



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

After-School Program

Bell/Whittington Library

Every Monday, 4:00 p.m.

Open to grades Kindergarten-6th
For details, visit their Facebook page.

National Night Out

Joe Burke Pavilion

(Adjacent to the Aquatic Center)

Tue., Oct. 2, 6:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.777.4444.

Adult Coloring

Bell/Whittington Library

Wed., Oct. 3, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Library

Thu., Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Senior Dance

Portland Community Center

Fri., Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.

For details, call 361.643.9431.

Portland Opry

Portland Community Center

Thu., Oct. 11, Doors open 6:00 p.m.;

Show begins 7:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.643.9431.

For information on all the programs offered through the Senior Center, Bell/Whittington Public Library, and Parks & Recreation check out the **2018 Program Guide at PortlandTX.com**.

CITY OF PORTLAND

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KEEP GRASS OFF STREETS, OUT OF STORM WATER SYSTEM

When grass clippings are swept or blown onto the road, driveway, or storm drain, they can cause storm water pollution and eventually pollute streams, rivers, and bays, often through sediment build-up. In addition, lawn clippings, leaves, and other debris often clump in the storm water system and contribute to flooding.

Contrary to popular belief, City storm drains are not part of the sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewer waters are treated; storm water systems are not. 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.

In cases where chemicals have been

used on the lawn or garden, grass clippings may contaminate the water that runs off from rains or the sprinkler system. 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.

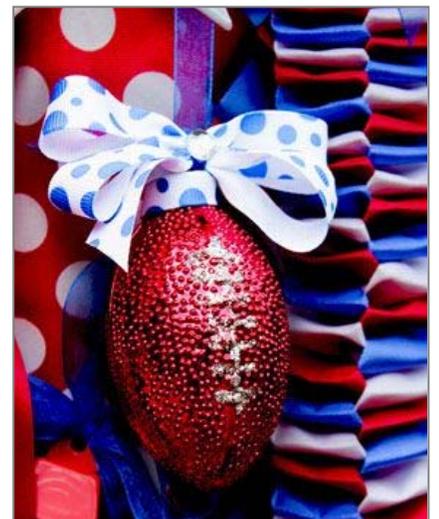
As in most cities, it's illegal in Portland to cause pollutants to get into the City storm water system. Violators may be fined. There are serious, long-lasting environmental consequences to placing grass clippings and yard waste in the wrong place. The solution is simple: bag or compost grass clippings,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

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MUM

It's fall, and that means football. And football means homecoming, which means this is the season for mums. The Bell/Whittington Library is offering two "Mum & Garter" Makerspace classes for the occasion.

The first class takes place Saturday, Oct. 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The second is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both classes are geared for youths in grades 7 through 12, as well as for adults. Pre-registration is required.

Both sessions will happen at the library, which is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. For registration, please call 361.777.4560.



HALLOWEEN EVENTS ON THE MOVE

BOO BASH

Halloween events in Portland are on the move. Don't be surprised to see ghosts, goblins, princesses, and a ninja or two headed to Municipal Park this fall. One of Portland's most popular events, the annual Boo Bash festival settles in to "haunt" a new home this year. **On Saturday, Oct. 13, Boo Bash takes up residence at Municipal Park.** Hours are 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Municipal Park is located at 1815 Memorial Parkway.

The event features costume contests for children and pets, a pumpkin-decorating contest, carnival games, and inflatable slides. Contests are limited to the first 30 pre-registered in each age group. Registration will end at 6:45 pm. The event is free and open to everyone.

BOO BASH TRIATHLON

Everyone in the Boo Bash Triathlon will be in motion—whether running, biking, or swimming. The race is set for Saturday, Oct. 20, and online registration is now open at AthleteGuild.com.

Geared toward athletes of every level—from weekend warriors to elite competitors—the event offers three competition tiers:

Newbie—200-yard swim, 6-mile bike ride, and a one-mile run

Sprint Tri—400-yard swim, 14-mile bike ride, and a 5K run

Sprint Relay—400-yard swim, 14-mile bike ride, and a 5K run (for 2-3-person teams)

The event **begins at 8:00 a.m. from the Joe Burke Pavilion**, located at 2003 Billy G. Webb Drive.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE & BOOK-A-PALOOZA

FRIENDS BOOK SALE

The **Friends of the Bell/Whittington Library Book Sale takes place at the library from Thursday, Oct. 18 through Monday, Oct. 22.** The annual sale features books of every kind—all at remarkably low prices. The sale is open to the public. Proceeds benefit the Bell/Whittington Library.

Private shopping hours for Friends members only are from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 17. Memberships may be purchased at the door for \$15. Regular shopping days and times are: Thursday, Oct. 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and Monday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BOOK-A-PALOOZA

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the Gregory-Portland ISD and the Bell/Whittington Library will team up for Book-a-Palooza at T.M. Clark Elementary School, located at 2250 Memorial Parkway. The event is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

One of the highlights of Book-a-Palooza is the traditional book giveaway, which is open to children in second grade or younger. Other activities will include inflatable games, visits with costumed storybook characters, door prizes, and refreshments. Book-a-Palooza concludes with a special finale at 2:00 p.m. that will feature the magic of John O'Bryant.

AFTER THE RAIN—CLEAN-OUTS, MOSQUITO CONTROL

During a single weekend in mid-September, Portland received almost 14 inches of rain. That much rain on top of what had already been a wet month was enough to strain any municipal wastewater system. The City of Portland, with heavy rain in the forecast, had crews cleaning out city storm drains and ditches in anticipation of a deluge. The backup generator at the wastewater plant was checked and readied in case of a power outage. (In fact, when the outage happened that generator kicked in immediately.) While they system worked as it should have, it was designed to handle 7.5 million gallons per day, but it was hit with 9.5 million gallons.

Crews determined that open clean-outs around town contributed to the overload. Some of the clean-outs were broken, while some were only missing the cap. It may seem like a small thing, but with open clean-outs all over town, the cumulative effect contributed significantly to overwhelming the wastewater system. Residents are asked to repair broken clean-outs and to cap them, especially during rainy weather.

The rain also brought mosquitos. Even though the City is spraying regularly, citizens can reduce their risks by eliminating mosquito breeding areas around the home. Some simple tips include:

- Discard containers that might collect water, including barrels, tires, buckets, wading pools, and watering pans under potted plants; and, fill or drain any puddles, ditches, or wet areas.
- Clean debris from rain gutters, remove standing water from flat roofs, and repair leaks around faucets and air conditioners.
- Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools regularly.

