



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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

Saturday, November 7, 2020

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

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

Friday, November 20, 2020

- Pack the Pantry conclusion
- All City facilities
- Close of business—5:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 26-27, 2020

- Thanksgiving holiday
- City facilities closed
- Resume services on Nov. 30

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.

HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY

As we prepare for cooler weather and holiday events, don't forget to inspect your home for gas leaks and fire hazards. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the winter holidays are the most dangerous times for cooking fires and home fires. Protect your family and home by reviewing the safety tips listed below.

Check Your Detectors

An easy first step in holiday preparations is testing all fire and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home. These devices save lives! If these devices are not working properly in any way, try changing the batteries or replace the device completely as soon as possible.

Having carbon monoxide detectors in your home is just as important as having fire detectors. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is odorless and colorless. Carbon monoxide is created when fuels burn incompletely. Common sources that can create carbon monoxide are gas stoves, gas ovens, propane heaters, poorly ventilated fire places and chimneys. For more information about carbon monoxide, signs of carbon monoxide poisoning in animals and humans, and suggestions of where to put carbon monoxide detectors in your home, please visit nfpa.org/COsafety.

Cooking Safety

Holiday cooking and baking is a great family activity! Unfortunately, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the top 3 days of the year for cooking fires. So before you get started, review cooking safety with your family members to prevent injuries and fires.

Turkey is a Thanksgiving staple. If you are planning on cooking a turkey at home, plan ahead for how you will cook it and how long it needs to thaw. Carefully review the instructions on how to use your cooking equipment. If you plan to cook outside, be sure your grill, frier, or pressure cookers are in a well ventilated, uncovered area away from your home and trees.

If you plan to cook indoors, prepare your kitchen by clearing all unnecessary items from the countertops and areas near the stove top. Additionally, keep all cords out of the reach of children. If you like to have young kids help with the cooking, discuss their roles in the preparation for the cooking and how to stay safe in the kitchen. For more information on Thanksgiving cooking safety, please visit nfpa.org/cookingsafety.

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2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

Election Day for the 2020 General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The Portland Community Center is an election site on Election Day. The San Patricio County Elections Office published all voting locations for San Patricio County on their website www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/voting. All voting locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day (11/3/2020). For general information on the elections, what you will need to vote, and the COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person voting is on their website 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.

HOLIDAY SAFETY, cont.

Decoration Safety

Most holiday fires are caused by cooking, candles, and electrical fires. Take extra time to plan out your decorations and be cognizant of potential fire hazards. Here are some tips from the NFPA:

- Purchase flame resistant or flame retardant decorations when possible
- Keep candles in open areas well away from decorations, drapes, and furniture
- Keep candles out of reach of kids and pets
- Replace all decorations and lights with exposed or damaged wires indoors and outdoors
- Do not overload power outlets
- Always blow out candles and turn off all lighted decorations before leaving the space

For more information on holiday decoration safety, please visit nfpa.org/winterholidaysafety.

PACK THE PANTRY

The City of Portland employees have kicked off our annual Pack the Pantry Thanksgiving Food Drive. All the non-perishable food items collected during this event are donated to the Salvation Army's Portland Food Pantry prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We encourage you to join us in our annual Pack the Pantry event by bringing non-perishable foods and cooking items to any of these City facilities:

- Portland City Hall
- Portland Community Center
- Portland Fire Department,
- Portland Police Department
- Portland Public Works building

Donations will be accepted through Friday, November 20. The Salvation Army asks donors to avoid purchasing junk food, sugary drinks, and bulk items. Thank you in advance your contributions to the Pack the Pantry Food Drive.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11. On this day, our country honors all, past and present, who served our country in war and in peace. The history of this day stretches back to November 11, 1918.

End of the War to End All Wars

World War I (WWI), also known as "The Great War", unofficially ended when the Allied nations and Germany entered an armistice — a temporary cessation of hostilities. The war officially ended seven months later when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. Despite this, November 11 was officially declared Armistice Day by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919.

Armistice Day to Veterans Day

For the next 40 years, Armistice Day was dedicated to celebrating the cause of world peace and honoring veterans who served in WWI. After the second World War, WW2, veteran organizations urged Congress to amend the Act that established Armistice Day by renaming the holiday to "Veterans Day". The Congress amended the legislation and President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation declaring November 11 as the official holiday date in 1954.

Date of Veterans Day

The date of Veterans Day was changed in 1968 to be observed on a Monday, like many other federal holidays. Many state legislatures, veteran organizations, and historians did not agree with the change since the commemoration of this holiday has significant historical and patriotic ties to November 11. As a result, Veterans Day was officially changed back to be recognized on November 11 in 1975. For more information on the history of Veterans Day, please visit va.gov/veteransday

DECORATION COMPETITION

The City of Portland is getting ready for Christmas on the Coast! This year's festivities will include a yard sign decoration competition. Participants will receive a blank wooden board. We are asking participants to get creative to design a Christmas on the Coast yard sign and bring it to life! Families, friends, individuals, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to enter. If you would like to participate in this competition or want more information, please contact Shelby O'Brien. You can reach her at shelby.obrien@portlandtx.com. Please sign up for this competition by Friday, November 20, 2020.



Portland Veterans Memorial est. 2016 in honor of all who serve, past & present