

the Breeze



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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

AARP Free Tax Assistance
Bell/Whittington Public Library
(First-come, first-served basis)
Fri., March 1, 8, 15, 29
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
For details, call 361.775.1122.

Portland Farmers Market
Joe Burke Pavilion
(2003 Billy G. Webb Dr.)
Sat., March 2, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
For details, call 777.4670.

Adult Coloring Session
Bell-Whittington Public Library
Wed., March 6, 6:00 p.m.
For details, visit their Facebook page.

Makerspace: Paper Flowers
Bell/Whittington Public Library
(Class is free; registration required)
Sat., March 9, 10:30 a.m. OR
Wed., March 27, 6:00 p.m.
For details, call 361.777.4560.

Kidz Dayz (Spring Break)
T.M. Clark Elementary
2250 Memorial Parkway
Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15
7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
(Open to kids in grades K-5)
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Bubble Fest
Bell/Whittington Public Library
Tue., March 12, 10:00 a.m.
For details, visit their Facebook page.

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



One of the City of Portland's biggest undertakings in the coming year will be to update its comprehensive plan, commonly known as a master plan. The standard definition of such a plan is: A long-term plan establishing guidelines and guideposts for optimal growth and development based on a shared community vision.

The City of Portland's Comprehensive Plan will address the topics of land use, zoning, capital improvements, and other city policies. The

City has hired Freese & Nichols to assist with the update.

The best comprehensive plans benefit from the input and feedback of citizen stakeholders, so part of the plan's development will be an extensive outreach program to engage the people who would be affected most—our citizens—and to ensure community support for the planning effort and its results.

The update is expected to take

...continued on page 2

ONLINE PAYMENT FOR CITATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The City of Portland Municipal Court now accepts online payments for citations. The system provides improved service by giving the public real-time access to pay citations - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Access the payment portal from the Municipal Court page on the City's website at PortlandTX.com.

Citations can be searched by name, citation number, driver's license number, or vehicle information. The system takes Mastercard and Visa credit card payments.

Juveniles and minors cannot pay their citations online. All juveniles are required to appear in open court accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A minor is also required to appear in Court with a parent or legal guardian if he or she is 18 years of age or younger and charged with an alcohol-related violation.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN *continued...*

more than a year to complete. During that time, citizens will have an opportunity to participate in at least two community meetings to provide input for the plan. **The first public meeting to garner input from citizens about the plan will be on Monday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m. (The location is still to be determined.) The City will also be conducting an online survey for residents to provide input about growth and development, and other aspects of the plan. Input from the survey and public meetings will be important components in developing a final comprehensive plan.**

The update to the Portland Comprehensive Plan will include nine sections:

- Baseline Analysis
- Vision
- Thoroughfares
- Parks and Open Space
- Housing
- Public Facilities
- Future Land Use
- Community Image
- Implementation

Getting a comprehensive plan right can take many forms, but it's always predicated on what's appropriate to the community—based on the current situation and the future vision.

The benefits of good planning for the long-term are clear: better residential and commercial developments, fulfillment of the vision of what Portland is and can be in the context of the community vision, and greater satisfaction from community stakeholders.

Further details about citizen involvement will be available soon. To keep up with the latest updates, subscribe to the City of Portland's weekly e-news publication email enews@PortlandTX.com and type "subscribe" in the subject line or visit PortlandTX.com or the City of Portland Facebook page. .

KIDZ DAYS REGISTRATION STILL AVAILABLE

Registration for Kidz Days is still open. The all-day recreation program is being offered during Spring Break as a cooperative program between the City of Portland and the Gregory-Portland Independent School District. The program is open to children 5-12 years of age, in kindergarten through 5th grade.

Kidz Dayz is located at T.M. Clark Elementary, 2250 Memorial Parkway. A morning and afternoon snack will be provided. Participants must bring their own lunch.

Hours for Kidz Dayz are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dates are March 11-15. The cost is \$20 per day. Registration is available online through the Parks & Recreation page at PortlandTX.com. For more details, call 361.777.4670.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Bell/Whittington Public Library Book Sale starts Thursday, March 21, and continues through Monday, March 25, at the library. The annual sale features books of every kind—all at remarkably low prices. The sale is open to the public.

Private shopping hours for Friends members only are from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20. An annual membership may be purchased at the door for \$15. Additional shopping days and times are:

- Thursday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 22, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 25, 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

(This is \$1-a-Bag Day)

Proceeds benefit the Bell/Whittington Public Library. The library is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. For more information, call 361.777.4560.

AKINS SIDEWALK/TRAIL UPDATE

Construction of a sidewalk/trail on Akins Drive is expected to start in March. Weather permitting, the project should be complete in June or July.

The project was ready to start in the summer of 2017, but issues with the contractor forced the City to halt the project at that time. A portion of the funding is being provided through the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which is managed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Before the City could get the project back on track, it had to be resubmitted for approval to TxDOT. The project was re-approved by TxDOT late last year.

CALENDAR NOTE

Windfest returns to Portland on April 12-14. Portland native Steve Trevino will be there as master of ceremonies. There will be more details in next month's issue of the Breeze.

