

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Transparency Award
- Clean Waterways
- Winter is...HERE
- Summer Jobs
- National Engineers Week
- HPDPS News
- HPDPS Jobs
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- Consumer Reports
- What to Read Next
- February 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.



Finance Recognized for Transparency

The Town of Highland Park Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, and also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for the same fiscal year. These awards are received from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). This was the Finance Department's 39th year to be awarded the Certificate of Achievement and their 25th year to earn the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The annual comprehensive financial report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating clear communication of its financial story and motivating potential users to read the report. The Distinguished Budget award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

The Town Council receives monthly and annual financial reports at Town Council Study Sessions. Monthly and annual financial reports, budgets, as well as other financial reporting are available at <https://www.hptx.org/216/Budget-Financial-Reports>.

Keeping It Clean

Our creeks and lake bring a deeper dimension to the beauty of our parks. They are home to water fowl, fish, and many diverse plants. Being located in an urban environment allows us to have this small respite of natural beauty to escape to and enjoy as we go on our walk in the park, or drive down Lakeside. What we don't like to see is the trash that accumulates and deteriorates the natural beauty of the area. This is where Patrick Rea of Trash Free Waterways comes in.

The Town hires Trash Free Waterways to clean the creeks and other waterways in the town on a quarterly basis since 2016. Patrick and his team pick up all trash up to 10-feet from the shoreline, 10-feet above ground level, and any that is located in the water. If you see someone in a kayak, paddling around for trash, that would be Patrick gathering trash from the water. For any large debris they cannot take care of, the Town's Parks Department is contacted for removal of large items. Also in 2016, the Town placed a containment boom underneath the Beverly Bridge to collect any trash and debris from flowing upstream. Maintenance crews from the Dallas Country Club collect this deposit on a monthly basis, or more as needed.

Patrick notes that he mostly picks up paper debris and plastic bags, but also quite a bit of sports equipment such as tennis and soccer balls. "Most of the items are coming in from the storm drain roll-off when we have a good rain," he said. "If we can keep the streets and grounds clear of trash, our waterways will be the better for it too." His business began when he was enjoying fishing in Turtle Creek, and occasionally noticed a man in a kayak fishing trash out of the water. They struck up a conversation, and Patrick learned that the Town had hired the clean up service. The other man mentioned he would be moving from Dallas soon, and Patrick jumped at the chance to learn what he could to keep the service going. Trash Free Waterways was up and running before the other business closed.



Patrick Rea, of Trash Free Waterways, cleaning up Turtle Creek.

To assist in keeping trash from flowing into the waterways around town, please be sure to deposit all trash into a trash bin, and make sure all trash bags are tied securely closed. Wind will pick up anything and carry it where the trash will eventually end up in water or trapped in shrubbery or trees. If you see trash on the ground while in the parks, please dispose of it properly. As always, if there are issues with the trash bins in the parks, or you would like to report large debris in the creeks or lakes, please call Customer Service during regular business hours at (214) 521-4161, or after-hours at (214) 521-5000.

Prepare for Freezing Weather

As February is the month Texas often sees freezing temperatures, and possible ice or snow, please remember to shut off your irrigation systems, cover spouts, and unhook any water hoses to prevent frozen surfaces or pipes. In the case that you need to shut off the water to your property due to an emergency or repair, please see this short video on how to easily do so: <https://vimeo.com/561870119/ec3e9c84dc>.



In need of a cool summer job? Apply to work at the HP Swimming Pool!

The Town of Highland Park is seeking applicants for lifeguards and Concession Attendants for this summer at the Swimming Pool. If you would like to apply, please visit hptx.org/jobs.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Engineers create new possibilities all the time. From green buildings to fuel-efficient cars to life-saving vaccines, engineers work together to develop new technologies, products and opportunities that change how we live. Let's inspire the next generation by celebrating all the ways engineers turn dreams into reality by re-imagining what seems impossible to become the Possible!

If you have not visited with our *AMAZING* Engineering Services staff (which includes our superheroes in the Public Works Department), then take a moment to chat with one of them when you see them around town. February 24 is "**Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day**". Did you know the Town has three women working in Engineering Services? Lori Chapin is the Director of Engineering Services. The Town is proud to have such an experienced and creative team that makes much possible. Let's celebrate and elevate them for their hard work during **National Engineers Week, February 20-26!**



HP Department of Public Safety

When Paramedics Arrive



Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Having to call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency is a very stressful situation, especially if your loved one in need of help is not responsive. To assist you and your family with such situations, it is advisable to have information readily available for the paramedics as soon as possible. It is helpful to know pertinent past medical history, what has recently led up to the emergency, and any medications they are currently taking. If your family member is terminally ill, the one form that is often needed is the "Out of Hospital - Do Not Resuscitate" (OOH-DNR) Form.

When medical assistance arrives, they are focused on treating the person in need. If your loved one has a DNR Form, it must be valid and presented to them as soon as possible. For the DNR to be a valid copy, it must be the form issued by the Texas Department of State Health Service; and must be signed by the patient or patient's legal guardian, the patient's physician, or two doctors treating the patient that cannot sign for themselves, and witnesses.

The second option is to complete and file the form and purchase a bracelet or necklace that follows the state's requirement for recognition by emergency medical persons: An intact, unaltered, easily identifiable metal bracelet or necklace inscribed with the words "Texas Do Not Resuscitate - OOH" shall be honored by qualified EMS personnel. The hospital may also issue a plastic bracelet that meets state requirements for those released from the hospital and returning home for hospice care or similar situation. Please do not remove the bracelet.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the OOH-DNR Form, please visit the Texas Department of Health Services web page,

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/dnr.shtm>.

For more information about the HPDPS emergency services, please contact Lt. Jessa Russell, Public Information Officer, at jrussell@hpdps.org or (214) 559-9487.



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER**

DEADLINE: MARCH 18 AT 5:00 PM

HPTX.ORG/JOBS

HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Teen Valentine Workshop: How to Make a Zine and Origami Heart - Learn two great ways to create a handmade Valentine, a zine and an origami heart from one piece of paper. This in-person workshop will take place on Saturday, February 12 at 2 p.m. at the Highland Park Library. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Friday, February 11 to register. Limited seating. All supplies provided.



The Unicorn Show - This special, in-person performance with Miss Cindee, on Saturday, February 19 at 2p.m., at the Highland Park Library will feature magic tricks, stories, and songs all about unicorns. The event is designed for early elementary age children and their caregivers. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register. Limited seating.



Discover LinkedIn Learning - Lynda.com is now LinkedIn Learning. This in-person class on Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m. for ages 18 and up, will introduce you to LinkedIn Learning, help you create an account, and get you started on your learning journey. Registration is required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discover-linkedin-learning-tickets-231775515807?aff=HPL>. A Highland Park Library card is required to access this resource.

LinkedIn Learning

Update for Library Story Times

At this time, all story times will be held online, viewable through the Friends of the Highland Park Library's Facebook page as we encouraged safe participation.

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheHighlandParkLibrary/>.

Baby Bounce will be held on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., and **Pawsome Tales** will be Fridays at 10:00 a.m. For more information on Library story time, please email Laura at lcollins@hplibrary.info or call 214-559-9400.



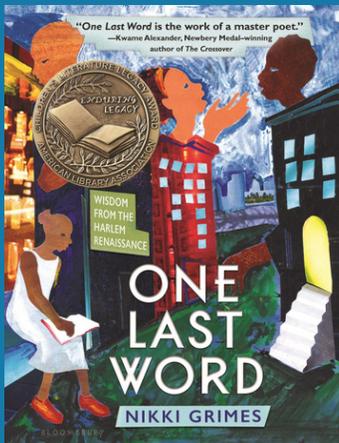


Make Smart Buying Decisions - Access a comprehensive collection of expert, unbiased product reviews 24/7 through [ConsumerReports.org](https://www.ConsumerReports.org). This new addition to the Highland Park Library's online resources collection gives library cardholders more comprehensive information than in the monthly print edition of Consumer Reports magazine.

Visit <https://www.hptx.org/144/Databases>, then click on ConsumerReports.org to log into the resource with your library card number and PIN. Subjects covered include: appliances, cars, electronics, health, fitness, home and garden, and more! Compare price, performance, and reliability across products in one place complete with reviews. Funding for ConsumerReports.org is generously provided by the Highland Park Quality of Life Foundation.

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



February is Black History Month. The book [One Last Word: Wisdom From the Harlem Renaissance](#) by Nikki Grimes celebrates and is inspired by the works of several Harlem Renaissance poets, including Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Jean Toomer, and more. Through the "Golden Shovel" poetic form, Nikki Grimes creates a collection of original poetry for young audiences by selecting a line or lines from a poem by another poet and using each word in those selected lines as the last word in each line of a new poem by Grimes. Grimes has been awarded the 2022 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

All of the poems in the collection are accompanied by poignant artwork from African American illustrators. Readers will also find biographical information on the poets and an introduction to the history of the Harlem Renaissance by Grimes. This book and many more materials are on display in the Library to honor Black history, as well as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by African American authors.

Please visit <https://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov>, which is a joint project from The Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Gallery of Art, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, to view Black History Month exhibits and collections online.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR



All Month **Every Tuesday at 11:30 AM:** Mindful Meditation. Class meets virtually via Zoom
Every Thursday at 10:00 AM: Baby Bounce story time, virtual, Library
Every Thursday at 11:30 AM: Mindful Movement. Class meets virtually via Zoom
Every Friday at 10:00 AM: Pawsome Tales Story Time, virtual, Library
Virtual Story Times can be viewed live or recorded, on the Friends of the Highland Park Library's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheHighlandParkLibrary>.

February 1, 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>

February 2, Wednesday **Doodle Pen Workshop** - Library

4:30 p.m. For ages 14 and up. All materials provided. This Tech Program is made possible by a grant to the Friends of the Highland Park Library from La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Tuesday, February 1, to register. Limited seating.

February 12, Saturday **Teen Valentine Workshop** - Library

2:00 p.m. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info by Friday, February 11 to register. Limited seating. All supplies provided.

February 15, 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>

February 18, Saturday **Deadline to file candidacy** for the May 7, 2022 election. More information available at <https://www.hptx.org/457/Municipal-Elections>.
5:00 p.m.

February 20-26 **National Engineers Week**

February 19, Saturday **The Unicorn Show** - Library

2:00 p.m. Designed for early elementary age children and their caregivers. Please email lcollins@hplibrary.info to register. Limited seating.

February 26, Saturday **Discover LinkedIn Learning** - Library

11:00 a.m. For ages 18 and up, Registration is required,
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discover-linkedin-learning-tickets-231775515807?aff=HPL>. A HP Library Card is required to access this digital service.



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