



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Teen Library Lounge
Bell/Whittington Public Library
Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

For details, visit their [Facebook page](#).

Kidz Klub

After-School Recreation Program
Various G-PISD Campuses
Monday-Friday

End of School until 6:00 p.m.
During School Sessions
For details, call 361.777.4670.

Teen Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library
Thu., Jan. 2, Noon

Discussion: *The Toll and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
Copies available at the library.

For details, visit their [Facebook page](#).

Coloring for Grownups

Bell/Whittington Public Library
Wed., Jan. 8, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their [Facebook page](#).

Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library
Thu., Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Discussion: *The Persian Pickle Club*
Copies available at the library.

For details, visit their [Facebook page](#).

Portland Farmers Market Joe Burke Pavilion

There is no Farmers Market scheduled for January. The next Farmers Market will be held on Saturday, April 4.



COMMUNITY CENTER REOPENS—RIGHT ON TIME

After 12 months of construction, the newly renovated and expanded Portland Community Center was reopened on Saturday, Dec. 14. The Portland City Council had laid out an ambitious construction schedule that would ensure the new Community Center was open for this year's Christmas in Portland. They made it.

Mayor Cathy Skurow and members of the City Council celebrated with a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Community Center, then opened the doors for the 2019 Christmas in Portland event. (The last major City event held in the Community Center was last year's Christmas in Portland event.)

The contractor broke ground on the renovation and expansion project in October 2018. The project was completed in two phases—first the fitness

center, followed by the meeting, function and ballroom spaces. The Fitness Center closed near the end of 2018 and reopened last spring. Then the meeting and function space areas were closed to allow for construction on that part of the building. The two-phased construction schedule was implemented to minimize downtime and lessen inconvenience to residents.

The reopening of the Community Center is the culmination of a \$15 million project, one of the biggest the City of Portland has undertaken. It was part of the citizen-approved bond election in 2016.

The expansion includes:

- 17,400 square feet of meeting space, upgraded kitchen and office

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DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

The 11th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance happens **Friday, Feb. 7, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** All school-aged girls are invited, along with their father, grandfather, uncle, brother, or other father figure.

Tickets are \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional child and can be purchased at the Portland Community Center and all Kidz Klub locations. The Daddy/Daughter Dance will take place at the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Drive. For details and ticket information, call 361.777.4670.

2020 TRASH, RECYCLE SCHEDULES

Republic Services has provided the trash, recycle, and bulk-item collection schedules for 2020. The updated schedules have been posted on the City's website at PortlandTX.com. Find it under the RESIDENT section.

The City also provides a free trash, recycle, and bulk-item reminder app so residents can have their respective schedules at their fingertips—on an Apple or android device. It lets users set reminders to put the trash and/or recycle carts out, as well as reminders about bulk-item collection, according to the designated collection schedules. Residents can choose to be notified by text or email—either on an on-going or a one-time basis. The program also allows the City to send reminders about holiday schedules and service delay notifications.

To access the app, search for the Recycle Coach app in Google Play or the Apple Store. Once the app is downloaded to your device, search for PORTLAND, TEXAS. Then enter your address and set your reminders according to your preference.

For more information, visit Recycle Coach—Portland under CITY HIGHLIGHTS at PortlandTX.com.

KIDZ KLUB READY FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Online registration is available for the afterschool Kidz Klub program for the final half of the school year. There is a \$60 registration fee. Monthly tuition is \$95 per child. The registration fee must be paid in full at the time of registration.

Kidz Klub hours are from the end of school until 6:00 p.m. Fees include an afternoon snack.

For details, visit the Parks & Recreation Department at PortlandTX.com or call 361.777.4670.

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areas, lobbies, restrooms, and corridors, including restoration of all interior spaces, replacing wall coverings, flooring, gymnasium flooring, plus upgraded fitness areas and bathroom renovations

- A ballroom expanded to almost double the size of the original ballroom and divisible into smaller areas to accommodate a variety of meetings and functions—regardless of size
- Additional new construction includes the main entrance, a new covered drop-off canopy at the north entrance, and general site improvements
- State-of-the-art audio/visual equipment with multiple large screens suitable for business presentations or social functions

Richter Architects designed the project. Beecroft Construction served as the general contractor.

The Portland Community Center will begin taking reservations in February 2020. For more information, call 361.777.4670.

RECYCLE REMINDERS

Portland has one of the highest household participation recycling rates in the Coastal Bend, and the post-holiday season typically has the highest recycle collection volume of the year. With product packaging, Christmas paper, and other holiday-related materials, that makes sense. It also makes it more important than ever that residents follow recycling guidelines about what is acceptable and what is not. For instance, Christmas wrapping paper is acceptable, but any accompanying ribbon is not. Ribbon, or worse yet, strings of Christmas lights or tinsel, can do damage to the sorting machinery—causing breakdowns, delays, and extra expense. Keep them in the trash.

Other recyclable items include newspapers, cardboard (flattened to less than two square feet), magazines, paperboard boxes (like cereal boxes and shoeboxes), and unwanted mail and envelopes. Recyclable plastics include detergent containers and food containers marked with a recycling symbol. Acceptable metal items include aerosol spray cans, aluminum trays, beverage cans, food containers, and soft drink cans. Glass is not accepted for recycle.

For more information, visit PortlandTX.com.