

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

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Welcome to the Monarch Herald, your source for updates on new services, events, activities, and other important information in the Town of Highland Park. We aim to keep you informed and engaged with our community. If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered, please let us know. Contact Sofia Tarango, Administrative Assistant, at starango@hptx.org or call (214) 559-9308 with your ideas and recommendations.



Upcoming Public Hearings

The Town Council of the Town of Highland Park will hold public hearings at 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. These public hearings will address the **Proposed Property Tax Rate** and the **Proposed Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-25**. The public hearings will take place at Town Hall - Council Chambers, 4700 Drexel Drive, Highland Park, TX 75205. Any person may attend and participate in these hearings.

The proposed property tax rate will increase total property taxes by \$1,154,143 (6.26%) compared to last year's budget. Of this increase, \$267,664 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll.

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Plan of Municipal Services, filed with the Town Secretary on July 12, 2024, is available for review. You can access the proposed budget on the Town's website at <https://www.hptx.org/218/Annual-Budget>.

The proposed tax rate does not exceed the voter-approval rate, so no election is required. However, you may express your views on the proposed tax rate and proposed fee schedule by contacting the members of the Town Council of the Town of Highland Park or by attending the public hearing.

For further details on the proposed tax rate, please refer to the official [NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE \(PDF\)](#).

HAPPY
Labor Day

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

Town Hall offices and HP Library are closed

HP Department of Public Safety



Beware of Utility Scams: How to Spot and Avoid Impostors

Take a moment to become familiar with the “Utility Scam Awareness & Prevention” electronic flyer from Oncor. [Utility impostor scams](#) are not new and may involve deception by phone or face-to-face contact. These illegal schemes are extremely well thought out and the scammers will sound legitimate and authentic. These scammers will make threats to cut off your utility service, and their style of communication is one that is designed to create fear and an urgency for you to make a payment to them. In the case of face-to-face contact, the suspect will claim to be with a utility company and request access to your property. In the moment that you are distracted, a second suspect will attempt to enter your home to steal items of value. Bottom line, these impostors are extraordinarily believable.

Trust your intuition when things don't feel or sound quite right. Should you receive a phone call similar to the one described above, or if you have doubts about the legitimacy of a request to gain access to your property for utility related services, call the service provider directly. You may also report the suspicious activity directly to HPDPS (or the police department where you are located).

Recently, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) highlighted a prevalent utility impostor scam in an article titled "Got a barcode from your utility company to make a payment? That's a scam." Scammers are constantly devising new methods to swindle money, so it's important to recognize the warning signs. Please take a moment to review [FTC's article](#) on this matter.



Launch of Prepared Live in Our Emergency Communications Center

We are excited to announce the launch of Prepared Live in our emergency communications center. Developed by Prepared, the innovative software enhances our 9-1-1 capabilities by enabling livestreaming, multimedia reception, and location tracking from mobile callers in real-time. This addition to our technology suite will significantly improve our ability to respond effectively and efficiently to emergencies in the community.

Participation in video during a call is entirely voluntary, requiring the caller's consent. Once consent is given, the caller will receive a livestream link via text from the dispatcher, allowing them to activate live video upon a simple click. It's important to note that the video call feature does not provide the Town with access to the contents or settings of the caller's phone.

In addition to video functionality, Prepared Live includes another unique tool that allows for sending outbound text messages. This is particularly useful in the event of a 9-1-1 hang-up call—often referred to as an “abandoned” call that are often the result of a misdial or a smart device incorrectly placing the call. We have found that text communication often yields better results than voice calls, especially when attempting to contact someone who will not answer a voice call.

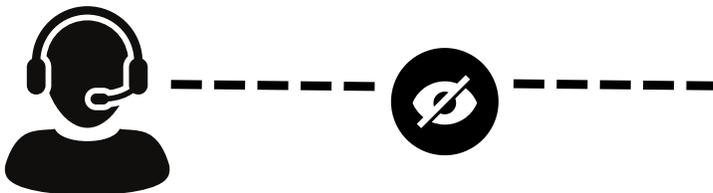
This solution also supports text translation enabling us to communicate effectively with individuals who speak different languages. In the case we receive a message in another language, the caller is sent a link, and the service does the translating for us. It automatically translates incoming messages to English, and then translates the dispatcher's response back into the language initially used.

This launch follows many weeks of preparation and training to ensure that our communications specialists are able to properly utilize the software. Working side-by-side with Prepared's customer success team, we have developed and adopted policies to ensure that Prepared Live is used effectively in various scenarios.

Originally founded as a company focused on school safety, Prepared, led by co-founders Mike, Dylan, and Neal, is a mission-driven organization with a passion for improving public safety. In creating an app to help mitigate school emergencies, the team discovered that valuable data is lost in existing 9-1-1 processes and set out to address the problem. Since its public launch in October 2021, Prepared Live has helped protect over 35 million Americans in cities around the country.

We feel very fortunate to integrate this cutting-edge technology and look forward to more in the future. To learn more about Prepared and Prepared Live, please visit Prepared911.com.

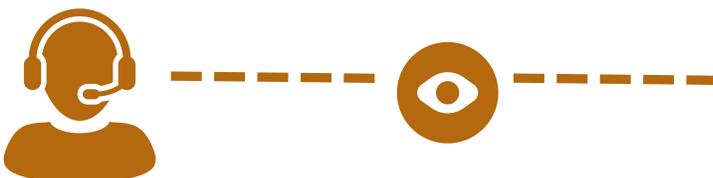
Standard Dispatch Center



Outdated technology blocks dispatchers from having eyes-on-scene



Prepared Live



Enhanced technology removes the barrier by providing immediate eyes-on-scene



Libraries: More Than Meets the Eye

Join us as we celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month this September! Whether you are upgrading your skills, scouting for knowledge and information, or connecting with other heroic readers, a library card is your key to an arsenal of resources. Unlock a world of opportunities by sparking your creativity as a builder or programmer, mining the library's stacks and databases for new stories and adventures, or kickstarting your critical thinking skills. Hitting the road? Use your library card to fuel your mind with books, e-books, audiobooks, and more. Your library card is your gateway to it all!

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. For more information, visit www.hplibrary.info or call (214) 559-9400.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month, sponsored by the American Library Association, has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. Libraries play a crucial role in educating communities, from story times for preschoolers to college and career planning for high schoolers to nurturing literacy and a love for reading for all ages. Don't miss out—get your library card today and explore all the benefits it has to offer!



September Special: Library Card Sign-Up Giveaways!

Stuffed Animal Sign-Up

Ramone the bear is ready to dive into reading! He's so excited to use his library card, and he wants all of the stuffed animals to join him! From September 1 through September 30, any child who signs up for a library card will automatically receive one for their fuzzy friends. Any child already signed up or unable to obtain a card can fill out a special Teddy Application to receive one. Stuffed animal library cards can be picked up in person at the Highland Park Library.

Book Giveaway

During the month of September, the first 30 children to sign up for a library card will receive one book from a list of selected titles. All titles' literacy levels range from early years to late elementary school and will be provided on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. More information about Library Cards can be found on our [website](http://www.hplibrary.info).

HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Teen Mood Board Book Covers - Saturday, September 7 at 2 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall
Is your aesthetic dark academia, cottage core, girly pop, or something else? Show it off by making two personalized book covers! Bring your favorite book, journal, or folding tablet to measure and choose from an assortment of materials to create the look you want. Not sure what you want? That's okay! Examples of different aesthetics will be provided to find out what fits you. Suitable for ages 10 and up. [Registration](#) is required.



Tall Tails - Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall
Spend one-on-one time and read a story with a furry friend! Children of all reading levels are encouraged to get to know one of Canine Companion's future service dogs. These dogs will one day work alongside people with disabilities to help increase their independence. Each child will get 15 minutes of reading time with their pawsome audience to practice their literacy skills. [Registration](#) is required.



About Canine Companions- Canine Companions was established in 1975 and is a national organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs at no charge to the recipient. With six training centers spread across the US, Canine Companions is the largest provider of service dogs in the world. More can be read about their extraordinary work here: <https://canine.org/about/>.

Racing Rally - Saturday, September 28 at 2 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall
Join the Highland Park Library and Crafty Behavior in this bracket-style competition. Whether simple and sleek or brash and bold, everyone will get the chance to build their very own miniature race car and customize it to their heart's content. Each unique vehicle will face off on Crafty Behavior's specialized ramp, as it records racers' time and speed, for the chance to win a special prize! Suitable for ages 5 and up. [Registration](#) is required.



What to Read Next



This title outlines a very important rule for visiting the library, Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library. Author Julie Gassman and illustrator Andy Elkerton showcase the magic, fun, and variety of libraries in this humorous picture book. Guess what...the solution for the rule is to simply use your library card to check out books for your dragon to enjoy at home because no one wants a dragon to ignite in the library.

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 www.hplibrary.info or call (214) 559-9400 for more information.

Unveiling a Fresh Cover Design

The Library is thrilled to unveil its new logo, a vibrant and modern design, which features the iconic blend of a book spine and a digital bookmark. Complemented by a dynamic and memorable font, this new logo reflects our forward-thinking approach while honoring our rich heritage.

You will see this logo across all library materials, including signage, online resources, and promotional items. The logo project is a key initiative of the Library's Master Plan strategy, "Inspiring a New Chapter: Preserving the Best of the Past While Providing the Best of the Future." Our goal is to enhance our community's experience by blending the best of our storied past with innovative services and technology of the future.

We invite you to explore our new logo and learn more about the exciting programs and services offered to the community at www.hplibrary.info.



How Do You Know If You Are Watering Too Much or Too Little?



Watering efficiently can be stressful in the summer months. Beautiful landscaping is a benefit to everyone in the community and so is watering responsibly.

We have ways to help! The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Water My Yard program is available to Highland Park residents. The site collects local weather data through an extensive network of weather stations and rain gauges in sponsored areas across the county. The Water My Yard website was created by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and designed to provide homeowners guidance on when and how much water to use for their landscaping. Residents and business owners who do not know the precipitation rate can

calculate it by answering a few questions about their type of sprinkler system or conducting a catch-can test. If that test cannot be completed to achieve the greatest accuracy, use the number 0.75, which was a default rate determined using an oscillating sprinkler. Then, click on "Sign Up for Weekly Email" to begin receiving an email with watering recommendations.

Learn more here: <https://WaterMyYard.org/>.

Learn more about Water Conservation in HP here: www.hptx.org/waterconservation.

Dive into Post-Season Fun at the Pool!

Post-season hours have begun! Enjoy our pool with the following schedule:

- **Tuesday - Sunday:** 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. for Lap Swim Only
- **Saturday - Sunday:** 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for Open Swim Only



HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

Labor Day Holiday Hours: Monday, September 2nd

- Lap Swim: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Open Swim: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Don't miss our Labor Day Cookout at the pool! Join us for delicious hot dogs and burgers on **Saturday, August 31** from **11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.** or until supplies last!

Pickleball Courts are Coming to Highland Park!

Pickleball is rapidly gaining popularity, with 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 (SFIA) 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.

We're thrilled to announce that Tennis Court #1 at Prather Park will be transformed into four fully dedicated pickleball courts. This project will include enhanced lighting, a flagstone pathway, landscaping, ledgestone bench seating, and creek wall improvements. The pickleball courts will feature a four-foot-high ball stop fence with a windscreen between sets of courts and graduated fencing along the perimeter of the entire court to ensure unobstructed views of the park. The layout and design of the court will also allow for future full conversion into a tennis court, if desired.

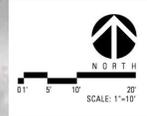
Construction is expected to begin in September 2024 with completion anticipated in early Spring 2025. During this period, access into Prather Park will be closed. We're looking forward to bringing this exciting addition to our community!





- LEGEND**
- ① PICKLEBALL COURT
 - ② LEDGESTONE WALL
 - ③ LEDGESTONE SEAT
 - ④ FLAGSTONE PATH
 - ⑤ PARK BENCH
 - ⑥ CONCRETE SIDEWALK
 - ⑦ IMPROVED CREEK WALL
 - ⑧ ENHANCED LANDSCAPE

LEXINGTON AVENUE



PRATHER PARK PICKLEBALL COURT

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TX

THIS GRAPHIC IS CONCEPTUAL. THE INFORMATION SHOWN IS BASED ON THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



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

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:00 PM: Mindful Movement - Yoga - **New location coming soon due to Prather Park closure.**

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.**

August 31, Saturday Labor Day Cookout at the HP Pool - 3801 Lexington Ave.
11:00 a.m. Free burgers and hot dogs while supplies last.

September 2, Monday Labor Day Holiday - Town Hall offices and HP Library are closed
HP Pool open 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. (Lap Swim), and 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Open Swim)

September 3, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Town Hall Council Chambers
8:00 a.m. Public Hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Rate
Public Hearing on the Proposed Fee Schedule
Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

September 7, Saturday Teen Mood Board Covers - Library
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Registration required at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-mood-board-book-covers-tickets-973828115107?aff=HPL>

September 17, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Town Hall Council Chambers
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

September 25, Wednesday Tall Tails - Library
4:30 p.m. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

September 28, Saturday Racing Rally - Library
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 5 and up. Registration is required at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racing-rally-tickets-972686209637?aff=libraryaware>



X @HP_Texas

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

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