

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Tree Recycling
- Virtual Meditation
- 2022 Tennis Permits
- Happy New Year
- HPDPS News
- Oncor Information
- Library events
- 30 min Challenge
- What to Read Next
- January 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, or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



Recycle Your Tree

Now that the Christmas holiday is over, it is time to put everything back into their boxes and store them away for another year. But what about your live Christmas Tree? The Town offers a service to have your tree picked up on the front residential parkway on your regularly scheduled trash collection days.

Please make sure the tree is undecorated and has no wiring, lights, or other items still attached to it; then just set it out for pick up. Please make sure that the area is clear of any parked vehicles so that the sanitation trucks have access to retrieve the tree and place it safely on their collection vehicle. Any trees that are blocked may not be able to be picked up.

You can always view more information about the Town's sanitation services, recycling and brush/bulk collection on our website at:

<https://www.hptx.org/513/Sanitation-Services>

Mindful Classes Go Virtual

Due to the sudden increase in COVID cases, the Town wishes to keep the health and safety of all visitors and employees as a top priority. The Tuesday morning Mindful Meditation class and Thursday morning Mindful Movement class will now be held via Zoom until further notice. If you wish to participate in either class, please email Holly Russell at hrussell@hptx.org for the Zoom link. These classes are offered free as part of the Town's Parks and Recreation programming.

Tennis Permits Available for 2022

Did Santa bring you a new tennis or pickleball racket? If so, easily reserve a tennis court by purchasing a Tennis Permit for each family member in your household that wishes to schedule time on the courts. Permits can be purchased and court reservations can be made by visiting the CivicRec online system at www.hptx.org/recreation. Permits are \$40 per person annually.

Reservations to use a tennis court are required and may be made no more than 72 hours in advance. Permit holders may make one reservation per day, per permit holder. Reservations are for one hour only. Tennis Courts 5 and 8 are striped for Pickleball, and also require a reservation. If you have any questions about using the CivicRec system, please call Customer Service at (214) 521-4161 during normal business hours, or the non-emergency line (214) 521-5000 for after-hours assistance.

When using the Town's Tennis courts, please be mindful of these rules:

- There is only a maximum of four people on the court allowed. Spectators and guests not playing tennis must remain outside of the court.
- Reservations are required, and may only be made by a resident with a current Tennis Permit.
- The courts may not be used for commercial purposes, such as private lessons or coaching.
- Players must bring their own equipment to play Tennis or Pickleball.
- Please do not allow pets to run or roam the courts.
- If there are any issues with the courts, please report them so that the issue may be addressed as soon as possible. Concerns may be called in to Customer Service (214) 521-4161; the non-emergency line (214) 521-5000; or to the Parks Department (214) 559-9308.



It is another New Year, and the Town of Highland Park Town Council and Employees would like to wish everyone a 2022 full of happiness and health. We are all working just as hard as before to keep residents informed, continue to offer the best in municipal services, and to provide many opportunities to enhance the quality of life for our residents. We encourage you to stay in touch with all the latest information from the Town by signing up for [Blue Zone News](#), following our [Twitter page](#), and signing up to get emergency notifications from [BlackBoard Connect](#). Let us all look forward to 2022 with a renewed energy and focus on what a bright future is in store.



Avoid Being A Victim "Jugging"

Many cities and their police departments have been seeing a rise in a crime called "jugging" over the last few years. The crime consists of thieves sitting at banks or ATMs, and watching for potential victims that may be carrying large amounts of cash. They will then follow the victim to their next location, then will break into the vehicle to steal the cash when the victim has gone inside. In some cases, they have directly attacked and robbed the victim. In December, the Town of Highland Park received two calls for juggings.

For such a serious crime, it has a funny name. The story is that the name comes from a practice decades earlier when cash was transported by merchants in jugs. Thieves would wait for the merchants to leave the jugs unattended, and then steal the money. The practice is still the same. The HPDPS has a few tips to help keep you from being a potential victim of this crime.



Stay aware

When going to the bank or ATM for cash, always remain aware of your surroundings. It is best not to be on a phone call or distracted by a mobile device. Inattention makes it much easier for thieves to victimize individuals. Look for people that seem to be sitting in a vehicle watching others, and are still there when you exit the bank.

As you drive away, consider taking an alternate route than you might normally take to your next destination. This way, you can see if you are perhaps being followed. If you feel that a car is following you, drive to the HPDPS or another safe location and stay in your car. Call for assistance immediately. It is also recommended that you not drive home, but drive to a very public area.

Do not have your money in plain sight

Be sure to keep your cash "out of sight, out of mind". If a thief cannot target you as having any cash on you, then your chances of being a victim are greatly reduced. Once you leave your vehicle, do not leave it in the car. Take it inside with you. Recent offenses had thieves smashing windows to grab cash and leaving.

**If you are the victim
of a jugging,
call 9-1-1 immediately.**

A Message From Oncor



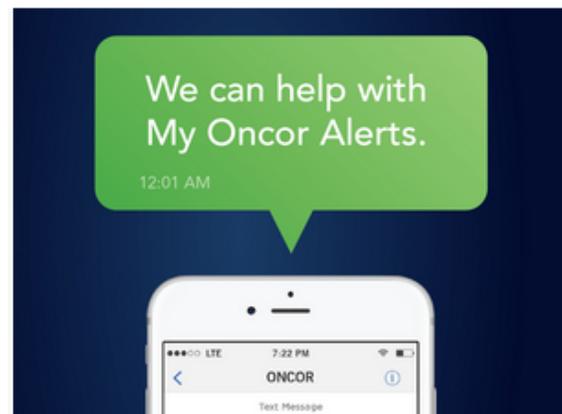
Oncor offers new communication services to keep customers informed

Oncor is excited to share two new initiatives to improve their customer communication.

First, Oncor launched a new virtual assistant platform that will allow customers to engage with them at oncor.com 24/7. The virtual assistant can report outages, provide status updates and respond to inquiries about vegetation management. In mid-2022, the virtual assistant will be able to perform more actions and also engage with customers via text messaging.

The second initiative enhances existing notifications to customers about vegetation management (tree trimming) in their area, starting in November 2022. In addition to the current door hangers, customers enrolled in *My Oncor Alerts* will receive an automated notification four-weeks and two-weeks before work is scheduled to begin. To get more information about *My Oncor Alerts* or to sign up for the service, please visit the webpage <https://www.oncor.com/content/oncorwww/us/en/home/outage-weather/my-oncor-alerts.html>.

Oncor strives to increase its transparency and communication capabilities with customers. If you feel there is an Oncor power outage present in your area, you can report it online or by calling the Oncor Outage Number at (888) 313-4747. If you see down power line, please do not approach the area. Go to a safe distance and call 9-1-1 immediately.



To skip online registration, text REG to 66267 and we'll sign you up.



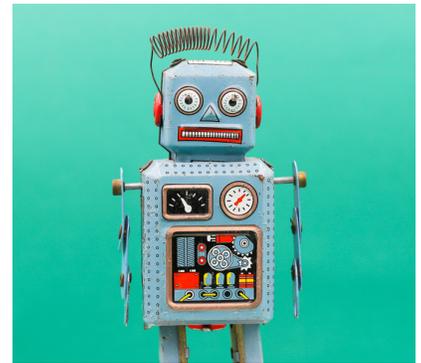
Throughout the month of January, visit the HP Library for some book title trivia! Play a game of Famous First Words to guess book titles by their first lines, and Name that Book in a book title word search.

HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Dig Those Dinos! - Join the Perot Museum of Nature and Science for some paleontology fun on Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m. at the Highland Park Library. Discover fossils, follow dinosaur tracks, and piece together prehistoric clues in this station-based program. This lab is designed for grades K-2. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register. Limited seating.



Scuttlebots - On Saturday, January 29 at 2 p.m., youth ages 12 and up are invited to learn about robotics with staff from the Perot Museum. Using a motor, 3D printed parts, and other materials, participants will construct a robot that mimics the movement of an insect. This is a joint program from the University Park Public Library and the Highland Park Library. The program will take place at the University Park Public Library. Registration is required. Please email info@uptexas.org by Thursday, January 27 to register.



Vision Boards 101 - This in-person workshop, on Saturday, January 15, at 11 a.m. for ages 18 and up, will introduce you to vision boards and explain how they are important for reaching your goals in the coming year and beyond. Materials are provided to create your own vision board during the class. Presented by Carrie Lindsey, author and blogger at CarrieElle.com. Registration is required, and seating is limited. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vision-boards-101-tickets-216605933177?aff=HPL>.



Update for Library Story Times

Starting January 7, story time will be *in-person only*, each Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., on the 2nd Floor of Town Hall, 4700 Drexel Drive. This program is open to all ages. Thank you to the Friends of the Highland Park Library for hosting virtual story times through the Friends' Facebook page as we encouraged safe participation, <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheHighlandParkLibrary/>; and thank you to all the patrons who participated in virtual story times. For more information on Library story time, please email Laura at lcollins@hplibrary.info or call 214-559-9400.



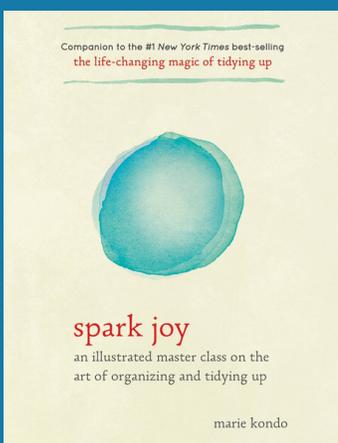


New Skills For A New Year - Set new learning goals this year and achieve them by accepting the *30 Minutes of Learning Challenge*. Start by just setting aside 30 minutes of learning a week over the course of a month. Even the smallest win can get you to the big ones. The HP Library offers many online resources, which are available 24/7, so you can learn according to your schedule. Try out LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com) to grow your business, technology, and creative skills through award-winning, online video tutorials. There are over 16,000 courses, in multiple languages, to help you discover more and achieve success. Example skills and topics include:

- Animation and Illustration
- Audio and Music
- Cloud Computing
- Leadership and Management
- Marketing
- Photography
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Video
- Web Design

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



Is organization part of your resolutions for 2022? Try one of these titles for motivation and to perhaps even make organizing a little fun. If you enjoy Marie Kondo's Netflix series, check out her books including, [Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up](#). Tackle one room at a time with this title from the editors of a popular lifestyle magazine, [The Real Simple Method to Organizing Every Room: And How to Keep it that Way](#). Continue your de-cluttering journey with Martha Stewart's [Organizing: The Manual for Bringing Order to Your Life, Home & Routines](#).

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.

JANUARY CALENDAR



All Month Every Tuesday at 11:30 AM: Mindful Meditation. Class meets virtually via Zoom until further notice.

Every Thursday at 11:30 AM: Mindful Movement. Class meets virtually via Zoom until further notice.

Every Friday at 10:00 & 10:45 AM: Story Time at Town Hall (2nd Floor), Library

January 1, Saturday Town Offices and HP Library are closed for the holiday

January 4, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session

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>

January 15, Saturday Vision Boards - Library

11:00 a.m. Learn how to create inspirational vision boards to visualize any goal. Presented by author and planner-maker Carrie Lindsey. Please email rcross@hplibrary.info for the registration link.

January 15, Saturday Dig Those Dinos - Library

2:00 p.m. Discover fossils, follow dinosaur tracks and piece together prehistoric clues in this station-based program. This lab is designed for grades K-2. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register.

January 18, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session

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>

January 29, Saturday Teen Robotics Workshop: Scuttlebots - Library

2:00 p.m. Ages 12 and up are invited to learn about robotics with staff from the Perot Museum! Using a motor, 3D printed parts, and other materials, participants will construct a robot that mimics the movement of an insect. Please email info@uptexas.org to register. This is a joint program by the University Park Public Library and the Highland Park Library.



@HP_Texas



@HPDPS_TX



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



(214) 521-4161