

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

IN A PECAN SHELL:

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- HP Night Out
- HHW & Recycling Events
- New Chief of HPDPS
- Park Improvements
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- Scam Alert
- Fire Hoses in the Road
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- Tennis & Pickleball Clinics
- Library Events info
- Library Services
- October Events Calendar
- Clinics Flier to share
- Food Drive Flier to share

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.

Water & Waste Water Rate Adjustments

The Town Council approved a 7.55% rate adjustment in water and 3% in wastewater services effective October 1, 2023. This adjustment supports operational costs and capital projects related to the Town's water and wastewater utility system. An adjustment to solid waste rates of approximately 6.5% was also approved and is directly related to increased costs passed through from the Town's third-party solid waste provider. Storm water rates were adjusted by 20% to address ongoing inflation and are used to maintain and improve the Town's drainage system. Water and Wastewater rates can be found at [Water and Waste Water Rate](#). See the full [Master Fee Schedule](#) or contact Customer Service at 214-521-4161.

Highland Park Night Out

We are excited to see everyone again at the Highland Park Night Out on Tuesday, October 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held near the Highland Park Pool, located at 3801 Lexington Avenue. Come meet Town and DPS employees, and enjoy fun activities. Kids, and kids at heart, can climb on all sorts of construction and first responder vehicles. We will also have bounce houses, a face painter, lots of giveaways, and yummy sandwiches.

Recycling and HHW Events this Fall

If you have any household hazardous waste items that needs to be disposed of, Public Works will be hosting the **Fall Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Collection** event on Saturday, November 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Reservations are not required, but are highly encouraged. You can save your spot for the event at www.hptx.org/recreation. Please note, that the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center (DCHCCC) staff that take the collection at the event require us to close promptly at 1:00 p.m., and no late arrivals will be permitted. This event is for disposing of any items in your home that are marked as hazardous or have caution warnings. Electronics are not be accepted at this event.

Want to know more about what is considered a household chemical? Visit the DCHCCC's website for a list of items you can bring to the Center or Drop Off event: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/consolidated-services/hhw/checklist.php>. There are also great tips on safer products to use instead of hazardous chemicals.

The **Park Cities Recycling event** will be Saturday, October 21, in the parking lot at 3001 University Blvd. This event is from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Any documents that need to be shredded need to have staples, paperclips, and binders removed. Notebook-binders and spiral notebooks cannot be accepted due to the metal in them. Bring any electronics that need to be recycled, and the Salvation Army will be collecting any gently used donations.



HP

**HAPPY
HEALTHY
HOMES**

**Park Cities Recycling
Drop Off Collection Event
Oct 21, 2023 | 8 am - 1 pm**
3001 University Blvd.
SMU parking lot across from Burleson Park

**Household Hazard Waste
Drop Off Collection Event
Nov. 11, 2023 | 9 am - 1 pm**
3801 Lexington Ave.
Across from the HP Swimming Pool
Registration suggested due to limited space.

For more information
Town Customer Service (214) 521-4161
Monday -Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HPDPS Chief Retires, New Chief to be Sworn In

The Director of the Highland Park Department of Public Safety (HPDPS), Chief Paul Sandman, retired after serving 20 years with the HPDPS. The Town Council will be swearing in Assistant Chief Chuck McGinnis as the new Director at their October 3, 2023, Town Council meeting.

Chief Sandman has a distinguished career of having served in the US Marine Corps, where he served as a member of the HMX Marine Helicopter Squadron that supports the President of the United States. In addition to his years of service with the Town, Sandman served as the Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Rowlett and as a Patrol Officer with the Arlington Police Department. In his career with HPDPS, he has been a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Sergeant of Operations, Lieutenant of Operations, Lieutenant of Criminal Investigations, and Assistant Director. As Director, Chief Sandman worked to improve the Department by integrating wellness training, creating a support network for officers in crisis, supporting extra training and development of officers, and working to properly source the Department. In all, he has earned 36 commendations from the community for his professionalism and dedication.



Chief Sandman and his family are looking forward to his retirement so that they may spend more time together doing the many activities they enjoy sharing. “I am grateful for the opportunities that this career and the Highland Park DPS have created for my wife, Janet, and me. We have both retired hoping that we have had a positive impact on the Department and the Highland Park community,” stated Chief Sandman.

The Town Council has accepted the recommendation from the Town Administrator to promote Assistant Chief Chuck McGinnis to the position of Director of HPDPS. Prior to accepting this new position, Chief McGinnis had served the citizens of Highland Park for over 20 years and served as a Public Safety Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Assistant Commander, Lieutenant, Captain, and most recently as Assistant Director.



Chief McGinnis has a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from The University of Texas at Arlington, a Master of Public Administration from Sam Houston State University, is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, holds master peace officer and master firefighter certifications, is a licensed paramedic, and has earned 46 commendations for his service to the community. Chief McGinnis acknowledged the promotion with sincerity, “I am extremely grateful and humbled by the opportunity to be able to continue to serve the residents of this great community and the men and women of this department in this capacity. My wife, Amanda, and I have been afforded many opportunities

from this Town to enhance our ability to raise our family, and I will continue to repay my gratitude with service. We are prepared and ready for this new, exciting role.” Assistant Chief McGinnis will be sworn in by the Town Council at the October 3 Town Council Meeting, scheduled for 8:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Highland Park DPS began in 1915 as a police department, and became a triple-certified Department of Public Safety in 1977. The Department has approximately 77 Public Safety employees who serve the community in law enforcement, fire, and medical emergencies. The mission of the HPDPS is “Hire for Character, Train for Proficiency, Provide Unmatched Service.”

What's New for 2024?

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to share some updates on capital projects starting this fall. The Town's two major park projects will be the rehabilitation of Lakeside Park and the reconstruction of Tennis Court #1 into four pickleball courts.

Lakeside Park:

Lakeside Park improvements are scheduled to begin in November 2023; and will include improved grading and drainage, landscaping, lighting, sidewalk connections, bench pad locations, and the construction of an ADA accessibility ramp east of the pedestrian bridge. Landscape rehabilitation will focus on areas where tree coverage, pedestrian traffic, and ducks have compromised existing sod and/or ground cover.



The ADA accessibility ramp will create improved access to the eastern side of the pedestrian bridge for park goers with mobility issues or those using strollers. Currently, access to the park from Lakeside Drive requires park goers to utilize stairs at Lexington Avenue or cross at Euclid Avenue and walk back towards the pedestrian bridge. The design of the ADA ramp will complement similar accessibility improvements made this past spring at the Teddy Bear Garden on the west side of the bridge.

All improvements are projected to be complete by late spring 2024, and the park will officially reopen at that time. The park will remain closed, and the temporary construction fence will remain in place until the project is completed to ensure the safety of those walking near the park.

Continued....

What's New....continued

Tennis Court #1:

Pickleball is officially coming to Highland Park! Pickleball now has 4.8 million participants nationwide and a 39.3% growth rate over the last two years, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's *2022 Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report*. Currently, the Town has pickleball striping at Tennis Court #5 at Fairfax Park and Tennis Court #8 at Abbott Park. The Town will reconstruct Tennis Court #1 in Prather Park into four, fully dedicated pickleball courts. This project will also include upgraded lighting and bench seating. The pickleball courts are designed to have a four-foot-high ball stop fence with a windscreen between each court. Fencing around the perimeter of the entire court will also be graduated to ensure unobstructed views of the park. The layout and design of the court will allow for conversion to a tennis court in the future, if desired.



This project is estimated to begin after the first of the year, and be completed in late spring/early summer.

Other park improvements in 2024 include:

- Landscape improvements to small traffic islands and right-of-ways throughout town
- Enhanced seasonal color change outs
- Improved sundeck at the Swimming Pool

The Concert Truck is Coming Back for an Encore

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and The Concert Truck are presenting collaborative community concerts, featuring musicians of the DSO and other arts organizations. This mobile concert stage brings the arts to you! Join us for a pop-up, live performance with Susan Zhang, Nick Luby, and members of the DSO on Saturday, October 28, at 11:00 a.m. The Lexington Avenue parking for the HP Pool, located at 3801 Lexington Avenue, will be blocked off for the performance. Bring your camping chairs, a picnic lunch, friends, and family to enjoy the beautiful music. The performance is free and will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

The Concert Truck, founded in 2016 by concert pianists Susan Zhang and Nick Luby, is a mobile concert stage that brings classical chamber music directly to communities. The Concert Truck travels all over the United States performing alone and with other musicians to a variety of venues and audiences.

For more information on the DSO and The Concert Truck, please visit <https://www.dallasymphony.org/the-concert-truck-residency/> and <https://www.theconcerttruck.org/>.

The Parks Department and the Library are pleased to bring this event to the community. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be cancelled.

HP Department of Public Safety



Scam Alerts

Beware of a current scam. Residents and businesses across the DFW area are receiving phone calls that appear to come from the legitimate city phone numbers and the caller claim the customer's water bill is late and they must pay the balance over the phone. The caller states if the balance is not paid at the time of the call, the customer's water will be immediately shut off. If you receive a call like this, hang up and call the number on your water bill to verify the claim. The Town of Highland Park will never ask for cash app payments. To read the full story visit, <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/north-texas-cities-warning-residents-fake-water-bill-scam/287-8c54dfc-905f-4362-9995-bf252614b16d>.

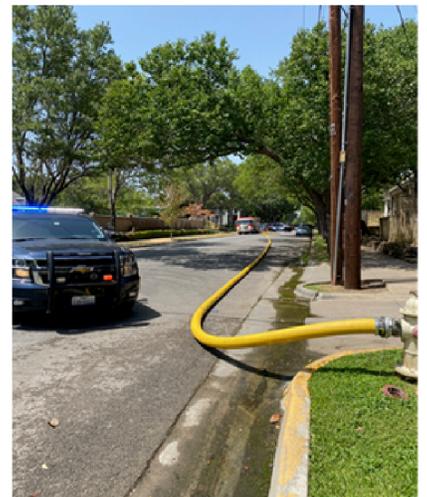
Beware of scammers spoofing phone numbers so it appears they are calling from a legitimate organization. A current scam is someone calling and saying they are from the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and that you failed appear to a federal trial that you had been summoned for and you will be arrested if you do not pay them. Government agencies typically do not take payments over the phone, and they definitely will not accept cash apps, crypto currency, and gift cards. If anyone calls demanding money, take down the caller's information and hang up. Find a phone number for that company online or from a former bill and call the company back to verify what you were told.

A Fire Hose in the Road

On behalf of the Fire Marshal's Office, we would like to educate everyone of the dangers that driving over a charged or uncharged fire hose creates, and remind residents that it is illegal to drive or cross over a fire hose without consent in the State of Texas (Texas Transportation Code § 545.408).

Your firefighters rely on water as their lifeline. Over the past few months, three sections of large diameter fire hose were damaged due to vehicles driving over them. Large diameter fire hose are commonly laid on roadways, alleyways, and residents' private driveways to transport water from fire hydrants to fire engines. Water helps firefighters complete critical tasks such as extinguishing flames, protecting exits from burning structures, and rescuing trapped victims.

Driving over or crossing over a fire hose has the potential to stop the flow of water, damage a fire hydrant, damage the fire engine, damage the fire hose, and damage a motor vehicle. These potentials can significantly hinder firefighters from completing lifesaving or property conservation tasks. We understand the inconvenience that a laid fire hose poses, but we would like to stress our commitment to working with our community to provide the highest level of protection for the Town of Highland Park.





Are you looking for reliable tools to inspire you to create a thriving, beautiful yard?

Texas SmartScape (<http://www.txsmartscape.com/>) is a landscape program crafted to be "smart" for Texas. Supported by the North Central Texas Council of Government's Regional Stormwater Management Program, local governments, and regional water districts, the program is especially focused on North Central Texas. Based on water-efficient landscape principles, Texas SmartScape promotes the use of plants suited to our region's soil, climate, and precipitation that don't require much—if any—additional irrigation, pesticides, fertilizer, or herbicides to thrive.

- Get inspired with Texas SmartScape [Design Tools](#).
- Search the [Native Texas Plant Database](#).
- Find [SmartScape-Friendly Companies](#).

New Mindful Meditation Class Time and Instructor

Beginning October 1, Mindful Meditation classes will be held at a new time on Tuesdays, at 11:45 a.m., in the DPS Training Room. The new instructor is Andy McDonald. Andy is a certified yoga and meditation instructor, and has been leading mindful wellness activities since 2004 in the Dallas area. There is no registration or cost to attend.

The Mindful Movement class on Thursdays is still cancelled until further notice.



Fall Pickleball and Tennis Clinics

The Parks & Recreation Department have scheduled several clinics for residents this fall. Registrations will be in the [CivicRec portal](#). A tennis permit is not required to attend, but the clinics are only for residents of the Town of Highland Park. All clinics will be held at the Abbott Park Court, located at 4814 Abbott Avenue.

- October 18: Intro to Tennis for Kids Ages 10 to 14 - 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- October 30: Intro to Pickleball - 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- November 2: Intro to Tennis for Adults - 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- November 4: Intro to Pickleball - 10:00 AM - Noon



HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Family Saturday at the Meadows Museum - Saturday, October 7, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Families come in all shapes and sizes and so does creativity. The Meadows Museum, located at 5900 Bishop Blvd., invites kids and their grown-ups to visit the museum to get creative together.

This program is presented in collaboration with the Highland Park Library, and designed and facilitated in part by the Meadows Museum Student Collective. This program is free with regular museum admission and designed for children ages four to nine, but all are welcome. See the Meadows Museum website, <https://meadowsmuseumdallas.org/>, for information about each unique session, which will include browsing artwork with museum staff, a craft activity, and a story time.



Elder Frauds, Scams, and Financial Exploitation - Saturday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall, 2nd Floor. Losing money or possessions to scams, fraud, and exploitation can be especially devastating to older adults, who may not be able to earn back what they've lost. Join the Elder Financial Safety Center as we discuss common frauds and scams that are impacting older adults. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elder-frauds-scams-and-financial-exploitation-tickets-710603091977?aff=HPL>.



Genealogy Marathon (Live & Virtual) - Friday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. - 5:40 p.m. at Town Hall, 2nd Floor. The Highland Park Library will participate in the Genealogy Network of Texas' annual Genealogy Seminar. Join fellow genealogists and family historians for a day of research and know-how. Visit the Highland Park Library to watch select live screenings or register online to receive access to the full, virtual program. This event consists of 8 sessions for aspiring and experienced genealogists/family historians. A variety of topics are covered - from building and researching your family tree to software, deciphering handwriting, and overcoming brick walls. All sessions are available virtually, or join us at the Library for select live screenings in the afternoon. Suitable for ages 18 and up. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/genealogy-marathon-live-virtual-tickets-715422607277?aff=HPL>.



Teen Mask Making - Saturday, October 21, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at Town Hall. Join the HP Library and Oil & Cotton in crafting personalized masks with limitless creative potential. Learn to make your own mask for Halloween, theater, or any other occasion! This craft is perfect for anyone looking to express their individuality, while setting their own difficulty level. Have an idea or design in mind? Feel free to bring an example. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-mask-making-tickets-706281897167?aff=register>.



**Attendees of this event may be eligible to enter the Teen Book Pack Drawing. Details can be found here, <https://www.hptx.org/975/Teen-Book-Pack-Drawing>.*

Tall Tails - Wednesday, October 25, 4:30 p.m. - Children of all reading levels are encouraged to get to know one of Canine Companion's future service dogs. Each child will get 15 minutes of reading time with their paw-some audience to practice their literacy skills. Tall Tails is offered on the last Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Library. Registration is required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.



HP Harvey R. "Bum" Bright Library



Oh My Gourd, StoryWalk is Back - The Town's Parks Department and the Library are happy to bring another StoryWalk opportunity to Prather Park, which is located at the corner of Euclid and Drexel, for the month of October. Read a story, page by page, while walking through the park. For a not-so-scary read, enjoy the book [Room on the Broom](#) by Julia Donaldson. Learn about kindness and friendship in this epic adventure. Just watch out for dragons.

The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Eerie-sistible Fun - Grown ups, get into the spirit of the season by going on a THRILLING & CHILLING Library Scavenger Hunt! Start at the Circulation Desk; the answers to each clue will lead you to the next clues. Feel free to use the computer catalog to help. Have fun, and maybe find something new to read. Children will get their very own scavenger hunt activity in the Children's Room.

Frightfully Crafty To-Go Kits for Youth and Families -

- [Build a Bat Mobile](#) - While this decorative mobile doesn't transport a certain superhero to fight crime, it does allow creatures of the night to flutter around your room! This festive and whimsical craft is a fun way to celebrate the month of October. To reserve a kit, please [email vrice@hplibrary.info](mailto:email_vrice@hplibrary.info).
- [Teen Spooky Self-Care](#) - Filled with treats ranging from Halloween stress balls to cozy movie master lists, this kit is sure to scare away stress! To reserve a kit, please [email vrice@hplibrary.info](mailto:email_vrice@hplibrary.info).

Teentober - Life Skills Manual - Adulthood can be the scary, but it doesn't have to be! Starting in October, patrons can access the Life Skills Manual through the Tweens and Teens page on our website, <https://www.hptx.org/858/Tweens-and-Teens>. This Manual offers insight into topics that may be new to someone preparing to enter the adult world, such as budgeting, taxes, and moving out.

Work with an online tutor, for free. - 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 through HelpNow Monday through Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Visit the Library's website, <https://www.hptx.org/864/Homework-Help>, to learn more about HelpNow and other online homework help resources available to Library cardholders. Access online databases and reference materials 24 hours, 7 days a week with your HP Library card number and PIN.

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.

TEENtober

What will you discover at the library?



www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober

OCTOBER CALENDAR



Every Tuesday at 11:45 AM: Mindful Meditation. Class meets in the DPS Training Room, Third Floor.

Every Thursday at 10:00 AM: Baby Bounce, meets in the Council Meeting Room, Second Floor.

Every Thursday at 10:45 AM: Baby Bounce, meets in the Council Meeting Room, Second Floor.

Every Friday at 10:00 AM: Toddler Story Time, meets in the Council Meeting Room, Second Floor.

Every Friday at 10:45 AM: Preschool Story Time, meets in the Council Meeting Room, Second Floor.

- Tickets will be required for entry to Story Time on Fridays. Tickets are free and will be handed out each Friday at the Library Circulation Desk.

October 1, Sunday **Last Day for Open Swim**

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lap Swim will continue until October 27, Tuesdays-Fridays only, 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

October 3, Tuesday **Town Council Meeting & Study Session**

8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

October 3, Tuesday **HP Night Out** - Jester Park & 3801 Lexington Ave.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free event to meet Town Employees and HPDPS officers.

October 7, Saturday **Family Saturday at the Meadows Museum** - 5900 Bishop Blvd, Dallas

10:30 a.m. This program is free with regular museum admission and designed for children ages four to nine, but all are welcome.

October 14, Saturday **Elder Frauds, Scams, and Financial Exploitation** - Library

11:00 a.m. Eventbrite registration required for this Adult Library Program.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elder-frauds-scams-and-financial-exploitation-tickets-710603091977?aff=HPL>

October 17, Tuesday **Town Council Meeting & Study Session**

8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

October 18, Wednesday **HPCAN Blood Drive** - DPS Training Room

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Schedule to give:
https://ww2.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/138176

October 18, Wednesday **Intro to Tennis for Kids** (ages 10-14) - Parks & Rec

5:00 & 6:00 p.m. Registration required through [CivicRec](#), to be held at Abbott Park Tennis Court.



X @HP_Texas

X @HPDPS_TX

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 (214) 521-4161

OCTOBER CALENDAR



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October 20, Friday Genealogy Marathon - Library

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Attendance is virtual or in-person, Eventbrite registration required.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/genealogy-marathon-live-virtual-tickets-715422607277?aff=HPL>

October 21, Saturday Park Cities Recycling Event - 3001 University Blvd.

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Document shredding, electronic recycling, and donations accepted.

October 21, Saturday Teen Mask Making - Library

2:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Eventbrite registration required.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-mask-making-tickets-706281897167?aff=register>

October 25, Wednesday Tall Tails - Library

4:30 p.m. Offered on the last Wednesday of every month. Registration is required.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

October 28, Saturday DEA Drug Take-Back Saturday - HPDPS Lobby

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bring your expired and unwanted medications so the DEA can properly dispose of them. A dropbox is located in the HPDPS Lobby 24/7 for your convenience, as well.

October 28, Saturday DSO Concert Truck - 3801 Lexington Avenue

11:00 a.m. Outdoor concert for the community.

October 30, Monday Intro to Pickleball - Parks & Rec

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration required through [CivicRec](#), to be held at Abbott Park Tennis Court.



X @HP_Texas

X @HPDPS_TX

 hptx.org

 (214) 521-4161



FALL CLINICS

Into to Pickleball

October 30, Monday,
6:00 - 8:00 PM

or

November 4, Saturday
10:00 AM - Noon

Into to Tennis for Kids (Ages 10-14)

October 18, Wednesday
5:00 - 6:00 PM or
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Into to Tennis for Adults (18+)

November 2, Thursday
5:00 - 7:00 PM

All clinics will be held
at **Tennis Court #8**,
Abbott Park,
4814 Abbott Avenue.

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1ST
WWW.HPTX.ORG/RECREATION

Questions?
Call 214-559-9308 or
Email h russell@hptx.org



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HPCAN

Annual Food Drive

Benefitting
DALLAS COLLEGE



Accepting nonperishable food items, such as:

- Breakfast Bars/Energy Bars
- Peanut Butter Crackers, Jelly
- Ramen Noodles & Cup Noodles
- Ravioli & Chili
- Microwavable Meals in a Box (Shelf-Stable)
- Single Serving Cups of Mac and Cheese
- Fruit cups
- Gatorade/Fruit Drinks
- Instant oatmeal
- Popcorn
- Vienna sausage
- Tuna or chicken meal packages
- Bottled water/Flavor water packs
- Nonperishable vegetarian snacks

**COLLECTING ITEMS FROM
OCTOBER 21 - NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

**Donations may be dropped off at:
HP DPS Lobby, HP Town Hall Entrance, Moody Family YMCA**

