

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](mailto:h russell@hptx.org), or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



Run, Run As Fast As You Can!

The Dallas BMW Marathon make its return this month, and is celebrating 50 years! Established in 1971 by like-minded runners, the marathon grew in popularity as being an excellent race. Originally known as the Dallas White Rock Marathon, the start/finish location was moved to the heart of downtown Dallas in 1983. In 1997, race organizers decided it would donate a portion of race proceeds to charitable causes, naming the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children as the primary beneficiary. To date, the run has brought more that \$4 million to the hospital. The marathon was rebranded from the Dallas White Rock Marathon to the Dallas BMW Marathon in 2016; and today the event is hailed as Texas' oldest running marathon, and Dallas' largest single-day sport event. To view past race winners, and more history of the marathon, please visit the official website at <https://www.rundallas.com/events/bmw-dallas-marathon-festival/history/>.



This year's race will be held on Sunday, December 12. Please be aware that there will be street closures through Town to allow safe runner participation. Closures should last from 7:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m. We have several Town employees and HP residents that are participating in the run, and we invite you to gather with us at Town Hall to cheer on those brave souls that can go the distance.

Special Events Coming Soon

Town Hall 101

Town Hall 101 is a Citizen Academy, engagement course designed to provide Town of Highland Park residents with a better understanding of the workings of your municipal government and how town services are delivered. The program gives participants a comprehensive look into town departments, and the programs and services offered in each. Learn how the Town of Highland Park is governed, how the annual budget is developed, and how your tax dollars work for you. There is no cost for residents 18 years or older to participate. Participants will meet quarterly. The 2022 schedule will be released soon. For questions or more information, please contact Holly Russell, Management Assistant, at hrussell@hptx.org or (214) 559-9308.



Get a letter from Santa!

Drop your letter to Santa into the North Pole Mailbox located in Town Hall by **December 15** to receive a response!

Toys for Tots 2021

HP CAN is supporting the Marines' annual "Toys for Tots" toy drive by collecting unwrapped, new toys for children of all ages **until December 12!** Donations boxes will be located in the main hallway of Town Hall and in the DPS lobby. There will also be a collection at the Annual Pecan Tree Lighting.



HP Department of Public Safety

Holiday Reminder



Avoid Being A Victim of Porch Pirates

The holidays are in full swing, and the convenience of online shopping has made our lives easier. It has made thefts by porch pirates increase as well. Many deliveries are left on the front porch, unattended for hours at a time. While our Public Safety Officers will watch out for packages while on patrol, and try to place them in an area that is not readily visible from the street; there are other safety measures you can take to make sure your friends and families receive their gifts instead of them being carried off by thieves.

Porch Pirates, as they are referred to, are those that drive around looking for unattended packages in quiet neighborhoods during the day, hopefully while everyone is away at work. They do a quick snatch and grab for the boxes left by the parcel service, and get out of the area as fast as possible. They hope to score an item of high value that they can then resell or keep for themselves.

Alternate Address

When selecting an address for delivery as you make your purchase, consider having the item delivered to your work address, or to a neighbor or family member that you know will be home to receive the package. These alternative options help to ensure that the package has arrived and is received by someone you trust, and it should not have to sit at the front door until someone arrives home later in the day.

Delivery Locker

Some services, such as Amazon, UPS, or USPS, offer secure delivery lockers or one-time rental of a PO box. As you would with a home delivery, you should receive a notification that your package was delivered to the locker, and instructions on how to access the package when you are ready to pick it up.

Sign on the Line

If possible, require a signature to be given when a package is delivered. This service would be available when you have someone sending you packages, rather than a business. It is a great idea to require this when you send gifts to family and friends, to help ensure their packages are received as well.

Smile for the Camera

Doorbell cameras and home security cameras are more affordable than ever. The convenience of seeing who is at the door, or receiving an alert when someone is on the porch is a great way to capture images of uninvited porch pirates. It may not completely deter them from taking packages, but has helped to reduce the number of thefts. Having video or still images of those that take what is not theirs helps officers with the investigation process in possibly recovering your stolen items. It also allows officers to keep on the look out for these persons.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The Parks Planter

Mike Rangel, Parks Superintendent



Going Dormant ≠ Do nothing

Luckily, Texas winters are not as severe as most other areas of the United States. Last February was not the norm, but it does occasionally happen to get seriously cold at times. Our coldest months are typically late November through February, and most gardeners know that this dormant time does not mean that gardens are dead or doing nothing. On the contrary, the winter months are the best time to prepare your gardens for a vibrant and healthy spring.

Hopefully, October was a productive weed-picking time for you, and your flower beds and gardens are pretty clear of the pesky plants. If you have not removed any dead plants or debris, be sure to do so before the temperatures become too uncomfortable for working outside. These detritus can be breeding ground for plant diseases and other pests.

Right now, we seem to be a little on the warmer side of weather still. Get nutrient rich compost into those beds before the winter rains start. Normally, this should be completed in early November, but we are lucky to have some reasonable weather right now to get that compost down.



Here in north Texas, it would be beneficial to also place a layer of mulch over the gardens. As we discussed last month, the mulch is like an organic blanket that helps to regulate soil temperature and keep in moisture should we have a dry winter.

If you are interested in planting a winter vegetable garden or flower bed, be sure to purchase seeds or young plants that are great for hardiness zone 8. These plants should ideally be planted in late summer to early fall. Pansies and snapdragons love the cold weather, and thrive well in north Texas.

There isn't much to prune for the winter, but native lantana and salvia can be pruned back to just a few inches above the soil level. They will thrive and bounce back in spring just fine. When the cold sets in, another recommended task is to have the pH level of your soil tested. You can request a test kit from the local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. These tests are great for recommendations on what adjustments to make, and which plants will grow best in your area.

HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Sweater Party in the Library - Throughout the month of December, visit the Library to have some sweater fun! Pick up sweater coloring sheets to make your own bold pattern creations. Play the Library's version of paper dolls using the author photos from book jackets and some wonderfully festive sweater designs.

Gnome on a Tome - Can you find the hidden gnome? Tome is another word for book, and the Library gnomes love books so much that one of them is hiding somewhere in the Library! Once you spot the gnome during your Library visit, stop by the Circulation Desk for a special holiday sticker.

Ornament Craft Kits for Youth - Create beautiful ornaments with an Ornament Craft Kit, available for pick up at the Highland Park Library while supplies last. Email lcollins@hplibrary.info to reserve ornament kits in advance. Kits contain supplies to make your own globe ornament, and more!



Santa Story Times

o **Friday, December 10, 10 a.m.** - Virtual Santa Story Time

Enjoy a virtual visit with Santa himself! Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Wednesday, December 8 to register for the program. This virtual story time is limited to 20 families.

o **Saturday, December 11, 2 p.m.** - In Person Santa Story Time

Hear holiday stories and enjoy a visit with Santa himself at the Highland Park Library! Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Wednesday, December 8 to register for the program. Seating is limited.

A close-up photograph of a snowman's head and shoulders. The snowman has a black top hat with a red band, black eyes, an orange carrot nose, and a smiling mouth. It is wearing a red and black plaid scarf. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of white and grey lights.

**Town Hall and Library
will be closed
December 24 - 27,
and December 31.**

Get Crafty with Your HP Library Card - The Highland Park Library offers Creativebug as part of its collection of digital resources. Creativebug is an all-access pass to expertly led tutorials with a wide range of subjects, including arts & crafts, sewing, knitting, and printmaking. Visit <https://tx-highlandpark.civicplus.com/170/eBooks-More>, click on the Creativebug listing, and enter your library card number and PIN, then start exploring over 1,000 fine art and hand-crafting classes.

For instance, are you looking for a way to brighten your menu? Expert chocolatier, Mark Tilling, shares his recipe for delectable, hand-rolled truffles. These bite-size treats would make a great gift in a nature-inspired, burlap gift bag. Artist and maker, Maya Donenfeld, will show you how. You'll find these and other great projects at Creativebug.

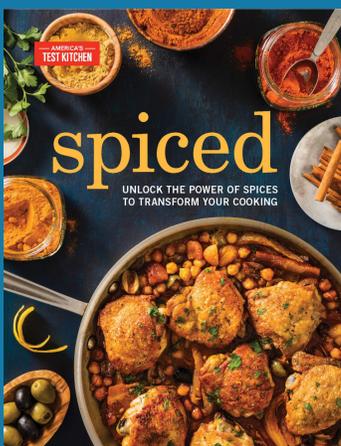
There are classes for youth and adults, as well as all skill levels. Check out Creativebug from the comfort of your home, or inside the library.

- Endless creative inspiration with new classes released every day
- Download hundreds of patterns, templates, and recipes
- Join thousands of fellow makers on a creative journey



Need a library card? There is no charge for a library card for residents 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.

HP Library: What to Read Next



Looking for a way to be more creative with cooking and baking? Try some of the over 100 recipes and the over 40 DIY spice blends in [Spiced: Unlock the Power of Spices to Transform Your Cooking](#) by the professionals at America's Test Kitchen. The book also includes a Spices A - Z glossary, as well as an introduction to grinding, storing, and recognizing spices. Sections cover topics such as seasoning smarter with salt and pepper, blends for meat and vegetables, toasting and blooming spices, finishing foods with flair, steeping spices, and baking with spices. The photographs of the spices and dishes are wonderful, too. Expand your pantry's spice rack and your palate with this title.

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.

HOW THE Grease Monster STOLE THE HOLIDAYS



A small bit of grease in the hot roasting pan.

Some leftover oil from old Uncle Dan.

“Pour it down the drain. What harm could it do?”
says dear old Aunt Bertha with the hair of light blue.

But under your home, in sewer lines and spans,
the oils and grease hatch their evil plans.

Next thing you know, a new guest arrives,

A clogged drain bubbles up as if it's alive!

Recycle your grease or just throw it away,

And this year we'll keep the Grease Monster at bay.

Recycle grease by dropping it off at the
nearest Grease Recycling Bin!!

Save the Holidays!
Visit CeaseTheGrease.org

DECEMBER CALENDAR



All Month Every Tuesday at 11:30 AM: Mindful Meditation. Class meets in the HPDPS Training Room (3rd Floor) and also via Zoom.

Every Thursday at 10 AM: Baby Bounce Story Time, Library - Watch live on the Friends of the Highland Park Library Facebook Page.

Every Thursday at 11:30 AM: Mindful Movement. Class meets in the HPDPS Training Room (3rd Floor) and also via Zoom.

Every Friday at 10:30 AM: Story Time at Town Hall (2nd Floor), Library

December 2, Thursday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Annual Tree Lighting of the Landmark Pecan Tree**
Family and friends are invited to join Mayor Goodwin and friends to celebrate the opening of the holiday season. Family friendly activities are provided. HPCAN will be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. This even is located on the block of Armstrong Parkway, between Preston Road and Westway Avenue.

December 4, Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Gingerbread House Workshop** - Library
Families or friends can register to decorate a gingerbread house for the holidays. Registrations are required. Ages 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, or for more information, please email rcross@hplibrary.info.

December 7, 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>

December 10, Friday 10:00 a.m. **Virtual Santa Story Time** - Library
Read stories with Santa! Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Wednesday, December 8 to register. This virtual story time is limited to 20 families.

December 11, Saturday 11:00 a.m. **Santa Story Time** - Library
Hear stories read by Santa himself! Be sure to bring your wish list. Seating is limited. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register.

December 12, Sunday **Final Day to drop off toy donations for the HPCAN Toys for Tots collection.** All donations may be dropped off in Town Hall; and also in the HPDPS lobby which is open 24-hours, seven days a week to assist residents.

December 12, Sunday **Dallas BWM Marathon**
The Marathon will cause several street closures until approximately noon. You are invited to join us at Town Hall to cheer on the runners.

December 24-27, 31 Town Hall offices and HP Library are closed for the holidays. Please call the DPS non-emergency line for customer service assistance, (214) 521-5000.



@HP_Texas



@HPDPS_TX



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(214) 521-4161