



PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

Kidz Klub 2013-2014

Kidz Klub registration for the 2013/2014 school year is ongoing. Kidz Klub is an after school program held at GP Intermediate, Andrews Elementary, TM Clark Elementary and East Cliff Elementary. The program is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Activities include games, arts and crafts projects, guest presentations and special events.

\$60.00 registration fee, \$95.00/month. Ages 5-12 (5 year olds must be entering Kindergarten in the fall). Monday – Friday, 3:00pm – 6:00pm, excluding holidays.

Kidz Days Spring Break 2014

Kidz Days is an all-day program held at TM Clark during the GPSID Spring Break. Children will participate in arts and crafts projects, indoor games, outdoor sports, and special events. Children will also go on a field trip to the NorthShore 8 movie theater. The program is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. A morning and afternoon snack will be provided. Children must provide their own lunch.

Cost: \$15.00/day if registered 2 weeks prior to attending, \$20.00/day after 2 weeks. Ages 5-12. March 10-14. 7:00am – 6:00pm. Register at the Portland Community Center. Space is limited.

Spring Break Bash!!!

It's almost HERE! Our second annual Spring Break kickoff concert is right around the corner. Come out to the Community Center parking lot and help get spring break started right. Bring your family, bring your friends and bring your lawn chairs. March 7, 2014. 7pm to 10pm. FREE

Spring Break

The Portland Aquatic Center will be open for Spring Break Saturday, March 8-Sunday March 16 from 12:00-4:00pm for general swim. Lap swimming times will remain the same: 6:30am-9:00am and 5:00pm-7:30pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Portland Aquatic Center

January 2-April 30, 2014:

6:30AM - 9:00am Monday-Friday Competition Pool Only
5:00PM - 7:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday. Competition Pool Only. **Admission Prices:** Children & Adults \$4.00. Seniors (60 and over) \$3.00. Children under 2 are free

Quarterly Passes*- Resident

Individual: \$ 77.00
Family: \$143.00
Senior: \$ 66.00

Quarterly Passes – Non-Resident

Individual: \$ 99.00
Family: \$115.00
Senior: \$ 66.00

Annual Passes*- Resident

Individual: \$143.00
Family: \$270.00
Senior: \$116.00

Annual Passes – Non-Resident

Individual \$204.00
Family \$336.00
Senior \$116.00

*Passes exclude special events

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Brush & Bulky Pickup

It's that time of year again when the grass begins to grow, trees begin to sprout and hedges spiral every which way. Here are the answers to the most asked questions and concerns that we receive at Public Works about this service.

- The Brush and Bulky Trash Pickup is a once-a-month service provided to residential addresses only.
- If you own a business or are responsible for church property that is in need of bulk or brush pickup, please contact Republic Services directly at 361-882-1878 to schedule a pickup; there will be a fee for this service.
- Any debris that is from a contractor or professional tree trimmer must be removed and disposed of by the contractor or tree trimmer.
- Any tree trimmer working in the City of Portland is required to be registered – the contractor can register at the Public Works office at 1101 Moore Avenue.
- The 2014 schedule is at www.portlandtx.com. You can locate it by selecting the Department tab, hover over Public Works, select Trash & Recycling and then Trash/Recycling Schedule. All schedules are on the same calendar now, if you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 361-777-4601.
- Items must be properly placed by 8:00 AM on the Monday of your scheduled week to ensure pickup. We cannot guarantee that items placed after Monday will be serviced – the pile may wait a month, until the next pickup to be collected. Pickup only occurs between Monday – Friday.
- Small branches and leaves may be placed in your trash cart – LIDS MUST CLOSE. These items may NOT be placed in the recycle cart.
- Leaf debris must be bagged if placed curbside for brush & bulky pickup. Please do not place bagged items on top of brush piles as the bags may break causing a mess in the roadway or on your property.
- Please be sure any items for pickup are no bigger than 10 feet in length. If the claw on the truck is unable to lift the item it will not be picked up (excess of 1,000 lbs).
- Items such as refrigerators or condensers that contained Freon will not be picked up. Tires cannot be picked up.
- Hazardous materials such as paint, chemicals, lead-acid batteries, or used motor oil will not be picked up. Call Public Works at 361-777-4601 for more information on hazardous disposal. Items should be placed away from parked cars, low hanging trees, power lines, and mailboxes, etc. Please be considerate of your neighbor; if you see a trash/recycle cart or brush pile curbside, please do not park within four feet of the pile or it will not be serviced.



**Not acceptable!
Lids must close**

City of Portland

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive
Portland, Texas 78374
Phone: 361-777-4500
Fax: 361-777-4501
E-Mail: webmaster@portlandtx.com



The Land of Possibilities

www.portlandtx.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Why Arson?

The motivations behind arson can be varied but probably include one of the following.

Curiosity—Curiosity fires are most often set by juveniles and related to the child’s age, motivation for fire setting behavior, type of fires set, ignition materials used to set the fire, and the child’s understanding and limitations of fire. Firesetting behavior is often a symptom of problems manifested through stress and crisis in the child’s life.

Vandalism—Vandalism or malicious mischief can be the result of boredom, peer pressure or even gang activity. Vandalism is most common at abandoned or vacant homes. By some estimates, more than 70 percent of the fires occurring in them are incendiary or suspicious.

Concealing Another Crime—Arson is sometimes used to mask or conceal another crime such as murder. The criminal sets the crime scene ablaze to hide the reason for the victim’s death. Arson is used to cover other crimes such as burglary and larceny.

Excitement—Most excitement fires are nuisance fires but may escalate to homes. Excitement-motivated arsonists desire the thrill associated with setting the fire and relish the attention it brings. They rarely intend to injure people but don’t have the requisite knowledge to keep the fires under control.

Revenge—According to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, almost half serial arsons are for revenge. An arsonist will target the home of someone in retaliation for an actual or perceived injustice against him or her.

Insurance Fraud / Arson for Profit—Arson for profit is insurance fraud, a criminal method of obtaining money from a fire loss policy. The losses for arson are staggering. Dennis Jay, the Executive Director for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, states, “Arson schemes are dangerous and damaging. Torching homes for insurance money endangers innocent neighbors and brave firefighters. These senseless insurance crimes also raise premiums for all honest homeowners at a time when every penny counts...”

To report any suspicious activity that may involve arson, contact the Portland Fire Marshal’s Office at (361) 643-0155

MARCH LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

After School : Every Monday, 3:30-5PM

Toddler Time: Every Tuesday 10-11AM

Teen Library Lounge: Every Thursday 4-6PM

Mr. Kippy: Every Thursday at 9AM and 10 AM

E-Reader University: One-on-One assistance with your e-reader Tues 3-5PM

On Demand Computer Class: March 21, 10-11:30 am: Introducing Windows 8

Genealogy Workshop: Wednesday, March 26, 2014. 3PM

Makerspace: Spring Mesh Wreath : Thursday, March 6, 2014 from 6pm-8pm; Advanced: Friday, March 7 from 10am-12pm and Saturday March 8 from 10am to 12 pm.

Bridge Lessons: Every Friday in March from 12pm to 2 pm. Beginners or advanced players are welcomed. Please feel free to bring food and drink to enjoy while you play.

Couponing to Save: Thursday, March 27 from 6pm-8pm; Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 10am to 2 pm and Saturday, April 5 from 12pm to 2pm. Come learn how to do it from the pros and enjoy a coupon exchange.

Regular Computer Classes

Introduction to Computers is held each Monday from 9:45 am to 10:45 am at Carriage Inn Retirement Community.

Introduction to Computers is held each Monday from 10 am to 11 am at the Portland Senior Center.

Beginners Computer Training is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Ingleside Dairy Queen and at 1 p.m. at the Ingleside Public Library.

Basic Internet and Email are held each Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am at the Bell Whittington Public Library.

Intermediate Computers is held each Wednesday from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm at the Bell Whittington Public Library.

Beginners Computer Training is held on Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the Portland Dairy Queen and at 1:30 p.m. at the Bell Whittington Public Library.

Spring Break at the Library

Bubble Festival Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 10 a.m. For kids of all ages! *Bubbles, bubbles everywhere! Join us outside the library for a variety of bubble blowing activities.*

Star Town USA, Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 2 p.m. For kids 3rd thru 12th Grade. *Join award winning astronomer Kevin Manning as we learn about astronomy and telescopes.*

Teen Library Lounge, Thursday, March 13, 2014 2-4 p.m. , For teens 7th thru 12th Grade. *Open gaming, crafts and just hang out time for teens!*

Seusstacular! Celebration: Friday, March 14, 2014, 2 p.m. For kids of all ages! *Join us for some Seusstacular fun! We’ll be showing a few of our favorite Dr. Seuss films, have a candy buffet to enjoy and more!*

San Patricio County Adult Literacy Council’s Date of Tournament: Thursday, April 24, 2014

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

5:30-6:15 Registration and Social Hour

6:15 Team Orientation

Games start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Portland Community Center

2000 Billy G. Webb

Portland, Texas 78374

Silent Auction Food Tables of 8 = \$320; Spectators = \$20 per person
Volunteer * Team Player * Sponsor

For Tickets & Information contact:

**San Patricio County Adult Literacy Council
361-364-2310 * sanpatliteracy@yahoo.com**