

**Parks and Recreation News**

**Sweetheart Ball 2014**

The Portland Community Center will be hosting the 5th annual Sweetheart Ball. All school age girls are invited to bring a father, grandfather, uncle, brother or other father figure to the event. The Community Center Ballroom will be decorated in a Valentine theme and snacks will be provided. Current pop music and Dad's favorites will be spun by a professional DJ. A photographer will be available as well to capture the memories for an additional charge. Guests are asked to wear semi-formal attire. Tickets may be purchased at the Community Center and at all Kidz Klub sites. February 7, 2014. 6:30pm-9:30pm. \$15.00/couple, \$7.00/additional child.

**Spring Break**

The Portland Aquatic Center will be open for Spring Break Saturday, March 8 through Sunday, March 16, 2014 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.

**What you need to know about Social Security and Medicare Benefits. Presented by Area Agency on Aging.** Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Portland Senior Center, 601 Wildcat Dr. 1:30 pm. FREE

**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

<b>Quarterly Passes*- Resident</b>	<b>Quarterly Passes – Non-Resident</b>
Individual: \$ 77.00	Individual: \$ 99.00
Family: \$143.00	Family: \$115.00
Senior: \$ 66.00	Senior: \$ 66.00

<b>Annual Passes*- Resident</b>	<b>Annual Passes – Non-Resident</b>
Individual: \$143.00	Individual \$204.00
Family: \$270.00	Family \$336.00
Senior: \$116.00	Senior \$116.00

\*Passes exclude special events

**Pool Parties**

The Portland Aquatic Center will open reservations for all pool parties on Monday, March 24, 2014. Reservations must be made through the Portland Community Center. For more information please call 361.777.3301.

**Senior Dance**

Date: Friday, February 7, 2014  
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Where: Portland Community Center  
Music by Bud Whittington  
Cost: \$3 per person

**Senior Game Day**

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
Time 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM  
Where: Portland Senior Center

**From the Utility Billing Department**

Does the Utility Billing Department have your correct/current account information? Below are a few reasons to update your account:

- Name - change in marital status
- Telephone – You may have a cell phone number we do not have on file. You may have opted to cancel your land-line telephone service.
- E-mail – change of email address (Are you having problems logging in to your on-line payment account? Are you using the email address you registered with?)
- Mailing Address – Not every customer opts to have their statements billed to the address of service.
- Driver's License Number – You may have opened your account with an out-of-state license number.
- Employment – You may have changed jobs since you opened your utility account.
- Spouse – change in marital status - Would you like to add your spouse (or other family member) to the account?

Contact the Utility Billing Department at 361-777-4500/  
[lucia.rodriquez@portlandtx.com](mailto:lucia.rodriquez@portlandtx.com) to inquire on how to update your account information.

**Court Clerk's Corner**

Is your driver's license about to expire? If it is, are you sure that you have paid all tickets you have received? If not, you may be in for a surprise when you try to re-new your Texas driver's license. In 1995, the Texas Legislature authorized the Failure to Appear Program (commonly referred to as FTA program). This program is designed to assist Municipal and Justice Courts to collect outstanding violations by denying you the renewal of your driver license until you pay or otherwise satisfy the judgment ordered by the court. Both traffic AND non-traffic violations are eligible to be reported to the FTA program. There are currently 695 cities in Texas that participate in the FTA program, so chances are good that you will be unable to renew your license until you pay your outstanding fine. Once your violation has been reported to the FTA program there will be an additional \$30.00 charge per violation. Most courts will not accept payment by check, so you must contact the court to determine their acceptable methods of payment. Please keep in mind that it will take 3-7 business days to release the hold on your driver's license. If you do not renew your driver's license within 60 days of the expiration date, all driving privileges may be denied, and you may be charged with Driving While License Invalid (DWLI) if you are found operating a vehicle.

We hope that you found this information helpful, but if you have any further questions, you may call the court where your original citation was issued.

## City of Portland

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[www.portlandtx.com](http://www.portlandtx.com)

## Fire Department News

### Time to Check Your Smoke Alarms

The start of the New Year is a good reminder to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries. According to the National Fire Protection Association more than 66 percent of home fire deaths that occurred between 2003-2006 were in homes *without* a working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke. Smoke alarms *must* be maintained! A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all, so test your smoke alarm monthly by pushing the "test" button, if it has one.

Smoke alarms are powered by either a battery or are hardwired into your home's electrical system. Hardwired smoke alarms are usually equipped with a backup battery. If your smoke alarm is powered by battery, the battery needs to be replaced annually unless it is a long-life battery (check the owner's manual). All batteries should be maintained and replaced in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.

Choose an annual date, such as the time change, when you will remember to maintain your smoke alarm in tip top condition. Check the manufacturer's expiration date on the label, replace the batteries if needed, and clean dust away from the slots so that smoke can enter freely. All smoke alarms, hard-wired and battery powered should be replaced every ten years. These simple steps will help ensure that you and your family will have the best chance of surviving if fire should strike.

USFA has a fire safety campaign called *Install. Inspect. Protect.* Which provides information about home smoke alarms and fire sprinklers. Please visit the campaign Website at [www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smokealarms](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smokealarms).

### February 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 every Tuesday 3-5PM

**On-Demand Computer Classes:** Friday February 14, 2014– E-Valentine's Cards

**Genealogy Workshop:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014. 3PM

**Makerspace: Valentine's Cards using Cricut and Vinyl, Friday February 7, 2014 10-11 am**

### 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.

### Public Works Update

#### Water Line Replacement Program

Work is progressing on the City's Waterline Replacement project on Carmel, Chase, Driftwood, Grace, Daniel Moore, Dallas, Sutherland and Center. Residents on the following streets can expect work to begin shortly: Granby, East Janin, West Janin, North Janin, Shore, Melba, Ann, Georgia, Fourth, Moore, Bay View Boulevard and Sunset.

This project replaces 21,000 feet of aging rear yard waterlines with new lines in the front yards. Additionally, water meters will be moved to the front yards and a new yard line installed to connect the new meter location to the existing service at no cost to the homeowner. There will be incidental sidewalk and driveway reconstruction required as part of this project. Affected residents will receive notices directly from its contractor, CAS Companies, prior to construction of the yard line. Work is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2014. Please visit <http://www.portlandtx.com/index.aspx?nid=394> for more information.

#### Trash/Recycling Schedule

The 2014 Trash/Recycling/Bulk calendars have been posted on our website and are available at <http://www.portlandtx.com/index.aspx?NID=255>. To access your calendar click on the link above the table that shows your street. If you have any questions, please call our office at 361-777-4601.

## RACK YOUR TILES, RACK YOUR BRAINS, AND ROUND UP YOUR FRIENDS

FOR...San Patricio County Adult Literacy Council's

SCRABBLE Tournament for Literacy

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

Round up your family, friends and co-workers as a table of 6 to play SCRABBLE in this unique, fast-paced and exciting team event. Your ticket includes food, a silent auction, and a night of old-fashioned entertainment.

Tables of 6 - \$240.00 Student Teams of 6 - \$120.00

Spectators: \$25 per person.

Please join us!

Volunteer \* Team Player \* Event Sponsor

For Tickets & Information contact:

San Patricio County Adult Literacy Council

361-364-2310 \* [sanpatliteracy@yahoo.com](mailto:sanpatliteracy@yahoo.com)

[www.spcalc.org](http://www.spcalc.org) visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SPCALC](http://www.facebook.com/SPCALC)