

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Recycle Your Tree
- Prepare for Freeze
- Leadership HP
- Tennis Permits available
- Library Programs
- Library Services
- What to Check Out Next
- January Events Calendar
- Leadership HP flier

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 hussell@hptx.org, or call (214) 559-9308 with your recommendations.



Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Residents may place their Christmas tree on the parkway before 7:00 a.m. on normal brush collection days:

- Residences west of Preston Road: Mondays and Thursdays
- Residences east of Preston Road: Tuesdays and Fridays

Decorations, especially tinsel, must be removed from the tree for collection as the trees are mulched at the landfill. It is important for residents not to block the discarded tree with parked cars so the sanitation crew can see and have access to the discarded Christmas tree.



The Public Works Pipeline

Department of Engineering Services

Tips on Preparing for a Cold Snap

Winter is upon us, and who can forget the February 2022 freeze? We urge you to prepare for the likely event of another freeze event, if you have not done so already. Be sure to prepare the 4 P's: Pipes, Pets, Plants, People.

Protect Pipes

- Know the location of your home's shut-off valve and how to operate it. If you need a quick refresher on how to do this, please watch our short video at <https://vimeo.com/561870119>.
- Identify freezing points in your home.
- Strengthen your home's defenses such as covering outdoor faucets.
- Open cabinets to allow warmer air temperature in the room to circulate around pipes.
- Allow faucets to drip to keep water moving through pipes.

Protect Pets

- Keep your pets inside, both during the day and night during extremely cold weather.
- Wipe their paws and under bellies when they come inside. This minimizes exposure to de-icers and salt, and allows owners to inspect the animal for frostbite. Contact your vet if you fear your pet shows signs of frostbite.

Protect Plants

- Outdoor water systems should be drained and covered or allowed to drip slowly to help protect from damage.
- Move container plants inside.
- Cover plants with frost protection. Stringing holiday lights around sensitive plants and covering them with a tarp can provide protection from light freezes.
- Take steps to avoid drought-stress in the days before freezing temperatures arrive. Adding mulch to plant beds on during warmer days will help regulate soil temperature and moisture.

Protect People

- If weather gets very extreme like last year, please keep an eye on your neighbors; especially any that are housebound or elderly.
- Stay off the roads if ice accumulates and makes them unsafe to drive.
- Be prepared to grocery shop for necessities before predicted icy weather.
- If ice accumulation causes any wires to break, please stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report the location of the downed line.

Should power go out during freezing weather, residents can report a power outage or check the status of a previously reported power outage via an online reporting tool at oncor.com. You can also call Oncor at 888.313.4747. If you have signed up for My Oncor Alerts, text OUT to 66267 (ONCOR). To register for My Oncor Alerts, text REG to 66267.

To be notified or stay up-to-date on Town announcements and other alerts, you can sign up for service by visiting <https://www.hptx.org/409/Notify-Me> ; or by following the Town's X (formerly Twitter) feed at [@HP_Texas](https://twitter.com/HP_Texas) and [@HPDPS_TX](https://twitter.com/HPDPS_TX).

Get Engaged

Residents age 18 and older are invited to register for the Leadership Highland Park program. Formerly known as Town Hall 101, the program has been rebranded and refreshed! Participants will meet at Town Hall for two hours, for four sessions. Sessions will be given by department Directors, Administration, and special guests. The informal meetings give residents the opportunity to learn about and discuss important topics that concern their hometown. 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. Registration is required, and sessions are scheduled from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. for the following dates:

- February 8, 2024 - Making a Town
 - Topics including: Town history, governance model, history of the Community League, tour of Town Hall
- March 7, 2024 - Town Services: Administrative & Public Safety
 - Topics including: Finance, the budget process, Town library, Public Safety
- April 11, 2024 - Town Services: the Community
 - Topics including: Engineering, Public Works, Development, Parks & Recreation, Capital Improvement Program
- May 9, 2024 - Graduation & Community Engagement
 - Time to celebrate completion of the program with friends and family, and learn how to put all the information you learned to work.

To register or get more information, please call or email Holly Russell, Management Assistant, at hrussell@hptx.org or (214) 559-9308.

It is a New Year!

A new year means it is time to renew your Tennis Court Permits. You can purchase your permit online at hptx.org/recreation. Permits are \$40 per person, and are good for the whole year. You must be a resident of the Town of Highland Park to purchase a permit. Residents must have a valid permit to reserve and use the tennis and pickleball courts.

Courts	Location
Tennis Court 1	3800 Lexington Avenue (soon to be converted to pickleball courts only)
Tennis Court 2	5300 Drexel Drive - Hackberry Creek
Tennis Courts 3, 4, 5*	4525 Edmondson Avenue - Fairfax Park
Tennis Court 7	4501 St. Johns Drive - Davis Park
Tennis Court 8*	4814 Abbott Avenue - Abbott Park

**Courts 5 and 8 are also striped for two pickleball courts. Limited pickleball supplies are available at the HP Library for borrow, and at least one net is available at courts 5 and 8 for use.*

Challenge Yourself This Year at the Library

Winter Reading Challenge - Adults age 18 and older can join the Winter Reading Challenge and enter the drawing to one of five winter reading-themed gift bags. Complete the challenge by March 9, 2024, to enter the raffle drawing. Sign up and record your progress at hptx.beanstack.com. Read or listen to three books and record their titles for your chance to win one of five winter reading-themed gift bags.

- Books may be from outside the library's collection, but must be adult or YA level.
- Attendance at any adult library program or event during the challenge also counts. Just select the corresponding Activity Badge in Beanstack to earn credit for the event.
- The prize drawing will be held after the challenge ends on March 9, 2024.

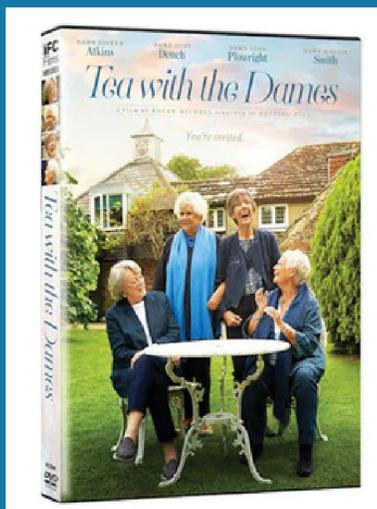


Work with an online tutor, for free - Students in kindergarten through introductory college can receive assistance from live, online tutors using an interactive, virtual whiteboard to chat, write, draw, and copy/paste. Tutors are available online through HelpNow Monday through Sunday from 2 p.m. to 11 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.

What to Check Out Next?



January is National Hot Tea Month. To celebrate, let's spill the tea with four acclaimed actors in the documentary film, [Tea with the Dames](#). During an afternoon conversation in the English countryside Dame Eileen Atkins, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Joan Plowright, and Dame Maggie Smith reminisce over their early acting days during the 1950s, relive pivotal moments in their careers, exchange industry gossip, and shed insight on their long-lived friendships.

The Library is open Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday - Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

JANUARY 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.

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Third Thursday at 12:00 PM: Mindful Movement - Yoga in the Park, meets in Prather Park.

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.

January 6, Saturday Family Saturday at the Meadows Museum - Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd
10:30 a.m. Free, with regular museum admission.

January 9, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

January 13, Saturday Dig Those Dinos - HP Library
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 5 and up. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dig-those-dinos-tickets-769824043437?aff=register>.

January 15, Monday Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17, Wednesday Memory, Cognition, and Healthy Aging - HP Library
12:00 p.m. Adults 18 and up. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/741052416727?aff=oddttdcreator>.

January 18, Thursday Mindful movement: Yoga in the Park - Prather Park
12:00 p.m. No registration required. If weather is too cold or rainy, it may be moved indoors to the DPS Training Room, 3rd Floor.

January 20, Saturday Tween and Teen Tiny Art Show - UP Public Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza, Suite 200
10:30 a.m. Pick up a Tiny Art kit at the UP Library or HP Library prior to the event.

January 20, Saturday Sand Art - HP Library
2:00 p.m. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sand-art-tickets-778427406327>.

January 23, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

January 27, Saturday Candle Making Workshop - HP Library
11:00 a.m. All materials provided. Adults 18 and up. Registration required, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/728542820187?aff=oddttdcreator>.

January 31, Wednesday Tall Tails - HP Library
4:30 p.m. Eventbrite registration required for this Library Program. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>.



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 hptx.org

 (214) 521-4161



OPEN FOR 2024

Program Overview

Leadership Highland Park is a Citizen Academy engagement course designed to provide the Town of Highland Park residents with a better understanding 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 in Leadership Highland Park.

Participants will enjoy the opportunity to personally meet Town and Department leaders, and discuss issues in an informal setting.

Mission

To improve citizens' understanding of the workings of Town Hall while encouraging their involvement in the community to help sustain the quality of life for present and future generations of Highland Park's residents.



THE TOWN OF
Highland Park
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ITINERARY

February 8, 2024 **Making a Town**

Topics including: Town history, governance model, history of the Community League, tour of Town Hall

March 7, 2024 **Town Services: Administrative & Public Safety**

Topics including: Finance, the budget process, Town library, Public Safety

April 11, 2024 **Town Services: the Community**

Topics including: Engineering, Public Works, Development, Parks & Recreation, Capital Improvement Program

May 9, 2024 **Graduation & Community Engagement**

Time to celebrate completion of the program with friends and family, and learn how to put all the information you learned to work.

HOW TO APPLY

- Want to know more about how your local government works
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a resident of the Town of Highland Park
- Be able to attend the four, two-hours sessions
- Email hrussell@hptx.org to register. Deadline is February 2.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Sessions will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 4700 Drexel Drive. Please contact Holly Russell, Management Assistant, at 214-559-9308, or hrussell@hptx.org, to register to find out more about the program.

**Schedule or dates may be subject to change due to inclement weather.*



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