

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



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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, or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



Parks to Reopen

We are very excited to announce that both Fairfax and Douglas Parks' construction is complete, and the final touches are being made in anticipation of officially opening them to the public this month. To celebrate with all of you, the Town is planning ribbon cutting ceremonies on Saturday, October 16. Douglas Park will be ceremonially opened at 9:00 a.m., and Fairfax Park will follow at 10:30 a.m. Mayor Goodwin will share remarks and then the ribbon will be cut. We encourage you to RSVP to one or celebrations by emailing Holly Russell, Management Assistant, at hrussell@hptx.org, though it is not required.

Reservations for Tennis Courts #3, #4, and #5 are now available. Those who wish to reserve the court marked for Pickleball should reserve Court #5. Reservations are made online at <https://www.hptx.org/recreation>. Residents must have a 2021 Tennis Permit to utilize the courts for Tennis or Pickleball.

The play field at Fairfax Park is still establishing a strong foundation. While residents may certainly walk on the field, there will be no games or practices allowed until spring of 2022. We want to ensure the best play field surface for our youth sports players.

Utility Rate Increase

The Town Council approved a 3% rate adjustment in water and sewer services effective October 1, 2021. This adjustment supports operational costs and capital projects related to the Town's water and sewer utility system. An adjustment to solid waste rates of approximately 3.9% was also approved, and is directly related to increased costs passed through from the Town's third-party solid waste provider. For more information, please visit the Town's website at www.hptx.org or contact Customer Service at 214-521-4161.

Dallas Love Field Needs Your Opinion

Love Field and the City of Dallas' Department of Aviation have had the Noise Program in operation in response to locals' concerns with the noise levels of airplanes. The Town has been submitting resident complaints of airplane noise to this service since the start. Now is the time to make your voice heard about the program. You can complete the short, online survey at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nnA1KQzBCUijAoUtNp-HAP9zZ0CwNI1Hotce8gfozNxUNU9LSkxQMIpZSFQ3VktHV1JMSExOMEpJRS4u>

If you have never utilized NoiseLab, we encourage you to visit the website. You can view real time flights and obtain information on a specific aircraft in the DFW metroplex by viewing the **Flight Tracker**, can submit a noise complaint, and can access much more information at the NoiseLab website: <https://dal.noiselab.casper.aero/>

Special Events Coming Soon

Douglas Park and Fairfax Park Opening

Our two parks that have been closed for redesign are open! We are scheduling ribbon cutting ceremonies for these parks for Saturday, October 16, weather permitting. Douglas Park ribbon cutting presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. The ribbon cutting presentation for Fairfax Park will be at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, and we encourage you to RSVP by email to hrussell@hptx.org.

National 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 on Saturday, October 23. 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 Town's HHW collection event for the fall. You may come by 3801 Lexington Avenue between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to drop off your hazardous waste materials. You may also reserve an appointment time, which is highly encouraged, by calling Customer Service at (214) 521-4161 during normal business hours. The Park Cities Recycling event is currently being planned for Saturday, November 6. It will be held at 3001 University Blvd.

Council Meeting Recap

In September, the Town Council went back to meeting in person. The Town Council regular meetings are normally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m.; with the months of March, November, and December scheduled only for the first Tuesday of the month. Special sessions will be announced as they are scheduled. Any one may join the meetings at Town Hall, on the second floor. Town Hall is located at 4700 Drexel Drive. **The regularly scheduled October 5 Meeting has been cancelled.**

Last month, the Highland Park Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was recognized and presented with a proclamation for Constitution Week. Pictured are (l to r) Mayor Goodwin, M. Baker, F. Grigsby, and J. Harrison. A proclamation for Library Card Sign-up Month was also presented to Kortney Nelson, Town Librarian. All residents are encouraged to get a Library Card to get access to many great online resources for school, work, and relaxation. There are many great reads to check out as well.



Dr. Micheal McCullough was appointed the Town's Local Health Authority at the Town Council Meeting held on September 21, 2021. Dr. McCullough has been serving the Town as the Local Health Authority for the past 29 years.

Also during the September Council Meetings, the Town's budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was adopted. The budget and current financial reports may be accessed online at <https://www.hptx.org/216/Budget-Financial-Reports>. An update to the Town's *Fee Schedule* will also go into effect on October 1, 2021. Updates were to the Water rates to keep up with standard inflation costs. You may download the full fee schedule from the Town's website at <https://www.hptx.org/314/Fee-Schedule-PDF>.

To view adopted meeting minutes from past Town Council Meetings, view upcoming meeting agendas, or submit a public comment to the Town Council, please visit <https://www.hptx.org/338/Mayor-Town-Council> for more information and to access these documents.



Good To Know:



If You Like It, Lock It

Everyone, please remember every time you exit your vehicle or leave your home to lock your doors.

Most burglary of vehicles offenses are opportunistic crimes, such as unlocked vehicles and valuable items left in plain view. Every year, many valuables are stolen from vehicles. Help keep everyone safe by locking your vehicle and if possible, take your gun with you if you are carrying one. If you are home, take your gun inside and store it in a secure place. Remember to take valuable items out of your vehicle or to at least hide them.

Most Burglary of residences occur when doors and windows are left unlocked. Please remember to shut your garages and lock your doors, windows, and fence gates to ensure your safety and secure your possessions.

Today's modern conveniences of technology allow us to lock our vehicles and shut our garages with a press of a button. A door or gate can be locked with the simple turn of a key. Taking the few seconds to lock your property will greatly reduce the chances of becoming a victim of theft.



Rentals and Signage

Short-Term Rentals

Did you know the Town's zoning regulations do not allow short-term rentals (STR)? Sometimes called a vacation rental, an STR is the rental of a residential dwelling or swimming pool on a temporary basis for periods of less than 30 consecutive days by the public. The Town's zoning regulations prohibits STRs to minimize negative ancillary impacts on surrounding properties.

Commercial Yard Signs

One can quickly see with a short drive around town the pride exhibited by residents in the upkeep and appearance of their homes. Like STR's, the Zoning Ordinance prohibits companies from temporarily placing commercial signs in a yard. A few examples of these types of prohibited signs include roof repairs, Christmas lighting, and landscaping.

While "For Sale" signs are allowed, it is asked that the sign be removed a few days following the property being sold. An important part of selling a home is sometimes hosting an open house. Please know, the placing of an "Open House" sign in the parkway, the area between the sidewalk and street curb, is prohibited.

Citizens may call the Town's Code Compliance Department at 214-559-9409 or email mkuebler@hptx.org with any questions, if needing further clarification, or to report possible zoning violations. A copy of current ordinances are available on the Town's website at <https://www.hptx.org/313/Code-of-Ordinances>.

HPCAN

Outreach & Volunteer Efforts for HP and Our Neighboring Communities

Highland Park Community Assisting Neighbors (HPCAN) committee is a Town of Highland Park employee initiative focused on community outreach and volunteerism with the goal of identifying and organizing ways for Town employees to positively affect the lives and wellbeing of individuals in our area.

Since its inaugural food drive in October 2016, HPCAN has reached out to address many issues and align with a variety of causes to help raise awareness for and support of organizations in our community. HPCAN volunteers have joined together for projects, such as:

- Painting a nursery at Family Gateway, which is a non-profit organization located in downtown Dallas, that provides stability and life-changing supportive services to children and families affected by homelessness.
- Preparing meals four times a year for residents of the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, which supports the health and well-being of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment in the Dallas area by providing them and their families a home-away-from-home.
- Cleaning outdoor areas and yards for elderly residents of Highland Park.
- And many more projects.



2020 Annual Food Drive

In addition, HPCAN members have organized and coordinated community-wide drives and campaigns, including:

- Annual food drives, which benefit a different food pantry or organization each year.
- Blood drives at Town Hall in partnership with Carter Blood Care.
- Coat drives for various organizations who provide a safe haven for homeless and at-risk individuals of Dallas.
- Donation campaigns to benefit Carry the Load, which is a non-profit organization that provides an active way to connect Americans to the sacrifices made daily by our military, veterans, first responders and their families; the Susan G. Komen organization and breast cancer research; the Urology Research and Education Foundation and prostate cancer research; and more.
- Holiday toy drives for The Family Place, which empowers victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling, and skills that create independence; and Toys for Tots, which provides underprivileged children a brighter Christmas.

HPCAN (continued)

- Spring Break snack drive for students at Ben Milan Elementary School; in which volunteers collected the materials for and assembled snack packs for students to take home over Spring Break.

HPCAN is currently preparing to launch its annual food drive which will benefit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Dallas this year. Collections will be taken at Town Hall from **October 23 - November 13**. We cannot thank the community enough for all the generosity and benevolence for making these efforts such a success. For more information on HPCAN please contact Kelle Hall, Communications Manager, at 214-521-5000 or via email at khall@hpdps.org.



Coat Drive Success!



Meals cooked and prepped for dinner, Ronald McDonald House



HPCAN partnered with the Moody Family YMCA to collect snacks for Spring Break

HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

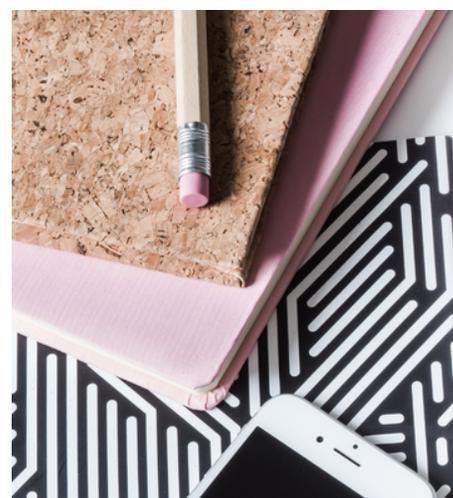
October is National Family History Month. On Saturday, October 23 at 11:00 a.m., join us for tips and resources to unearth your family history. Learn about the basics of conducting genealogy and family history research and the Library resources to help you along the way, as well as free online tools and repositories. Advance registration is required. Seating is limited. Ages 18 and up, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/genealogy-basics-at-hpl-tickets-173035101647?aff=HPL> to register.



Celebrate TeenTober with the Library. TeenTober, which is a nationwide initiative developed by the Young Adult Library Services Association and hosted by libraries every October, aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services, and the innovative ways libraries help teens learn new skills to fuel their passions in and outside the library. Discover exciting physical and digital resources and activities for teens at the Highland Park Library. Check out a Merge Cube Kit and discover the power of augmented reality by holding and interacting with 3D virtual objects in the palm of your hand.

Create, code, and built circuits with the Library's Teen Tech Kits, including an Ozobot Kit and LittleBits Coding Kit. Merge Cube Kits and Tech Kits, which are funded by the Highland Park Quality of Life Foundation and The Friends of the Highland Park Library through La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas, are available for check out at the Library.

Recruitment 101: Be Prepared In Person Workshop - Teens, register for the Recruitment 101: Be Prepared workshop, which will take place on Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the University Park Public Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza, Suite 200. Recruitment expert, Shay Sides, will present helpful tips on preparing for college sorority recruitment. To register for this in-person workshop, please email info@uptexas.org. This program is from the University Park Public Library and the Highland Park Library.



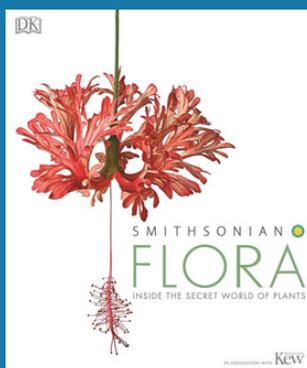
Get Homework Help with Your HP Library Card - The Library has physical and digital homework help resources for students of all ages. Find the books you need to help supplement learning skills and complex concepts. The Education Collection is located in the Fireside Room on the first floor of the HP Library. It includes books and DVDs to help students and parents with school success. The materials cover kindergarten to twelfth grade.

Access online databases and reference materials 24 hours, 7 days a week with your HP Library card number and PIN, <https://www.hptx.org/864/Homework-Help>. Example online homework help resources include:



- [HelpNow](#) - Students in kindergarten through introductory college can receive assistance from live, online tutors using an interactive, virtual whiteboard to chat, write, draw, and copy/paste. Tutors are available online Monday through Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- [Oposing Viewpoints In Context](#) - A rich resource for debaters and general researchers, which includes pro/con viewpoints, reference articles, interactive maps, infographics, and more.
- [Explora Public Libraries](#) - Provides easy-to-use features and reliable content from the world's leading magazines and reference books, grouped into easy-to-browse categories. Users can search by keyword or by topic.

HP Library: What to Read Next



Leaf through a good book this fall. [Flora: Inside the Secret World of Plants](#), written in partnership by editors at Smithsonian and experts from The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, guides you around the beautiful and mysterious world that is the plant kingdom. The work features stunning botanical paintings, as well as unbelievable photographs. Quick fact: Did you know raffia palm tree leaves can grow to more than 82 feet in length? Check out [Flora](#) to learn even more interesting facts about the natural world.

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.

OCTOBER 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

October 2, Saturday 2:00 p.m. **Family Movie Matinee** - Library
Join the Library for a movie matinee with fall themed crafts. Limited to 20 participants, please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register.

October 8, Friday 9:30 a.m. **Fire Prevention Story Time** - Library & HPDPS
Bring a blanket to Prather Park and join Miss Laura and Firefighter Mike for Fire Prevention Story Time! In case of bad weather, story time will be cancelled.

October 9, Saturday 11:00 a.m. **Pencil Copperplate Calligraphy Course** - Library
Join Andrea Tosten with Oil & Cotton and learn the basics of copperplate-style script in this hands-on workshop. Ages 18 and older. Registration required. Please email hplibrary@hplibrary.info.

October 16, Saturday 9:00 a.m. **Ribbon Cutting for Douglas Park**
Join the Mayor, Town Council, and staff as we celebrate the opening of the newly redesigned Douglas Park. RSVP encouraged, please email hussell@hptx.org.

October 16, Saturday 10:30 a.m. **Ribbon Cutting for Fairfax Park**
Join the Mayor, Town Council, and staff as we celebrate the opening of the newly redesigned Fairfax Park. RSVP encouraged, please email hussell@hptx.org.

October 19, Tuesday 8:00 a.m. **Town Council Meeting & Study Session**
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>

October 23, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **National Drug Take Back Day** - HPDPS
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. There will be a locked drop box at Town Hall that day, or there is always a drop box in the DPS Lobby.

October 23, Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** - 3801 Lexington
Round up your hazardous chemicals and wastes to bring to the collection event, located at the parking for the HP Swimming Pool. Reservations are highly encouraged by calling Customer Service, (214) 521-4161.

October 23, Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Genealogy Basics** - Library
October is National Family History Month. Discover resources and tips to help research your family history. Ages 18 and older. Registration required, please email hplibrary@hplibrary.info.



@HP_Texas



@HPDPS_TX



hptx.org



(214) 521-4161