



the Breeze

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

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Portland has experienced several mosquito outbreaks due to the excessive and frequent rains in the past couple of months. These weather conditions produce a highly aggressive species of mosquito, which are appropriately referred to as storm-water mosquitoes. Storm-water mosquitoes are very active since their sole purpose is to find meals, usually human blood, and lay eggs. Unfortunately, dry conditions do not always result in complete eradication of these mosquitoes. Storm-water mosquito eggs can lay dormant for approximately 3 to 4 months. Once the eggs are moisturized, they begin their lifecycle. As a result, we must all take preventative measures to help reduce the number of storm-water mosquitoes in our area.

Portland's Prevention Methods

Reducing the number of adult mosquitoes is only part of the ongoing effort to reduce the current population and likelihood of additional outbreaks. In fact, the most successful method of reducing the mosquito population overall is to kill the mosquito larvae. Mosquitoes typically lay their eggs in areas that are muddy and hold water. As a result, the Portland Public Works Mosquito Control team has increased their [larvicide treatments](#) in the drainage ditches, storm sewer system, and other similar areas around town.



It takes a village to prevent & control mosquito outbreaks!

Prevention at Home

There are several steps we can take, other than using larvicide or chemical treatments, to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs around our homes. The easiest prevention method is removing items around your house that hold water. Common household items that hold water include empty flowerpots, bird baths, unkept pools, clogged gutters, and buckets. Emptying the water and cleaning these items regularly, or storing them in a dry environment, removes several potential egg laying areas. Additionally, keeping the yard trimmed and filling any holes that hold water further disrupts and can significantly reduce the likelihood of mosquitoes breeding around your home.

Protecting Yourself

Mosquitoes are highly attracted to carbon dioxide, which humans put out when we breathe. The mosquitoes can detect carbon dioxide from 80 feet away or more depending on the wind! As soon as mosquitoes smell you, they will swarm to get their meal. Therefore, it is important to wear protective clothing and mosquito

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RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Portland has experienced healthy growth in the last five years. The City of Portland remains dedicated to ensuring this continuous growth is well planned, well executed, and sustainable. Successful growth allows the City to make improvements and expand services to further improve our residents' quality of life. The Planning and Zoning Commission plays a key role in the growth and development of Portland as the first line of review for feasibility and sustainability.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The City of Portland established a Planning and Zoning Commission in the [City Charter](#) to assist and provide recommendations to the Portland City Council on upcoming growth, developments, and related ordinances. The Planning and Zoning Commission holds monthly meetings to collect public comments, discuss, and review new or expanded housing developments, special use permits, City projects, commercial growth, rezoning, and more. The Commission then conducts a technical review of the City Code and Zoning ordinances related to the proposed project. Once they complete this review, they will provide their recommendation to the Portland City Council.

The Portland City Council appoints a total of seven qualified Portland residents to the Planning and Zoning

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INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

All City-owned facilities are closed on Monday, July 6, 2020, in observance of Independence Day. Trash and recycling, and bulk-item pick-up services will operate on the normal schedule and will not be affected by the holiday.

MOSQUITO CONTROL, cont.

repellent while spending time outdoors. Protective clothing includes lighter-colored, long sleeved shirts and full length pants.

Reporting Mosquito Activity

If you feel mosquitoes are exceptionally prevalent in an area please call the Public Works department at 361-777-4601 to report the issue. Our Mosquito Control team will come inspect the area and determine the best treatment for the situation. Visit portlandtx.com/247/mosquito-control for more information on mosquito control and prevention.

CENSUS 2020 PROGRESS

The 2020 Census staff began delivering Census questionnaires to households that do not have a physical mailing addresses. Due to COVID-19, these packets are left on the front porch to help prevent unnecessary exposure to persons who are not of the same household. When you receive this packet, it is important to open it to receive your household's unique Census ID. Once you have your Census ID, you can complete the 2020 Census:

- Online by visiting <https://2020census.gov/>,
- Over the phone by calling 844-330-2020,
- Or by mailing the completed packet to the address specified in your packet (either Phoenix, AZ, or Jeffersonville, IN)

The Census is available in over 50 languages, including Spanish.

Why Your Response Matters

The Census results help determine how billions of dollars of federal funding is designated to states and communities. Some notable funding resources include: hurricane recovery funds, programs for schools and special education, local emergency services, coastal and wildlife management programs, highway planning and construction. The results of the Cen-

sus also determine how many Congressional seats each state gets for the next 10 years!

Response Goal

In 2010, Portland's Census response rate was approximately 60%. Our response goal for the 2020 Census is 80%! At the end of June, Portland's response rate was approximately 54%. Help increase our response rate by reminding friends and family to respond!

CO-EXISTING with COVID

We must all keep in mind that COVID-19 is still a threat to our area and we must all do our part to slow the spread! This is achieved by washing your hands regularly, wearing a mask while shopping or visiting people not of the same household, and social distancing. Please visit portlandtx.com/COVID to see updated case counts, Executive Orders, and health safety protocols. Also, please review the reopening guidelines before visiting our partially reopened facilities or utilizing our in-person services for your safety and ours!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2020

Did you hear? The Bell/Whittington Public Library's annual Summer Reading program is virtual this year! It is not too late to register and begin your summer reading adventure.

The Summer Reading program is open to all ages. To register and access the reading materials, please visit <http://library.portlandtx.info/>. Once registered, sign in and begin your reading adventure! Access the Book Log to keep track of the number of books you read and how many minutes you've read. As usual, participants earn points, digital badges, drawing entries, and prizes! The program continues through July 31, 2020.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Saturday, July 4, 2020: Independence Day
- Monday, July 6, 2020: City Offices are Closed
- Tuesday, July 7, 2020: Portland City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, July 14, 2020: Election Day for Primary Runoffs
- Wednesday, July 15, 2020: Tax Day

TAX FILING DEADLINE IS JULY 15, 2020

The Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service announced, on April 9, that [Notice 2020-23 \(PDF\)](#) extends additional key tax deadlines for individuals and businesses. This means that anyone can now wait until July 15 to file their 2019 federal income tax return and pay any tax due.

The notice also extends relief to estimated tax payments due June 15, 2020. Any individual or corporation that has a quarterly estimated tax payment due on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020, can wait until July 15 to make that payment, without penalty. **Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline can request an extension to Oct. 15, 2020.** Visit <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-extends-more-tax-deadlines-to-cover-individuals-trusts-estates-corporations-and-others> for additional information.

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, cont.

ing Commission. The members of the Commission are unpaid and serve two-year terms. Residents interested in serving on this commission must submit an application to be considered for one of the three positions that are up for appointment this year. The City Council reviews the applications and appoints the chosen residents. Applications will be available at the end of the month. Please visit portlandtx.com for more information.