

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



IN A PECAN SHELL:

- New Ordinance #2080
- Town Council Meetings
- Mark Your Calendars
- Service Recognitions
- Waste Not, Want Not
- The Parks Planter
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Magazines In Your Hands
- Virtual Field Trip
- What to Read Next
- Labor Day Information
- Septemebr Pool Schedule
- September 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 hussell@hptx.org, or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



New Ordinance In Effect

At the August 6, 2021, meeting, the Town Council adopted standards regulating the placement of certain decorations in front and side yards. The topic among neighbors and officials exposed the difficulty the Town faced with current regulations. While recognizing it being a difficult subject, Mayor Goodwin said the standards adopted by the Town Council strikes a good balance between a homeowner's personal likes and community standards.

Residents may place statues/sculptures, topiaries, pots, planters, containers, and other similar free-standing landscape receptacles in the front yard and side yards that are visible from a public roadway. The placement of the item(s) must be 5% or less of the yard area. Holiday decorations displayed between November 15 to January 6 of each year are exempt. Also excluded are any architectural features and/or extensions of the house.

The new ordinance also limits the number of certain items in the visible yards. No roadway-visible front or side yard is allowed to have more than one statue/sculpture, topiary, pot, planter, container, or other similar free-standing receptacle per 100 square feet of yard area. Topiaries, pots, planters, and other free-standing landscape containers are required to have year-round living vegetation. Additional information and graphics explaining the regulations are available on the Town's website at www.hptx.org.

Citizens may call the Town's Code Compliance Department at 214-559-9354 with any questions or if needing further clarification of the new regulations. A copy of the ordinance is available on the Town's website at <https://www.hptx.org/313/Code-of-Ordinances>.

Town Council to Resume In-Person Meetings

The Town Council will resume in-person public meetings beginning with the Tuesday, September 7, 2021, study session and regular meeting. As virtual meetings will no longer be provided; the Town Council welcomes citizens to attend its meetings in-person. Social distancing standards will be adhered to with seating spaced minimally six-feet apart. Respecting the health and safety of others, the public is strongly encouraged to wear a face mask while in Town Hall. Town Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m., and only the first Tuesday in November and December. Meetings take place on the second floor of Town Hall, located at 4700 Drexel Drive. Meeting agendas are available at <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>. For more information, visit <https://www.hptx.org/338/Mayor-Town-Council> or call Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary, at 214-559-9457 during regular business hours.

Special Events Coming Soon

Douglas and Fairfax Parks

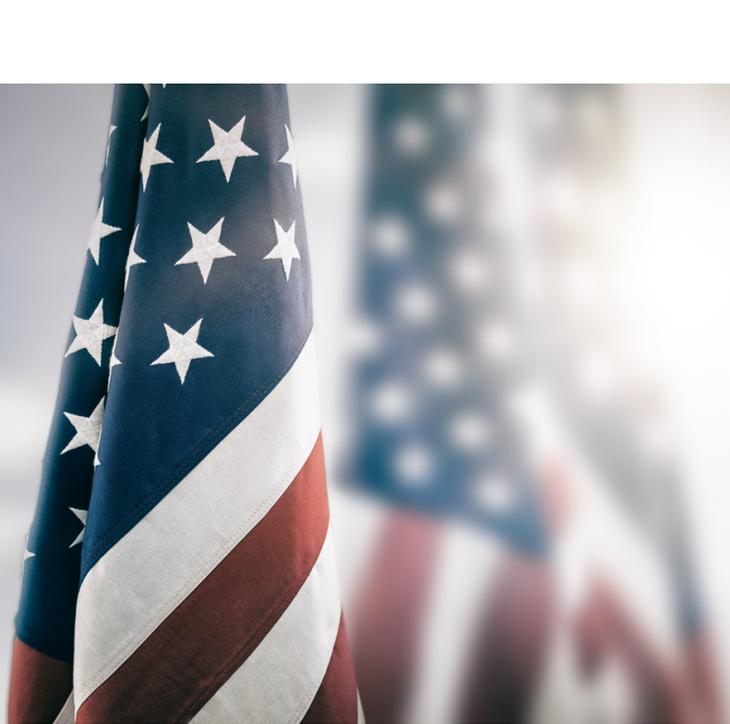
We are as excited and anxious as you to see the completion of Douglas and Fairfax Parks. However, due to the blessing of so much rainy weather this summer, much of the construction had to be placed on hold for sunnier days. Landscaping is still being set in place, and both parks look green and lush with nature's beauty. Be on watch for announcements on social media, the Town's website, and Blue Zone news for ribbon cutting ceremonies for both parks. We anticipate these being held on separate Saturdays in October; but as with everything else, it is all "weather permitting"!

Drug Take Back Day

Start gathering up your old prescriptions and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals so that you can turn them in at the HPDPS Drug Take Back event. Help to keep medicines out of the hands of children. The drop off time will be 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at HPDPS, 4700 Drexel Drive. As always, there is a drop box located in the HPDPS lobby for dropping items off any day.

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event & Park Cities Recycling Event

October 23 will be the Fall - HHW event for residents to drop-off any materials that cannot go into the regular trash collection. Registration is highly encouraged, and will be available soon. The Park Cities Recycling event will be in early November, just in time to clean out for the holidays. More information will come soon.



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Highland Park DPS, University Park Police and Fire, and SMU Police will be hosting a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday, September 10th. It will begin at 8:45 a.m., and conclude around 9:45 a.m. The program will take place at the SMU flag pole grounds, 6200 Bishop Blvd.

HP Awarded for Stellar Services

Our staff do their best to provide high quality, professional service to all residents and visitors to the Town of Highland Park. Several of these Departments request to be reviewed by professional organizations to rate the quality of service provided, and to give recommendations for improvement. For Fiscal Year 2021, two departments received outstanding recognition for their efforts.

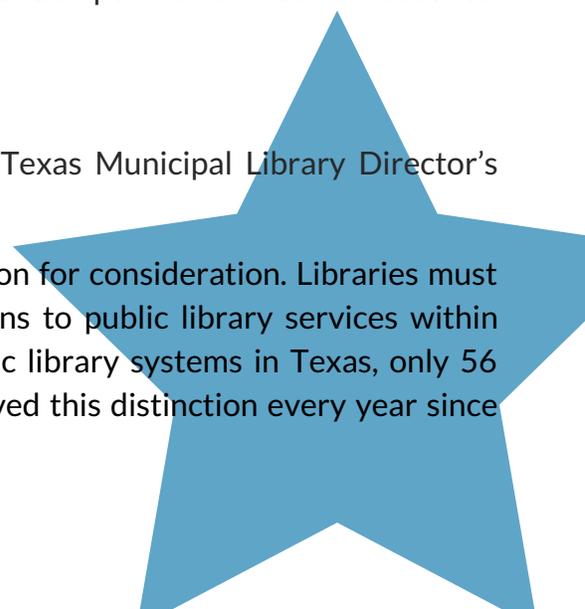
Finance Department

- [Distinguished Budget Presentation Award](#) from the Government Finance Officers Association. Finance has received this recognition every year since 1994.
- [Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#) from the Government Finance Officers Association. Finance has received this recognition every year since 1982.
- [Certification of Investment Policy](#) from the Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas. This is the first time Finance has received this certification.
- [Traditional Finances Transparency Star](#) awarded by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Finance has received this recognition every year since 2018.

Highland Park Harvey R. "Bum" Bright Library

- [2020 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award](#) from the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association

This award is granted to public libraries that submit an application for consideration. Libraries must demonstrate consistent excellence and outstanding contributions to public library services within their communities based on ten service areas. Of the 568 public library systems in Texas, only 56 libraries received the award for 2020. The HP Library has received this distinction every year since 2005.



Waste Not, Want Not:

Proper Disposal of Items Can Help Conserve Our Resources

Down the Drain

Just because it can go down a drain, doesn't mean that it should. Certain items that should otherwise be in the trash or taken to a recycling facility can cause costly repairs. Finally, these items should never be put into the water system simply because of the harmful environmental impact to nature and to people.

Here is a simple list of what NOT to put down a drain:

- "Flushable" wipes
- Paper towels
- Hygiene and personal care products
- Fats, Oils, Grease
- Food scraps
- Medicines
- Cleaning products
- Chemicals

Paper products and food scraps can be placed in the trash. Some scraps like egg shells, coffee grinds, and vegetable cuttings make great compost for gardens. Any items with chemicals or oils and grease need to be recycled. You can drop them off at the local collection center, or collect them for the Household Hazardous Waste event. Medicines can be dropped off at the deposit in the DPS lobby, 24 hours - 7 days a week.

For helpful hints, information, and map to a recycling center, please visit <https://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/>

Residential Trash & Recycling Collection

The Town of Highland Park contracts with Republic Services to pick up trash, brush, bulk trash, and recycling during the week. This service is set up with the Customer Service Department in Town Hall when you establish your water service.

Items for garbage collection need to be placed by the parkway or alley by 7:00 a.m. Collection is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. For customers identified for the pack-out service, Republic Sanitation will bring the poly-cart forward and then return it to its place. These are addresses that do not have an alley, and the fee is slightly higher for the service.

Recycling is collected Wednesdays, and needs to be placed on the parkway by 7:00 a.m. You can recycle paper; cardboard; plastics marked with 1, 2, or 5; food/beverage aluminum cans; and clear, green, or brown glass. Please rinse all containers clean and remove the lids. Only bag paper items in a clear plastic bag if it is raining, otherwise everything can be loose in the recycling bin.

For any hazardous household waste, please collect the items to turn in during the Town's collection events, or they can be taken to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center located at 11234 Plano Road.

For more information, please visit <https://www.hptx.org/513/Sanitation-Services>

The Parks Planter: Pollinators

The world needs pollinators, and the pollinators need us. Any green space can be beautified and fortified by adding the colorful plants that attract colorful pollinators. Luckily, Texas has many beautiful native plants that attract these fun and fascinating creatures.

Homeowners can assist the survival of our ecosystem and these essential environmental workers simply by planting and maintaining the greenery that facilitates pollination activity. So much of our agriculture and economy depend on pollination by insects and animals, that if they were to dwindle down our environment and food supply would struggle to meet demand. Pollination helps the plants to reproduce. The more plants there are the more our earth remains stable with roots holding soil in place to prevent erosion, the more oxygen can be produced from carbon dioxide we are rapidly producing, and we can continue to enjoy all those healthy fruits and grains that require pollination to grow. All of this, and many more benefits, can all be facilitated just by adding some native color to our landscapes.



Photo from the Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park, Dallas.

Some of the easiest pollinators to attract in Texas are hummingbirds, bees, and the many butterflies. With the right selection of plants, you may even get to catch a glimpse of the monarch migrations as they swarm through the area to partake of the natural plants and the nectar they offer.

Great choices for pollinators:

- Verbena
- Coral vine
- Gregg's Mist Flower
- Fragrant Mist Flower
- Salvia
- Honeysuckle
- Morning Glory
- Butterfly Weed
- Milkweed
- Maximillian Sunflower
- Penta
- Zinnia
- Trumpet Vines

The Town has many of these plants in the parks, and a good mix of them attract all types. The best placement of your pollinator garden would be a low-traffic area where it can be undisturbed. Close to your back patio where you might host a party is not ideal.

To attract hummingbirds, be sure to select vibrant flowers that have a deep trumpet-shape, such as a trumpet vine. Butterflies like the bright colored flowers that have a broad petal for landing like the Indian Paintbrush; and Monarchs only lay their eggs on milkweed. Refrain from using pesticides on these plants, as they have caused a great decline in butterfly and bee population. And never forget, a pollinator garden is one of the best educational tools you can have to teach about nature, wildlife, ecosystems, flora and fauna. It's a whole classroom in your yard.

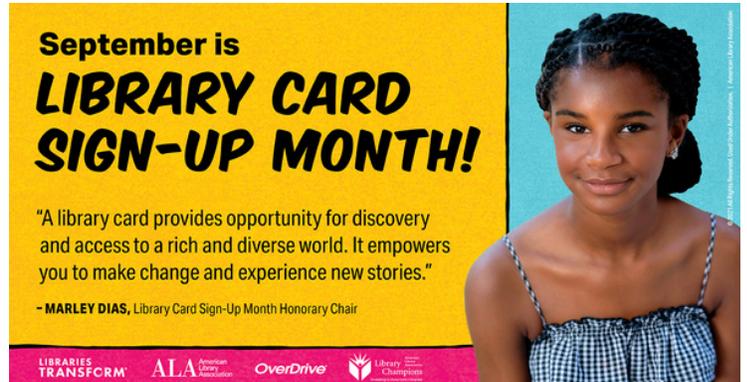
For more information, please check out these expert websites:

- [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)
- [Monarch Watch](#)
- [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)

Go on a Lifelong Learning Adventure

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the Highland Park Harvey R. "Bum" Bright Library joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning. This year, Marley Dias, founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, author and executive producer, is taking on a new role as honorary chair of Library Card Sign-Up Month and promoting the power of a library card this September.

Through access to technology, media resources, and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions. With a library card, you can discover new and exciting worlds! From borrowing audiobooks to finding online homework help to attending virtual Do-It-Yourself classes, there is so much you can access with a library card. Need a library card? There is no charge for a library card if you are a resident of the Town of Highland Park. Apply in person, online, or by phone. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/hplapply> or call (214) 559-9400 for more information.



**September is
LIBRARY CARD
SIGN-UP MONTH!**

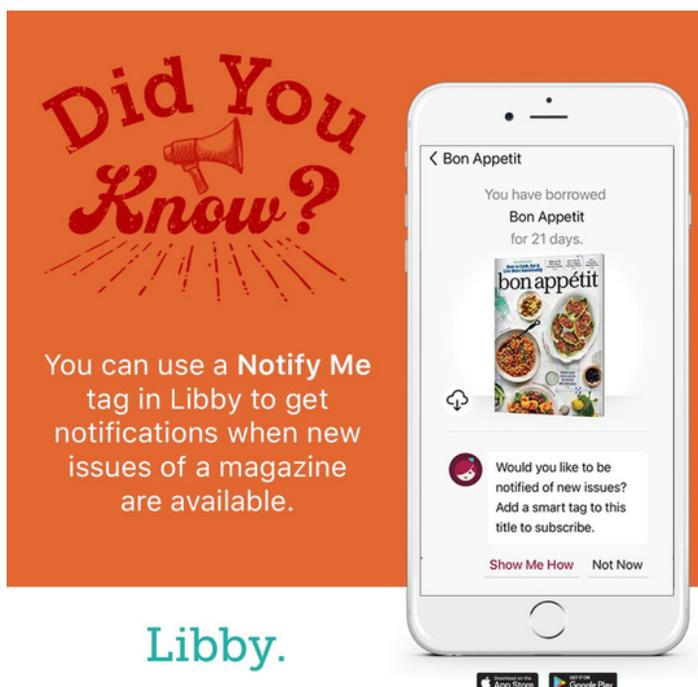
"A library card provides opportunity for discovery and access to a rich and diverse world. It empowers you to make change and experience new stories."

— MARLEY DIAS, Library Card Sign-Up Month Honorary Chair

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM™ ALA American Library Association OverDrive Library Champions

Libby Has Magazines Too!

Read digital magazines alongside eBooks and eAudiobooks on the Library's OverDrive webpage, <https://highlandparktexas.overdrive.com/>, or in the Libby app, <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>. Library cardholders can use their library card number and PIN to download and read over 3,000 popular magazines on any device 24/7. Some example titles include: Better Homes and Gardens, Car and Driver, Cook's Illustrated, The Economist, Fast Company, Rolling Stone, Vogue, and Wired. Digital magazines have no wait lists or holds, so titles are always available. Readers can also download magazines to the Libby app for offline use. Magazines titles will automatically expire at the end of the reader's lending period, so there are no late fees. Visit the Library's eBooks & More webpage, <https://www.hptx.org/170/eBooks-More> to learn about a variety of digital resources for library cardholders.



Did You Know?

You can use a **Notify Me** tag in Libby to get notifications when new issues of a magazine are available.

Libby.

Bon Appetit

You have borrowed **Bon Appetit** for 21 days.

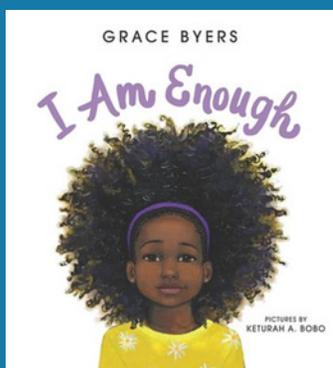
Would you like to be notified of new issues? Add a smart tag to this title to subscribe.

Show Me How Not Now

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Virtual Field Trip to the Nasher

Go on a Virtual Architecture Field Trip with the Nasher Sculpture Center – On Tuesday, September 14 at 6 p.m., adults and families can join staff from the Nasher Sculpture Center for an interactive, virtual tour focused on the building's architecture. Participants will learn the stories behind the decisions made by architect Renzo Piano, discover hidden features in the building and garden, and connect the Nasher's architecture to locations around the world. You'll have fun with a sketching challenge, so bring a ruler, pencil, eraser, and paper. If you have colored pencils, pens, or markers, you can use them as well. Registration required. Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nasher-virtual-field-trip-architecture-tickets-164013192875> to register. This free online event will use GoToMeeting. No library card required.



HP Library: What to Read Next

I Am Enough, by Grace Byers and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, is a poetic expression about self-esteem, love, and friendships. The lyrical text makes for a wonderful read-aloud selection. The title is also featured in the Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices series on Netflix, which is presented by Marley Dias.

Would you like additional reading recommendations? Visit the Library's website, <https://tx-highlandpark.civicplus.com/866/What-to-Read-Next>, to access online resources and video book talks or use the Library's Book Coach service, <https://www.hptx.org/FormCenter/Library-3/Book-Coach-112>, to receive personalized reading recommendations.



September Pool Schedule

Lap Swim

- Tuesday - Sunday
- 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 am

Open Swim

- 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday

Labor Day Hours, September 6

- Lap Swim 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 am
- Open Swim 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



Every Month **Every Thursday at 10 AM:** Baby Bounce Story Time, Library - Watch live on the Friends of the Highland Park Library Facebook Page
Every Friday at 9:30 AM: Story Time in Prather Park, Library

September 7, Tues. 8:00 a.m. Town Council Meeting & Study Session, Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Increase

This will be an in-person meeting at Town Hall. Masks and social distancing practices are highly encouraged.
<https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>

September 10, Fri. 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

8:45 a.m. This ceremony includes the HPDPS, UP Police & Fire, and SMU Police. The event will be held on the SMU campus, 6142 Bishop Blvd.

Town Council Meeting

September 14, Tues. 8:00 a.m. This special meeting will be an in-person meeting at Town Hall. Masks and social distancing practices are highly encouraged.
<https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>

Nasher Sculpture Center Virtual Field Trip - Library

September 14, Tues. 6:00 p.m. An interactive, virtual tour focused on the architecture of the Center. Email rcross@hplibrary.info to register.

DIY Spa Day - Library

September 18, Sat. 11:00 a.m. Tina Ames with Sweet Home Bath and Body will teach how to create your own facial clay mask and bath bombs. Ages 18 and up. Email rcross@hplibrary.info for registration information.

Town Council Meeting & Study Session

September 21, Tues. 8:00 a.m. Meeting & Study Session will be an in-person meeting at Town Hall. Masks and social distancing practices are highly encouraged.
<https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>

Pecos Bill Puppet Show - Library

September 25, Sat. 2:00 p.m. This puppet show is overflowing with Texas-size fun. Meet cowboy "Pecos Bill" as he rides the twister, befriends a rattlesnake, howls with the coyotes, tames a wild mustang, and more. Email llcollins@hplibrary.info to register. Limited to 20 participants.



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[hptx.org](http://www.hptx.org)



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