



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Storytime with Mr. Kippy
Bell/Whittington Public Library
Every Thu., 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
For details, call 361.777.4560.

Can It Portland!
Meet at Joe Burke Pavilion
(Behind the Community Center)
Sat., May 5, 8:00 a.m.
For details, call 361.777.4670.

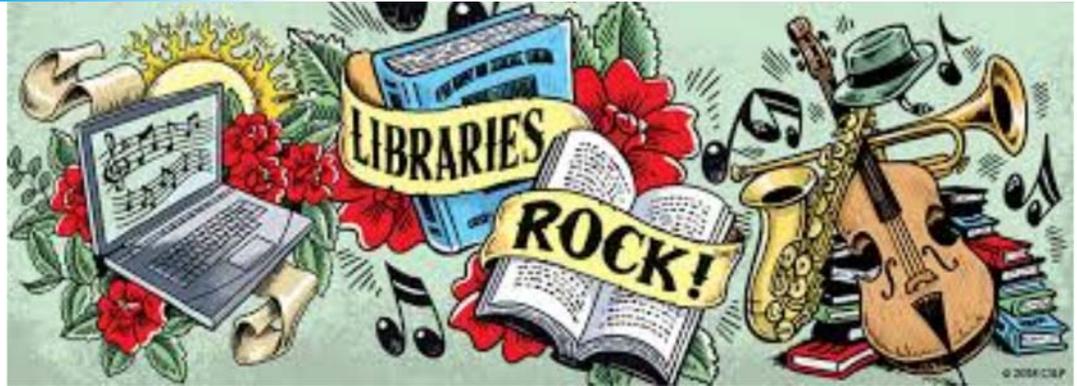
Portland Farmers Market
Joe Burke Pavilion
(Behind the Community Center)
Sat., May 5, 9:00 a.m.
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Mother & Son Dance
Portland Community Center
Fri., May 11, 6:30 p.m.
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Genealogy Group
Bell/Whittington Public Library
Wed., May 16, 2:30 p.m.
For details, call 361.777.4560.

Senior Luau
Portland Community Center
Thu., May 17, 6:30 p.m.
For detail, call 361.643.9431.

Portland Parks & Recreation offers programs for all ages throughout the year.
[Visit PortlandTX.com](http://PortlandTX.com) for [a complete listing.](#)



SUMMER READING PROMISES A ROCKIN' GOOD TIME

Libraries Rock! is the theme for the library's summer reading program, starting Thursday, May 24, and designed to keep Portland learning and reading...all summer long. To participate, pick up a reading sheet at the library and keep track of your child's reading. Once a sheet is full, turn it in at the library. Kids receive one ticket for each submitted sheet. Tickets can be used for a chance to win prizes. Read more to complete more reading sheets and earn more chances to win. Complete one full reading sheet by Friday, July 20, at 5:00 p.m. to be invited to the Reader's Pool Party at the Portland Aquatic Center.

Adults can join the Bucket List Summer Reading Club. All reading tickets must be turned in by Friday, Aug. 3, at 5:00 p.m. Reading certificates for program participants will be available from Aug. 3-31.

Program activities kick off on Friday, June 1, with a magic show featuring John O'Bryant. Family activities are scheduled every Friday in June at

10:00 a.m. and include a wildlife bug show on June 15, and a reptile show on June 29.

Summer activities for kids and teens include:

Summer Kids Time
Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19, and 26
at 10:00 a.m.
Kindergarten & younger

Summer Afternoon Program
Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25
at 3:00 p.m.
Grades 1-6

Teen Library Lounge
Thursdays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28
at 2:00 p.m.
Grades 7-12

The **Bell/Whittington Public Library** is located at 2400 Memorial Pkwy. For details on all summer reading pro-grams, visit the library's Facebook page or call 361.777.4560.

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MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices, including the library and senior center, will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. The Portland Community Center and the Aquatic Center will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Memorial Day. Trash and recycle collection will not be affected by the holiday.



In April, the City of Portland launched its new e-news service. The free service offers the latest news about City programs and events, plus alerts and reminders, and delivers it to your email. Registration for e-news is easy—simply send your email address to enews@portlandtx.com and type “subscribe” in the subject line. All emails will remain private and will not be shared or sold.

BILL PAYMENT REMINDER

The Utility Billing department reminds everyone that utility bills are due on the 15th of each month. Late fees are assessed on the 16th, so it's important not to be late to avoid penalties.

Bills may be paid in person at Portland City Hall (1900 Billy G. Webb Dr.), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; at the service desk at HEB at Wildcat Drive and Lang Road; or placed in the drop box located in the parking lot between City Hall and the Portland Community Center. You may also pay your bill online for a nominal convenience fee, by bank draft, or by mail to 1900 Billy G. Webb Drive, Portland, Texas 78374. For full details on making a payment, visit the City website at PortlandTX.com.

For questions about utility bills, please call 361.777.4500.

STORM WATER SAFETY

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, multi-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.

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.

HURRICANE SEASON STARTS JUNE 1

One of the most important lessons from Hurricane Harvey is that major storms can change course and increase in severity quickly. Being prepared well in advance of a major storm can keep your family safe and help to protect your property.

The National Weather Service has a wealth of information about preparing for a hurricane. The site, located at Weather.gov, contains information from experts about everything from gather supplies and planning your evacuation to securing your home. Look for the link to **Hurricane Safety Tips & Resources**.

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through November 30, with peak activity between mid-August and mid-September. Most forecasters are predicting a near-average season this year. The seasonal outlook calls for 13 named storms, seven hurricanes, and two major hurricanes. While the names for storms typically recycle every six years, the 2017 season was so destructive that the weather service has retired the names Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate.

CELEBRATE MOM!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13, and the City of Portland is offering two opportunities to help make mom's day special.

The **Portland Senior Center** will host a Mother's Day Breakfast on Friday, May 11, at 9:00 a.m. The event is free, but pre-registration is recommended. For details, call 361.643.9431. The Senior Center is located at 601 Wildcat Dr.

The annual Mother's Day Swim is slated for Saturday, May 12, from noon to 4:00 p.m. The event is free for mothers, with a paid child's admission. For details, call the **Aquatic Center** at 361.777.0792.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Portland moms!