

# TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



## IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Mockingbird Pedestrian Walk
- National Library Week
- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
- The Parks Planter
- HP Happy Healthy Homes
- Fairfax and Douglas Parks
- Love Field Runway Info
- Sign Ordinance Reminder
- April Events Calendar

This newsletter is a service to the residents of the Town of Highland Park to keep you informed of new services, events, activities, and other important information. If there is anything you would like to see covered in the newsletter, please let us know! Contact Holly Russell, Management Assistant at [hrussell@hptx.org](mailto:hrussell@hptx.org), or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



## New Crosswalk at Mockingbird Lane

There is a new pedestrian crosswalk on Mockingbird Lane that connects the new indoor tennis facility with the main campus of the Dallas Country Club (DCC). See Photo 1. This crosswalk allows DCC members to safely cross traffic between the two locations while the aerial pedestrian bridge is being constructed. See Photo 2. The new bridge will go above the tennis courts and connect the indoor tennis facility to the DCC fitness facility. It is projected to take up to two (2) years to complete construction of the pedestrian bridge. Upon completion of the pedestrian bridge, **the street-level crosswalk will be removed.** *Correction made April 6, 2021.*



Photo 1. Rendering of Pedestrian Crosswalk



Photo 2. Architectural Rendering of Pedestrian Bridge



April 4-10, 2021 is National Library Week, a time to highlight the essential role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities. The theme for this year's celebration is "Welcome to Your Library," which promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building. Whether people visit virtually or in person, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community through learning, discovery, and exploration.

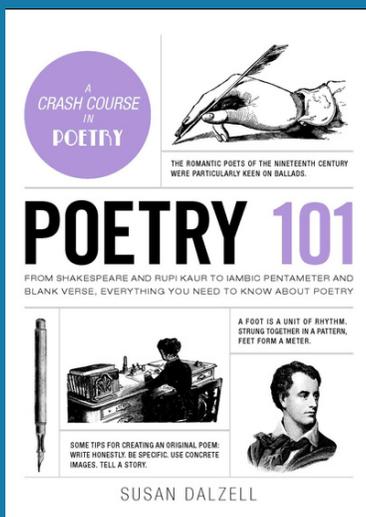
During National Library Week, venture beyond the Library's physical space with a special program and a new service. Join the Library and the Dallas Genealogical Society for the virtual program "Between the Lines: What Your Ancestors Didn't Tell You" on Tuesday, April 6 at 1 p.m. Learn how to get the most from your DNA test results in your genealogy research. Please email [smilberger@hplibrary.info](mailto:smilberger@hplibrary.info) to register.

Check out a new Merge Cube kit to explore augmented reality. Merge Cubes are

specialized cubes that use a form of augmented reality to allow users to manipulate the real world with a smart device, through free apps available for Apple and Android devices, <https://www.hptx.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1067>. Each kit includes a Merge Cube and laminated user guide, packaged in a convenient tote.

Visit the Library's website, [www.hptx.org/106/Library](http://www.hptx.org/106/Library), to access online resources or use the Library's Book Coach service, or to place holds on materials.

## HP Library: What to Read Next



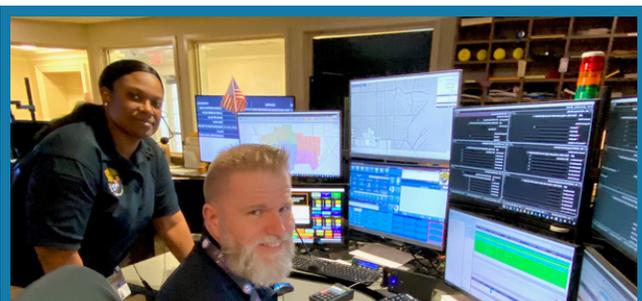
This April is also the 25th anniversary of National Poetry Month. Celebrate by reading *Poetry 101: From Shakespeare and Rupi Kaur to Iambic Pentameter and Blank Verse, Everything You Need to Know About Poetry* by Susan Dalzell. This book is a great introduction to the wonderful world of meter and rhyme and walks readers through the basics of poetry.

Discover inspiration for creating poems while learning about famous poets, as well as poetry movements throughout history. For more information on National Poetry Month, visit The Academy of American Poets' website, <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>, where you can even sign up to receive a poem day in your email.

# National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, Lt. Lance Koppa

During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 11 – 17, the telecommunications personnel in public safety are honored for their service to the community. Telecommunicators (also known as dispatchers) are multi-tasking professionals, and their ability to manage emergency/non-emergency calls and associated radio traffic is extraordinary. Can you imagine answering a critical 9-1-1 call (or in some cases, numerous calls), quickly entering the pertinent information into a computer for dispatching purposes, and transmitting/receiving the radio traffic from public safety personnel? Among the many talents of telecommunicator, let's not forget their ability to remain calm in a crisis.

As part of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, our Communications Specialists wanted to pass along some helpful 9-1-1 reminders to you: 1) Know your location; 2) Text-to-911 is an option for our area if you are unable to communicate by voice; and 3) Is your address written down in an easy to find location for a caregiver who may need to call 9-1-1 in your absence?



## HP DPS COMMUNICATORS

To give you a quick glimpse of the HPDPS Communications Center in 2020, our personnel answered 42,766 phone calls, handled 24,430 alarm events, dispatched 9,229 calls for service (this does not include the 13,512 self-initiated mark-outs by patrol officers), and provided assistance to all those at the walk-up window in the dispatch lobby. We are very proud of the nine Communications Specialists that staff the HPDPS dispatch center and the high level of service they provide 24/7 to the community and staff! Collectively, we view our Communications Specialists as the “first responders for the first responders.”



9

Dispatchers



42,766  
calls answered



24,430  
alarm events



9,229  
calls dispatched

## The Parks Planter: Mike Rangel, Parks Foreman

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February's winter storm caused quite the nutritional strain on all plants. If you have not already given them a healthy fertilizer, now is the time to do it.

The most common nutrients in fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. To know what to feed your plants and trees, you need to know what is already in the soil. In Texas, the clay soil can be rich in potassium and phosphorus levels. It is recommended to have your soil tested by Texas A&M or a local nursery to know what levels your lawn and garden will need, but don't be surprised if the test results recommend a nitrogen only fertilizer.

When is the best time to fertilize? All plants need the extra healthy boost at different times of the year. Most trees, shrubs, vines, and ground cover are fertilized in early and late spring, and a final application in early fall.

Be mindful of how much rainfall the area has had before applying a fertilizer. If the ground is rather waterlogged, wait until most of the moisture has receded.



*Photo from the Texas Discovery Gardens.*

For your lawn, April is a great time to aerate the soil and add seed, plugs, or turf in areas that are bare. Avoid products labeled to "weed and feed" as it can cause runoff of pollutants during rains. These products are also not specialized to your lawn's needs and could damage the lawn instead.

April is a great month to add flowering plants such as marigolds, zinnia, periwinkles, and lisianthus. Some fall-blooming shrubs can be planted at this time of year allow for extra growth before their time to bloom.

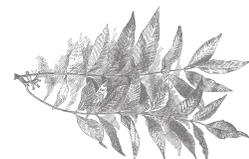
For anyone interested in establishing a floral landscape that promotes butterfly visitation, consider flowers

that have a broad, colorful head that can provide a landing platform. zinnias or daisies are popular flowers for butterfly gardens. Native Texas plants favorite to butterflies are Texas lantana, milkweed, black-eyed Susan, and the eastern purple coneflower. These colorful blooms are also very fragrant!

If you would like to know more about having your soil tested, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has information online at <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/soil-testing/>

To learn more about creating a butterfly garden, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's web site, <https://www.wildflower.org/learn/how-to/make-a-butterfly-garden>

The Texas Discovery Garden at Fair Park is a great place to get started for ideas and get younger family members involved and learn about nature. Visit their information page at <https://txdg.org/butterfly-garden>





# HAPPY HEALTHY HOMES



**Park Cities Recycling  
Drop Off Collection Event  
April 17, 2021 | 8 am - 1 pm**

3001 University Blvd.  
SMU parking lot near Burleson Park

**Household Hazard Waste  
Drop Off Collection Event  
May 08, 2021 | 9 am - 1 pm**

3801 Lexington Ave.  
Across from the HP Swimming Pool  
Registration suggested

## For more information

Town Customer Service (214) 521-4161  
Monday -Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For your safety and ours, all personnel working the event will be wearing facial coverings when they remove items from your vehicle. Please stay in your vehicle as your items are being removed.

## Recyclables

Saturday, April 17, 2021 - 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- **Paper** products and documents
- **E-waste items include:** Computers, computer accessories, TV's, printers, DVD/CD players, copiers, fax machines, scanners, cell phones and chargers, external hard drives, video and camera equipment, video game systems, cables, power cords, power strips and more

## Organizations

- **Shred-it** will collect and shred all documents on-site.
- **Global Asset** collects and disposes of all E-waste items using Department of Defense security standards.
- **Salvation Army** will collect items in working condition, that have all parts and accessories. Clothing items must not be torn or stained.

## Hazardous Items For Disposal

Saturday, May 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Kitchen:

Drain cleaner  
Oven cleaner  
Floor cleaner  
Disinfectant  
Ammonia

### Bathroom:

Nail polish/remover  
Drain cleaner  
Pharmaceuticals  
Disinfectant Sprays  
Aerosol sprays

### Living Room:

Furniture polish  
Spot remover

### Lawn & Garden:

Weed killers  
Insecticides  
Flea spray/collars  
Motor oil & Gasoline  
Antifreeze  
Pool chemicals

### Laundry Room:

Bleach

### Craft or Work Room:

Paint  
Varnish  
Paint thinner  
Household batteries  
Furniture stripper

### Garage:

Paint  
Varnish  
Paint thinner  
Household batteries  
Furniture stripper

### Other:

A hazardous product has one or more of these "signal" words on the label:

CAUTION  
WARNING  
DANGER  
POISON  
FLAMMABLE  
REACTIVE  
CORROSIVE  
TOXIC

Space is limited.  
Register by calling  
214-521-4161



## Fairfax Park - Capital Improvements Update

Fairfax Park has undergone much renovation over the last few months. An upgraded irrigation system has been installed, the surface graded, and new sod laid down. The field is in its resting period to allow the sod to take root and make the turf ready for summer play. Around the field, new sidewalks were installed that circle the field and make a great walking trail. They are also wide enough for ADA accessibility.

A utility line was required to be relocated since its current location would be under the new tennis courts. After months of waiting on the specific parts to upgrade the line and due to poor weather conditions preventing crews from working on the relocation, the line is now moved with minimal disruption of service to residents. Construction crews have done water injections on the earthen materials where the foundations of the courts will be built. Once the ground is satisfactory for the courts, the foundation will be laid, and the courts constructed.

## Douglas Park - Capital Improvements Update

In late February 2021, improvements began in Douglas Park. Utilities have cut back the overgrowth of trees to clear the power lines, and work on other utility infrastructure has begun. Behind the scenes, landscape architects and Town staff are meeting to discuss the final details for the beautification of Douglas Park. This project is scheduled to be complete in early Summer 2021.



Artist's rendering of Douglas Park

## Love Field Runway Construction Information

Residents can expect an increase in flights taking off and landing from the Lemmon Runway (13L-31R) at Dallas Love Field the next several months. The adjustment is needed to accommodate the reconstruction of the Denton Runway (13R-31L). At 8,800 feet, the Denton Runway is the Airport's longest runway and has outlived its design life. Dallas Love Field reports the new runway will be safer for modern air travel. Reconstruction of the Denton Runway begins this April and will require approximately 10 months to complete. Included with the work is improvements to an adjoining taxiway and an adjoining vehicle service road.

Even though the runway had received significant upgrades in 1990 to keep with current aviation standards and practices, this necessary project to repair the natural degradation from use includes repaving the 8,000-foot runway, and updates to drainage and electrical systems. The runway will have better edge and centerline lights and a new Precision Approach Path Indicator when complete. To read more about the project, please visit: <https://www.dallas-lovefield.com/airport-info/airport-projects/runway-reconstruction>.

Do not forget that Dallas Love Field's *Noise Lab* (<https://dal.noiselab.casper.aero/>) is a valuable tool to obtain additional information. There, you can view information regarding aviation noise or the Voluntary Noise Control Program. Noise Lab allows you to obtain reports, view noise and runway closure information, and view archived documents such as: LFEAC (Love Field Environmental Advisory Committee) presentations, Annual DNL Contour Reports and Newsletters.

## Reconstruction of Runway 13R-31L & Taxiway Charlie - Phase 1



Image from <https://www.dallas-lovefield.com/airport-info/airport-projects/runway-reconstruction>

## Signs in Highland Park

Springtime means all things colorful are popping up! Please make sure it is only flowers that are blooming, to keep Highland Park beautiful. With warmer weather we begin to see more yard signs being placed in the parkways. Please remember that commercial signs are not allowed, and some signs will require a permit. Please keep all signs out of the parkways, which is the green space between the sidewalk and the curb. If you have any questions about yard signs, please call Customer Service during normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at (214) 521-4161.

# APRIL CALENDAR



**Every Month** Every **Thursday at 10 AM:** Baby Bounce Story Time, Library  
Every **Friday at 10 AM:** Pawsome Tales Story Time, Library  
Watch live on the Friends of the Highland Park Library Facebook Page

## April 4 - 10 National Library Week



**April 6, Tuesday** **Town Council Meeting & Study Session**  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Link to watch live stream is available on Town website  
<https://www.hptx.org/914/Public-Meetings-During-COVID-19-Pandemic>

## April 11 - 17 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

**April 17, Saturday** **Park Cities Recycling Event**  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 3001 University Blvd., in the SMU parking lot across from Burleson Park  
Bring any recyclable items, as well as documents for shredding.

**April 17, Saturday** **Virtual Crafternoon with UPPL and HPL**  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Email [lcollins@hplibrary.info](mailto:lcollins@hplibrary.info) by Friday, April 16, to receive the meeting code and password, and to reserve and pick up a To-Go Craft Kit at the Library before the program.

**April 20, Tuesday** **Town Council Meeting & Study Session**  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Link to watch live stream is available on Town website  
<https://www.hptx.org/914/Public-Meetings-During-COVID-19-Pandemic>

**April 27, Saturday** **Animal Super Powers!** A virtual presentation - HP Library  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Email [lcollins@hplibrary.info](mailto:lcollins@hplibrary.info) for the link. Presentation by All About Animals.



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(214) 521-4161