



# the Breeze

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

## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

Saturday, October 3, 2020

- Portland Farmers Market
- Joe Burke Pavilion
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

- Portland City Council Meeting
- Portland City Hall
- Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

- Portland City Council Meeting
- Portland City Hall
- Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 2020

- Book-a-Palooza
- GP Middle School parking lot
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 24, 2020

- Boo Bash Fright Night Freeway
- Municipal Park parking
- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Health safety protocols are in place for all events for the safety of everyone. For information on these events and the health safety protocols, please visit [portlandtx.com](http://portlandtx.com).

## ADOPTED TAX RATE

The City of Portland recently adopted a new budget and tax rate for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year (FY21). The approved FY21 budget and tax rate ensures the essential services the City provides are funded. The adopted tax rate for FY 21 is \$0.650959 per \$100 valuation. This is a slight decrease from last year's tax rate of \$0.659500 per \$100 but will generate more tax revenue. The average Portland resident will see an annual increase of \$46 in their city tax bill.

### Property Tax Revenues

Property tax revenues are divided between Maintenance & Operations (General Fund) and the Interest & Sinking (Debt Service Fund). The FY21 tax rate is split between these two funds as follows:

- General Fund receives \$0.414444 per \$100
- Debt Service Fund receives \$0.236515 per \$100

In FY21, the General Fund tax rate is slightly lower than last year. The Debt Service Fund rate is slightly higher and services the debt for the Phase 11 street program.

### Essential Services Provided

The City of Portland uses the property tax revenue in the General Fund to fund City operations required to provide essential services to our residents.

These services include:

- Public Safety - Police and Fire
- Park maintenance
- Mosquito spraying
- Road maintenance
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Library services
- Senior Center services

Growing the employment for these services, especial Public Safety, is essential as our City grows and develops.

## ANNEXATION 2020/2021

The City of Portland began a 4-phase annexation project to acquire 2.42 square miles of land to the west of the current city limits in the city's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Annexation is beneficial to the City and its residents for several reasons. Annexation:

- Enables the City to control development and prevents industrial encroachments,
- expands the tax base, and
- allows for our overall growth

### Orderly, Planned Development

Annexation enables the City of Portland to utilize regulatory tools, such as zoning and building codes. This helps ensure that buildings, subdivisions, and other infrastructure are compatible with each area

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## 2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

Early voting for the 2020 General Election begins October 13, 2020, and concludes October 30, 2020. Election Day for the 2020 General Election is November 3, 2020. The San Patricio County Elections Office published all voting locations and daily schedules for early voting and Election Day on their website [www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/earlyvoting](http://www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/earlyvoting). For general information on the elections, what you will need to vote, mail-in ballots, and the COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person voting on their website [www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/elections](http://www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/elections). If you have questions regarding voting and would like to speak to the San Patricio County Elections Office, dial 361-364-6121.

## ANNEXATION, cont.

of future development and all resources meet our minimum standards. For example, the City can impose zoning rules in the newly annexed areas to protect residential neighborhoods from encroachment of incompatible land use. An example of incompatible land use is placing a large industrial facility or wind turbine field next to a residential neighborhood.

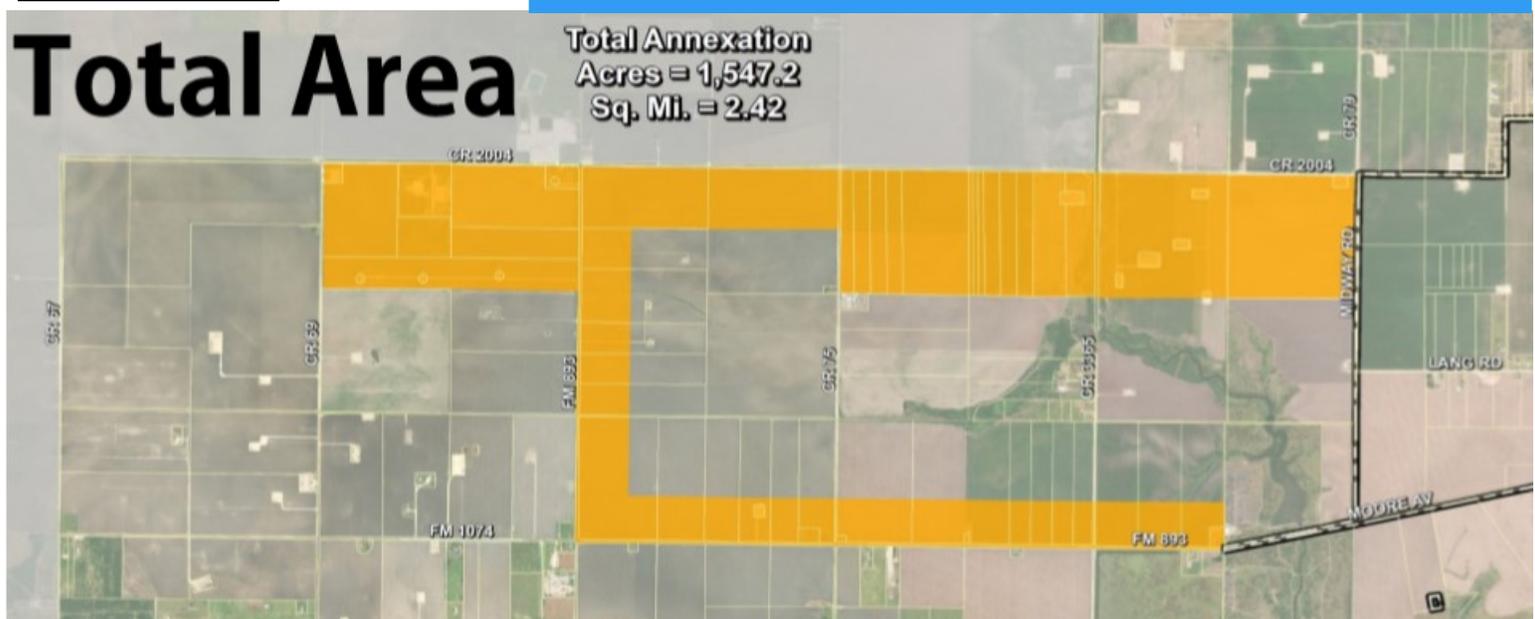
### Expanding the Tax Base

Portland does not receive any property tax dollars from nearby industries since they are not within the Portland city limits. That means the cost of infrastructure made necessary by the industrial expansion is paid entirely by Portland taxpayers. Annexing expands the tax base by bringing new taxable properties into the city limits. Ultimately, this helps reduce the tax burden on all residents.

### Overall Growth

The City of Portland is becoming landlocked. Annexation allows the City to maintain healthy growth. Without the growth potential, the City has limited abilities to regulate and provide services. For more information on the ongoing annexation, please visit [portland.tx.com/annexation](http://portland.tx.com/annexation).

### Map of Annexation



## HALLOWEEN 2020 SAFETY

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues and flu season begins, we must plan our holiday celebrations a little differently this year. Halloween is traditionally a high contact activity that could cause widespread transmission of these viruses. Fortunately, there are numerous safe alternative activities to enjoy this holiday!

### Safe Alternatives

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published an article with recommendations for alternative activities and safety tips for the upcoming holiday. Some of the alternative Halloween activities suggested include:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins
- Creating a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt so the children can stay engaged while admiring decorated homes
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home
- Visit a pumpkin patch

For a full list of safe alternative Halloween activities, please visit [cdc.gov/holidaycelebrations2020](http://cdc.gov/holidaycelebrations2020).

### Trick-or-Treating Safety

If you plan to take your family trick-or-treating this year, the CDC recommends bringing hand sanitizer,

wearing your face covering, and maintaining social distance. It is encouraged to utilize the hand sanitizer frequently. If you or one of your family members does not feel well, please stay home.

### Safely Passing Out Candy

The CDC encourages use safe alternatives for passing out candy by making individually wrapped goodie bags. When preparing these goodie bags, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before and after this activity. On Halloween, there are numerous ways you can safely pass these goodie bags out. Examples include lining the goodie bags up at the end of the driveway on the sidewalk or creating a goodie bag chute that allows you to slide the candy down and in to the trick-or-treaters candy bag.

## FLU SHOT REMINDER

Flu season is here. The flu is a contagious virus that affects the respiratory system. This virus is spread through contact with an infected person and may require hospitalization or death. Therefore, it is even more important now to get your flu vaccination, practice good hygiene and the health safety protocols. Visit [cdc.gov/flu/season/vaccine](http://cdc.gov/flu/season/vaccine) for more information.