



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

After-School Program

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Every Monday, 4 p.m.

Open to grades Kindergarten-6th

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Teen Library Lounge

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

Open to grades 7-12

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Portland Farmers Market

Joe Burke Pavilion

(Behind the Community Center)

Sat., Nov. 2, 9 a.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

Coloring for Grownups

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Wed., Nov. 6, 6 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Thu., Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Kidz Dayz

All-Day Recreation Program

Offered During Holiday Periods

T.M. Clark Elementary

Mon.-Wed., Nov. 25-27, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Kidz Days is not offered Nov. 28-29.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

For information on all the programs offered through the Senior Center, Bell/Whittington Library, and Parks & Recreation check out the 2019 Program Guide at PortlandTX.com.

CITY OF PORTLAND

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FALL BACK: CHANGE CLOCKS, CHANGE BATTERIES

Daylight savings time will end on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 a.m. The Portland Fire Department recommends that residents change the batteries in their smoke alarms when setting back their clocks on this date. The reason is simple—working fire alarms save lives.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), dead batteries cause more than one quarter of all smoke alarm failures across the nation. In fires in which the smoke alarms

were present but did not operate, more than two of every five of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.

When properly installed and maintained, smoke alarms provide an early warning of a fire, giving people additional escape time. Statistics prove the need to ensure that smoke alarms are present and working in every home. According the NFPA,

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HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN IN FORECAST FOR THIS CHRISTMAS

With the Christmas season just around the corner, the City of Portland has big plans to make the holidays in Portland a great time for family and friends. Traditional favorites like the Parade of Lights and Christmas in Portland will be back, and new events and activities will be joining the holiday lineup throughout December. All the details will be in the December issue of the *Breeze*, as well as posted on the City of Portland Facebook page.

As we set up for all the holiday events, portions of the City Hall parking area will be closed beginning the week before Thanksgiving. Parking will still be available and citizens will be able to access City Hall throughout the holidays.

In the meantime, individuals, groups, and businesses interested in participating in this year's Parade of Lights event must register their floats. The event is scheduled Monday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. Floats must be registered no later than Friday, Nov. 22. For more information, call 361.777.4670.

VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE—NOV. 10

Portland will commemorate Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 5:00 p.m. with a brief ceremony at Municipal Park. Ram Chavez and the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi will perform. The park is located at 1815 Memorial Parkway. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country.

The event is free and open to everyone. We hope Portland residents will join us in honoring the service of America's veterans.

KEEP THE HOLIDAYS F.O.G. FREE

The problem of F.O.G. is a year-round issue in every city and town. Holiday cooking makes it an even bigger concern. F.O.G. stands for fats, oils, and grease. When not properly disposed of, it can congeal, block pipes, or cause a sewer backup. Taking a little care with this slippery hazard can save money and frustration.

Never dispose of F.O.G. in the disposal, where it can solidify and create plumbing problems. Instead transfer grease or oil to an empty, heat-safe container and cover, freeze, and throw it out with the trash. Cooking oils can be mixed with unscented kitty litter before being thrown away in the trash. (Do not use scented or disinfectant litters as these may become flammable).

Frying oils, like from a turkey fryer, can be kept for up to six months and reused for up to six hours of frying time. Strain the oil first and store it in the freezer. Food scraps, shortening, icing, sauces, salad dressings – any oil-based substances should be disposed of in the trash, not in the sink.

Properly dealing with F.O.G. can keep the holidays fun and free from the stress of plumbing problems.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, for the Thanksgiving holidays. The Bell/Whittington Library will be closed Thursday, Nov 28-Saturday, Nov. 30. The Portland Community Center, the Aquatic Center, and the Senior Center will be closed Nov. 28-29. Kidz Dayz will not be available Nov. 28-29. The Community Center will resume regular hours on Saturday, Nov. 30.

There will be no trash or recycle collection on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28. Trash and recycling collection for that day will be scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 30.

FALL BACK...continued

almost three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no smoke alarms that were working.

The NFPA, in association with fire departments across the country, recommends that in addition to changing the batteries in smoke alarms twice a year, residents should test their alarm system once a month. To test an alarm, press the test button on each alarm to be sure it's working properly. Residents should also replace their smoke alarm systems every 10 years. To see the manufacturing date of an alarm, look on the back of the device. If it's more than 10 years old, getting a new fire alarm system is recommended.

In the event of a fire, these simple care and maintenance tips can help ensure that smoke alarms will sound a warning when it's most needed.

KEEP GRASS OFF THE STREETS

The City of Portland is asking residents to avoid blowing grass clippings into the street. When clippings are swept or blown into the road, driveway, or storm drain, they can cause storm water pollution and eventually pollute streams, rivers, and bays, often through sediment build-up.

City storm drains are not part of the sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewer waters are treated; storm water systems are not. 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. In addition, lawn clippings, leaves, and other debris often clump in the storm water system and contribute to flooding.

In cases where chemicals have been used on the lawn or garden, grass clippings may contaminate the water that runs off from rains or sprinkler systems. Even nontreated lawn clippings do harm. When they decompose, they release carbon and nitrogen that feeds undesirable algae, which in turn depletes oxygen in the water. That could harm or kill fish and other sea life.

As in most cities, it's illegal in Portland to cause pollutants to get into the City storm water system. Violators may be fined. There are serious, long-lasting environmental consequences to placing grass clippings and yard waste in the wrong place. The solution is simple: bag or compost grass clippings, leaves, or any other yard debris.