



# the Breeze

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

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Take Your Child to the Library

Sat., Feb. 2, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

### Adult Coloring Session

Bell-Whittington Public Library

Wed., Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

### Mystery Book Club

Bell-Whittington Public Library

Thu., Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

### Teen Library Lounge

(Open to grades 7-12)

Bell-Whittington Public Library

Thu., Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28; 4:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

### Game Day

Portland Senior Center

Wed., Feb. 13, 1:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.643.9431.

### Portland Opry

Portland Community Center

Thu., Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

For details, call 361.777.4670.

### COMING NEXT MONTH:

Portland Farmers Market

Joe Burke Pavilion

(Behind the Community Center)

Sat., March 2, 9:00 a.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

## CITY OF PORTLAND

1900 Billy G. Webb Drive

Portland, Texas 78374

Phone: (361) 777-4500

Fax: (361) 777-4501

Comments or Questions:

webmaster@portlandtx.com



## RATE CHANGES IN CITY WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Maintaining and improving infrastructure is one of the most important services provided by the City of Portland, and one of utmost importance to both residents and businesses. One of the city's most critical infrastructure components is the water/wastewater system.

In 2014, the City Council commissioned a utility rate study to ensure that the long-term integrity of the water/wastewater system is maintained, and that adequate funding is available for upgrades when necessary. That study provided a rate model to enable City

staff to review utility rates on an ongoing basis, and to make rate change recommendations.

Following the annual rate review, City staff recommended changes to the rate structure the City currently charges for water and wastewater. The recommendations are based on the need to ensure the system can meet the needs and demands of the community and on planned capital improvements, as well as changes in the rates charged by the San Patricio

...continued on page 2

## KIDZ DAYZ OFFERED DURING SPRING BREAK, MARCH 11-15

Spring Break for the Gregory-Portland ISD is March 11-15. For parents looking for safe, fun, and affordable childcare during Spring Break, the Parks & Recreation Department offers Kidz Dayz. This is an all-day recreation program featuring arts and crafts, organized recreational play, games, prizes, and a lot of fun. The program is open to children 5-12 years of age, in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Kidz Dayz is located at T.M. Clark Elementary, 2250 Memorial Parkway. A morning and afternoon snack will be provided.

Hours for Kidz Dayz are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per day. Register by Friday, Feb. 22 to receive a discounted rate of \$15 per day. Registration is available online through the Parks & Recreation page at [PortlandTX.com](http://PortlandTX.com). For more details, call 361.777.4670.

## NEW FATHER/DAUGHTER DATE, PLACE

The date and location of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Father/Daughter Dance have changed. The dance will take place on Friday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The new location is T.M. Clark Elementary, located at 2250 Memorial Parkway.

All school-aged girls are invited, along with their father, grandfather, uncle, brother, or other father figure. And start looking for the perfect poodle skirt or slip into your saddle shoes, because this year's event has a 50's Sock Hop theme.

Tickets are \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional child, and can be purchased at the Portland Community Center and all Kidz Klub locations. Credit cards are accepted at the Community Center, but only cash or checks are accepted at Kidz Klub sites. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the night of the event but must be purchased with cash or checks.

For details and ticket information, call 361.777.4670.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Republic Services does not collect household hazardous waste as part of their garbage and recycling collection service. The City of Portland, through an interlocal agreement with the City of Corpus Christi, allows residents to dispose of household hazardous waste (pesticides, paints, chemicals, etc.) at the J.C. Elliott Collection Center, located at 6594 Greenwood Drive.

Portland residents may use a recent water bill or a current driver's license as proof of residency. Collection of hazardous waste is strictly regulated so be certain your items are all acceptable for collection at the center. Some of the items NOT accepted include: ammunition, asbestos, building materials, butane cylinders, medical waste, and pharmaceuticals. For a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, along with complete instructions, visit the RESIDENTS section at [PortlandTX.com](http://PortlandTX.com).

## RATE CHANGES *continued...*

Municipal Water District (SPMWD) to the City of Portland for the purchase of water. The City has almost \$19 million in capital improvements planned for the water/wastewater system. In January, the Portland City Council approved the recommended rate changes.

The current base rate for residential water is \$16.34 per month; the current base rate for wastewater is \$35.22. The rate structure changes include:

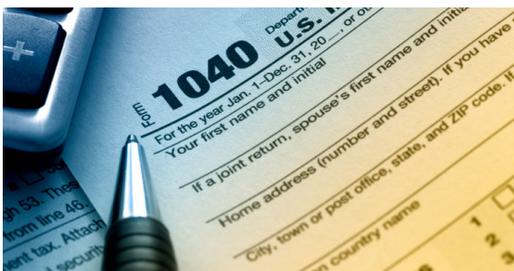
- An increase of \$0.74 per 1,000 gallons to \$17.08 per 1,000 gallons in the rate for residential water; this rate includes a rate increase from the SPMWD for water the City purchases, which will take effect with the February billing cycle.
- A \$2.11 increase per 1,000 gallons to \$37.33 in the rate for residential wastewater.
- Commercial, multi-family residential, and raw water customers will see a 4.5% increase in water rates and a 6% increase in wastewater rates.

The City of Portland does not make a profit from the service delivery of water and wastewater. It uses the utility rate model to set the lowest possible rates, yet still cover the costs of operations, such as water purchases, salaries, and capital expenditures like replacing pipes. The model also uses historical information, including billing and consumption data; the Capital Improvement Program (CIP); drought data; debt service analysis, both current and future; and cost recovery analysis to determine if changes to utility rates are necessary.

Additional changes include an increase in the Fire Service Fee from \$1 to \$2. The additional funds generated from this change will allow the Fire Department to purchase an aerial platform fire truck.

The City Council also accepted the recommendation to eliminate the \$4 credit card convenience fee charged to customers paying their utility bill electronically. This will provide greater convenience for residents and improve efficiencies for City staff. The fee will be eliminated in February.

## FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AT BELL/WHITTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Every year the AARP provides free tax assistance at the Bell/Whittington Public Library. The service is available to everyone and will be offered Fridays, through April 12, with the exception of March 22 (due to annual book sale). Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This service is offered on a first-come, first-served basis; appointments are not available. The Bell-Whittington Public Library is located at 2400 Memorial Parkway. For details, call 361.775.1122 or 361.443.9341.