to protect home and property values.

While infrastructure may include parks and buildings, such as improvements to the sports venues and Portland Community Center, respectively, much of the work on the City infrastructure happens at ground level or below. That means maintaining and improving streets and ensuring the integrity of the water and wastewater system.

Street Improvements & Maintenance

Maintaining and improving streets is one of the core responsibilities of any City. Street projects represent one of the largest expenditures in the City budget. While funding has been increased each year, stretching those funds to achieve as much as possible remains a challenge.

In recent years, the City has used new technology to better evaluate street conditions rather than rely on visual assessments. Using that information, the City then evaluates each street surface to make a

determination about the type of maintenance or improvement to be done—reconstruction, rehabilitation, or mill and overlay. The objective is to improve as many streets as possible with the resources allocated.

Once those decisions are made, the City opens the projects for bid and hires contractors for the projects. The City also works with an independent engineering firm on project design.

Then the projects are scheduled for road construction. All projects are "weather permitting" and, for some projects, the time to construct and complete the project can be brief—affected by hot and/or cold temperatures. In the past year, above average rainfall has led to unexpected delays on many projects. In addition, with so many road projects going on in this region and around the state, it can be difficult to schedule contractors during the most optimal time, or for those contractors to obtain materials.

In Portland, one contractor may be working on several projects at the same time. A contractor may move from one project to another, perhaps waiting for a surface to "cure" or waiting for additional

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INFRASTRUCTURE...continued

materials, or delayed by weather conditions. The contractor may still be working in another part of town or another section of the project, but the lack of progress in a particular area can be especially frustrating for drivers who's perception is that nothing is being done. The City works to keep citizens informed and updated about these projects through the City's Facebook page, City E-News, and on PortlandTX.com.

Wastewater System

In June, the City Council approved the final report of the Infiltration & Inflow Study that began last fall. That report recommends a multi-year plan for improving and maintaining the city's wastewater system, based on the results of the study.

Wastewater systems are composed of manholes, pipelines, and lift stations that require maintenance or replacement. The Portland system has approximately 51 miles of sanitary sewer within its collection system. By continuing a systematic sewer system evaluation consisting of inspecting, testing, and repairing system defects, the City will minimize repair costs and extend the life of collection system assets.

This is a maintenance and improvement strategy that has been employed by the City for more than a decade. Portland's performance level puts it in the high-performing category according to EPA standards.

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES AT THE LIBRARY

Everybody will be at the pool to close out the *Universe of Stories* Summer Reading Program! Turn in at least one reading sheet to get free admission to the party.

Kids who complete the initial reading sheet are eligible to attend, along with a parent or guardian. Reading sheets are due Saturday, July 20, so there's still plenty of time to be part of the Summer Reading program. The Reader's Pool Party is scheduled for Friday, July 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Aquatic Center, located at 2002 Billy G. Webb Dr.

Ongoing Summer Reading Program activities include Summer Afternoon Program for grades 1-6, held on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.; and Summer Toddler Time on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., featuring stories and activities for infants through kindergarten. For teens in grades 7-12, check out the Summer Teen Library Lounge with gaming (videos, cards, and board games), snacks, and special guests. The Lounge is offered at 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays through July 25.

For more details about this program, visit the library's Facebook page or visit PortlandTX.com.

SUMMER FUN IN PORTLAND

Christmas in July

It may be summer, but it will be hard to keep St. Nick away during the annual Christmas in July event. Slated for Saturday, July 20, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., the event boasts holiday-themed games and refreshments. Bring a camera to capture photos with Santa and his special guests. The event will be held at the Aquatic Center (2002 Billy G. Webb Dr.) Regular admission prices apply.

Summer Camps

Summer camps offer great ways to learn new skills in a fun, inviting environment. Remaining camps being offered through the Parks & Recreation department are: Speed & Agility Camp (July 8-11), Baseball Camp (July 8-11), Tennis Camp (July 8-11 & July 29-Aug. 1), Cheerleading Camp (Aug. 5-8), and Dance Team Camp (Aug. 5-8).

Kid Katch

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual Kid Katch Youth Fishing Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 3. The annual fishing event is free and will be held at Indian Point Pier. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon (fishing ends at 11:00 a.m.) This is a measure and release event open to those 17 and under. There are three age groups; first, second, and third-place prizes for the biggest fish will be awarded in each age category. The first 200 registrants receive a Kid Katch t-shirt. Lunch will be provided for everyone.

A school supply drive is part of this year's Kid Katch. Please bring new school supplies to donate to the Gregory-Portland Independent School District.

For more information on these and other programs, call 361.777.4670 or visit PortlandTX.com.

AKINS DRIVE SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the Akins Drive Sidewalk Project has resumed. The project was delayed due to issues with the soil.

While doing excavations, the contractor identified saturated pockets of soil. After a geotechnical investigation, changes to the subgrade were recommended. This change required approval by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), which has oversight of a significant portion of the funding for this project. TxDOT has approved the change and greenlighted the project to resume construction.