



the Breeze

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Coloring for Grownups

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Wed., April 3, 6:00 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Teen Library Lounge

(Open to grades 7-12)

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Thu., April 4, 11, 18, 25; 4:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

Mystery Book Club

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Book Selection: Magpie Murders

Thu., April 4, 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

AARP Foundation Tax Assistance

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Fri., April 5 & 12; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Space is limited.

For details, call AARP at

361.775.1122 or 361.443.9341.

Portland Farmers Market

Joe Burke Pavilion

Sat., April 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For details, call 361.777.4670.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Bell/Whittington Public Library

Tue., April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Participants should bring their own basket and plan to be on time.

For details, visit their Facebook page.

CITY OF PORTLAND

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SMOKE ALARM SAFETY: CHANGE A BATTERY, SAVE A LIFE

A 9-volt battery costs a few dollars. The life-saving benefit it can provide for your family is priceless.

There is no dispute that smoke alarms save lives. When properly installed and maintained, smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Once a fire starts, smoke can spread fast. Smoke alarms give people in a home or apartment time to

get out.

A study released by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) earlier this year showed that smoke alarms were present in 75% of reported home fires from 2012-2016. Almost three out of five home fire deaths during that period were happened in homes with no smoke alarms.

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WINDFEST BREEZES INTO TOWN APRIL 12-14

Windfest, Portland's largest family festival, returns to town Friday, April 12-Sunday, April 14. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, and noon on Sunday. Gate entry is \$5 each day. Wristbands for entry into the carnival range from \$20-\$25, depending on the day and time.

Hometown favorite Steve Trevino will return to emcee Windfest's entertainment lineup. And Sundance Head, the winner of NBC's 11th season of "The Voice" will be the musical headliner on Friday, April 12. He is a Texas country artist who has recorded with the legendary ZZ Top and has had multiple number 1 hits on the Texas Country Music charts. On "The Voice," he was on Team Blake Shelton.

Windfest is held on the grounds of the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G. Webb Dr. For events and activities at this year's festival, visit the Chamber's website for PortlandTX.org/Windfest.

The City of Portland is proud to be a partner for this annual event.

FIRE ALARM SAFETY...continued

According to the NFPA, here's what everyone should know about smoke alarms:

- **A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.** Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Alarms should also be installed on every level of the home.
- **Smoke alarms should be interconnected.** When one sounds, they should all sound.
- **Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.**
- **The batteries in every smoke alarm in the house should be changed twice a year.** The Portland Fire Department, along with local fire departments across the nation, recommend changing the batteries when you set your clocks back in the fall and when you set your clocks forward in the spring.
- **Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.** The manufacturing date on every smoke alarm is located on the back of the device.
- **Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month.** To test the alarms, simply press the test button on each alarm to be sure the alarm is working.
- **When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.**

For questions about smoke alarms and fire safety, contact the Portland Fire Department at 361.643.0155.

MOTHER/SON DANCE - MAY 10

It'll be a "spur-tacular" event when moms and their boys saddle up for this year's rodeo-themed Mother/Son Dance. All school-aged boys and their mom or mom-figure (aunt, grandmother, etc.) are invited.

The annual dance happens on Friday, May 10, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at T.M. Clark Elementary. Tickets are \$15 for each mom/son duo; additional tickets are \$7. Purchase tickets at the Portland Community Center and all Kidz Klub sites. For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 361.777.4670.

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER CLOSURES

City offices, including the Portland Community Center, senior center, and the Bell/Whittington Public Library, will be closed on Friday, April 19, in observance of Good Friday. The Portland Community Center also will be closed on Saturday, April 20, and on Easter Sunday, April 21.

PLAY IT SAFE - MAY 4

On Saturday, May 4, the City of Portland will kick off swim season with its award-winning Play It Safe program, which is geared toward keeping kids safe in and around the family pool. The event will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Portland Aquatic Center, 2002 Billy G. Webb Dr. Play It Safe offers an opportunity to learn about water safety, backyard pool requirements, and how to *play it safe* in and around the water. All children must be accompanied by an adult. (This will be a free swim day at the Aquatic Center.)

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 350 children under the age of five drown in pools each year nationwide. Most of the deaths occur in June, July, and August; most in backyard pools.

In a comprehensive study of drowning incidents involving children under 5 years old, the CPSC found that:

- **Most were young.** 75% of victims were between 1 and 3 years old; 65% of this group were boys.
- **Most were being watched by parents.** At the time of the incidents, most victims were being supervised by one or both parents.
- **Most happen at home.** Incidents usually happen in familiar surroundings. 65% of incidents happen in the family pool and a third of the incidents happen in a pool owned by friends or relatives.
- **Most accidents happen quickly.** A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone.
- **A silent killer.** Child drowning is a silent death. There's no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble.

Play it smart this summer season...join us for Play It Safe. For more information, contact the City of Portland Parks & Recreation Department at 361.777.4670.

