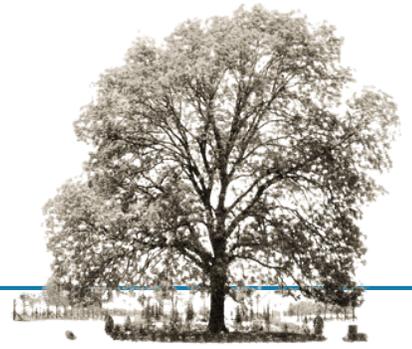


TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

IN A PECAN SHELL:

- HP Night Out
- Prather Park Closure
- Master Fee Schedule Amendments
- HHW & Recycling Events
- Extended Lap Swim
- HPDPS Honors 8-year-old
- Book a Librarian
- Library Programs
- Genealogy Seminar
- Tennis & Pickleball Events
- October Events Calendar

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.



Highland Park Night Out

Thank you to everyone who came out to Highland Park Night Out on October 1! It was a wonderful evening filled with community spirit, laughter, and connection. We appreciate all the families and volunteers who joined us to meet our Town and DPS employees and enjoy the fun activities. We can't wait to see you at future events!

Prather Park Closure for Pickleball Court Renovation

Tennis Court #1 at Prather Park will soon be transformed into four dedicated pickleball courts! This project will enhance the area with upgraded lighting, a flagstone pathway, beautiful landscaping, ledgestone bench seating, and improvements to the creek wall.

Construction is set to begin on **October 14th** with completion anticipated in early Spring 2025. Please note that access to Prather Park will be closed during this time. Stay updated on the progress by checking the [Parks](#) page on the Town's website, and all tennis permit holders will receive notifications of the closure via CivicRec.



We can't wait to bring this exciting addition to our community!

Amendments to the Master Fee Schedule

Annually, the Town allocates approximately one-third of its budget toward infrastructure within the Town. Investing in core infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and sewer lines, storm water facilities is of paramount importance to the success of any community.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the allocation for capital expenditures is one-half of the annual budget. The Town's 10-year Capital Improvement Program can be viewed [online](#).

Some of the key projects planned for Fiscal Year 2024-25 include:

Road, Bridges & Equipment

DPS Radio Equipment Relocation	\$975,000
Wycliffe Avenue Reconstruction	\$17,800,000
Potomac/Auburndale Reconstruction	\$1,500,000
Beverly Drive/Miramar Avenue Creek Crossings	\$1,822,000
Beverly Drive Reconstruction	\$1,030,000

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

Water and Sewer Replacement Program	\$2,573,000
Wycliffe Water and Sewer Reconstruction	\$1,850,000
Holland Elevated Storage Tank Site Improvements	\$1,175,000

Stormwater Infrastructure

Drainage Easements Improvements	\$1,500,000
Exall Lake and Connor Lake Dredging	\$2,000,000

To continue funding projects identified in the Town's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan and address additional operational costs, the Town Council approved amendments to the Master Fee Schedule, effective October 1, 2024.

Stormwater Drainage Fees: Increase of 100% to address future capital needs related to the Town's stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Water and Sewer Rates: Increase of 6.5% to address rising operating costs and support the Town's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Basic Alarm Monitoring Fee: Increase of \$3.60/month to engage third-party services to maintain the Town's alarm monitoring system.

Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Fees: Increase of 4% due to the escalation of current contracts with the Town's third-party service providers.

Building Permit Fees: Increase of 10% to fund supplementary personnel in the Building Inspections department and new software for building permitting.

The new fees for stormwater, water, sewer, alarm monitoring, and solid waste will be reflected on the utility bills sent out at the end of October. The approved budget for FY 2024-25 can be viewed on the [Town's website](#). For a detailed view of the changes, please visit the [Master Fee Schedule](#).

Dispose & Donate this Fall

Park Cities Recycling Event

Don't miss the Park Cities Recycling Event on **Saturday, October 19**, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 3001 University Blvd. Bring your paper documents for shredding, gently used clothing and household items for donation, and electronics for recycling. No reservation is needed!

For a list of acceptable items, click [here](#).

Let's keep our community clean and safe!

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Mark your calendars! The Town's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off Event will take place on **Saturday, November 9**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 3801 Lexington Avenue (HP Pool parking lot). This is your chance to safely dispose of unused paint cans, chemicals, old cleaners, and any items labeled with hazardous or caution warnings, including: caution warning, danger, poison, flammable, reactive, corrosive, or toxic.



Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling Customer Service at (214) 521-4161 during normal business hours or online at www.hptx.org/recreation. Please note that this event is currently for Highland Park residents only.

For more information, visit www.hptx.org/hhw.

Curious about what constitutes a household chemical? Check out the DCHCCC's website for a comprehensive list of acceptable items: [Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste Checklist](#). You'll also find useful tips for safer alternatives to hazardous products.

Extended Lap Swim Begins October 1st

The Town Swimming Pool is open for extended lap swim season! Enjoy lap swimming Tuesday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please note that there are no hours on Mondays or weekends.

This extended season will run from October 1st through November 27th. Dive in and make the most of your swim!





A New Recruit: Kewan Gibson Joins the HPDPS Family

On September 21, the Highland Park Department of Public Safety (HPDPS) held a special swearing-in ceremony for Kewan Gibson, an inspiring 8-year-old with a heartfelt ambition to become a firefighter. Earlier this year, Kewan bravely took the stage as a pediatric cancer patient model for the 2024 Children's Cancer Fund Annual "A Knight to Remember" Gala. Having previously shared his dream of becoming a firefighter, Kewan's wish was conveyed to HPDPS by the dedicated staff of the Children's Cancer Fund.

To make Kewan's moment at the gala even more memorable, three HPDPS officers donned their full firefighting gear and joined him along his walk on the runway. Bursting with pride, Kewan's infectious smile lit up the room, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.



During the swearing-in ceremony, Chief Chuck McGinnis presented Kewan with his own HPDPS badge, helmet, and certificate, symbolizing his official welcome into the HPDPS family. Following the ceremony, Kewan joined C-Shift personnel for an exciting afternoon that included a full station tour, lunch with staff and members of the community, followed by a quick board game with his new colleagues. Kewan was assigned to the 3rd seat on Engine 331, and his first response was to a small fire in front of Town Hall.



"We are deeply honored to have Kewan join our ranks," said HPDPS Director of Public Safety, Chief Chuck McGinnis. "Kewan's courage, determination, and sense of purpose are truly inspiring, and we know these qualities will serve him well as a firefighter."

This heartwarming event not only fulfilled Kewan's dream but also brought the staff and community together in a show of support and solidarity. It is moments like these that remind us of the power of community and the importance of supporting one another. This event was covered and shared locally on [NBC Channel 5](#).

Book a Librarian

The Highland Park Library is thrilled to launch its novel **Book a Librarian** program. This inventive and personalized service allows patrons to schedule one-on-one appointments with our expert librarians, providing tailored assistance for diverse informational and research needs.

Designed to provide a more customized library experience, the Book a Librarian program makes it easier than ever for community members to access the wealth of resources available at the library to support personal and professional growth. Whether it's navigating complex research projects, exploring new technologies, discovering hidden gems in the library's collection, or simply seeking advice on how to get the most out of library resources, this new service aims to offer targeted support that meets individual needs. To book an appointment, patrons can visit the library [website](#).

The Highland Park Library faithfully serves as the community's Connection to Lifelong Learning.

Fall is a Gourd-geous Season for Crafting

It's the perfect season to indulge in some creative crafting! The library offers a cornucopia of resources to ignite your crafting and DIY inspiration this fall. Visit our [website](#) to explore the following:

Craftsy: An online resource designed for all creative makers, from basic instruction to advanced techniques. Over 1,400 in-depth instructional video classes; covering 20 different creative passions, including quilting, sewing, cake decorating, and painting. Available in the Extras section of the Libby app.

Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center: A treasure trove for hobby enthusiasts, offering "how-to" instructions and full-text access for more than 1,500 leading hobby books and craft magazines. Explore a variety of topics, including arts & crafts, collecting, home & garden, indoor recreation, kids' crafts, model building, needlecrafts & textiles, and more.

Make the most of the fall season and create memorable, handcrafted treasures. Grab a cup of cider and let your creativity flourish!

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.



HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

Fire Safety Storytime – Friday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m., Davis Park

The Highland Park Library will have a special all ages Story Time on Friday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. in honor of Fire Prevention Month, which falls in October. A Highland Park Department of Public Safety Officer will visit Story Time to explain firefighting gear and equipment as well as teach fire safety. In the event of inclement weather, this program will be moved indoors to the 2nd floor of Town Hall. No registration required.



Sensory Play with Miss Stacey – Saturday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall
Join us for open-ended, hands-on, engaging play for little ones with Miss Stacey of Play Play Play! This pop-up features crafts and sensory activities that focus on critical thinking through child-led play and exploration. Little hands will love this interactive program, which promotes learning, curiosity, openness, and socialization. Suitable for ages 1 through 7. [Registration](#) is required.



Dr. Flake-n-Stein's Magical Laboratory – Saturday, Oct 12 at 2:00 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall

Join the Highland Park Library for some scientific sorcery! This highly interactive show lets children participate in magic tricks, help with real science experiments, and even meet some friendly robot puppets! These experiments are all safe to do at home. So, children will be encouraged to try the experiments well after the show is over. Suitable for ages 5 and up. [Registration](#) is required.



Trick-or-Treat Storytime - Friday, October 25 at 10 & 10:45 a.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall
Join Miss Victoria and Mr. Tre for a very special Storytime at the Highland Park Library. This Storytime is designed for all ages. Read not-so-scary stories, sing songs, and follow along with Miss Victoria to get into the holiday spirit! After Storytime, children will be guided throughout Town Hall to receive treats! Tickets will be required for entry to Storytime. Tickets are free and will be handed out on the day of the event at the circulation desk.



Tall Tails - Wednesday, October 30 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/>.



Connecting Generations: Join our Genealogy Seminar!

The Highland Park Library is excited to participate in the Genealogy Network of Texas' annual Genealogy Seminar. Join fellow genealogists and family historians on **Friday, October 18** for a day filled with research and know-how.

This event features 8 sessions designed for both aspiring and experienced genealogists or family historians. A variety of topics are covered – from building and researching your family tree to using software, deciphering handwriting, and overcoming brick walls in research. All sessions will be available virtually, or you can attend select live screenings at the Library in the afternoon.

Don't miss out—register to receive a link to the event page! [Register here](#)



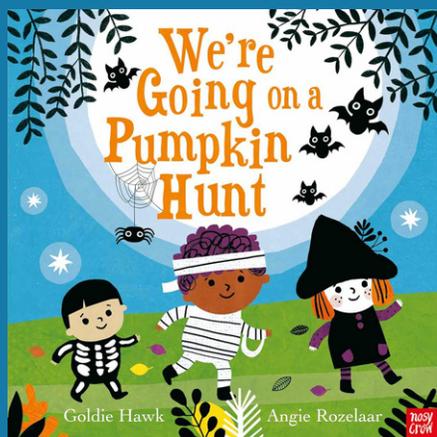
Highland Park Library | hplibrary.info

Friday, October 18, In-person & Online
Registration Required



Highland Park Library | hplibrary.info

What to Read Next



Ready for a pumpkin hunt like no other? Venture through a group of watchful green-eyed cats, sticky spider webs, flapping bats, and more on this journey to find the perfect pumpkin for trick-or-treating. You may notice a familiar tune as you read the text aloud. *We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt*, by Goldie Hawk, is a reimagining of the classic song *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

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.

Join Us for Fall Tennis and Pickleball Events!

The Parks & Recreation Department invites you to participate in exciting tennis and pickleball activities this fall!

Tennis 105

Experience a thrilling, fast-paced game designed for players of all levels who can rally back and forth. In this team-based format, players compete to reach 105 points, with points awarded for various winning shots. It's a dynamic way to enhance strategic play while having fun!

Date: Monday, October 21

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Location: Fairfax Tennis Courts #3-5



Intro to Pickleball Clinic

Join us for a 90-minute introduction to the rules, scoring, and key techniques of pickleball, including serving, volleying, and dinking. This session combines instruction and practice, helping you quickly develop the foundational skills to enjoy this fast-growing sport. No prior experience is necessary!

Date: Wednesday, October 23

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Location: Abbott Park Court #8



Pickleball Paddle Battle

Get ready for some fun and competitive play in our Paddle Battle! This 1.5-hour session is perfect for players looking to sharpen their skills through friendly matches. Participants will rotate partners and opponents, focusing on strategy, teamwork, to test your abilities, meet new players, and enjoy the excitement of pickleball. All skill levels are welcome!

Date: Wednesday, October 23

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Location: Abbott Park Court #8

Registration

Registration is encouraged through the [CivicRec](#) portal. Please note that a tennis permit is not required to attend, but these clinics are exclusively for residents of the Town of Highland Park.

We look forward to seeing you on the courts!

OCTOBER 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.**

October 1, Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Town Hall Council Chambers
Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Highland Park Night Out - Jester Park/3801 Lexington Ave.
Community event to meet Town Employees and HPDPS officers.

October 4, Friday 10:00 a.m. Fire Safety Storytime - Davis Park
If it rains, the program will be moved to the library. No registration required.

October 5, Saturday 2:00 p.m. Sensory Play with Miss Stacy - 2nd Floor of Town Hall
Suitable for ages 1-7. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elder-frauds-scams-and-financial-exploitation-tickets-710603091977?aff=HPL>

October 12, Saturday 2:00 p.m. Dr. Flake-n-Stein's Magical Laboratory - 2nd Floor of Town Hall
Suitable for ages 5 and up. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dr-flake-n-steins-magical-laboratory-tickets-999624262077?aff=HPL>

October 15, Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Town Hall Council Chambers
Agendas are made available online <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.



X @HP_Texas

X @HPDPS_TX

 www.hptx.org

 (214) 521-4161

OCTOBER CALENDAR



October 18, Friday Genealogy Marathon - Library
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Attendance is virtual or in-person. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/genealogy-marathon-live-virtual-tickets-1003678026997?aff=oddtcreator>

October 19, Saturday Park Cities Recycling Event - 3001 University Blvd.
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Document shredding, electronic recycling, and donations accepted. No registration required.

October 21, Monday Tennis 105 - Fairfax Park Courts (4524 Beverly Drive)
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Registration encouraged at www.hptx.org/recreation

October 23, Wednesday Pickleball Clinic - Abbott Park Court (4814 Abbott Avenue)
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Registration encouraged at www.hptx.org/recreation

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Pickleball Paddle Battle - Abbott Park Court (4814 Abbott Avenue)
Registration encouraged at www.hptx.org/recreation

October 25, Friday Trick-or-Treat Storytime - 2nd Floor of Town Hall
10:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Suitable for all ages. Ticket required for entry and will be available at the circulation desk on the day of the event.

October 30, Wednesday Tall Tails - 2nd Floor of Town Hall
4:30 p.m. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

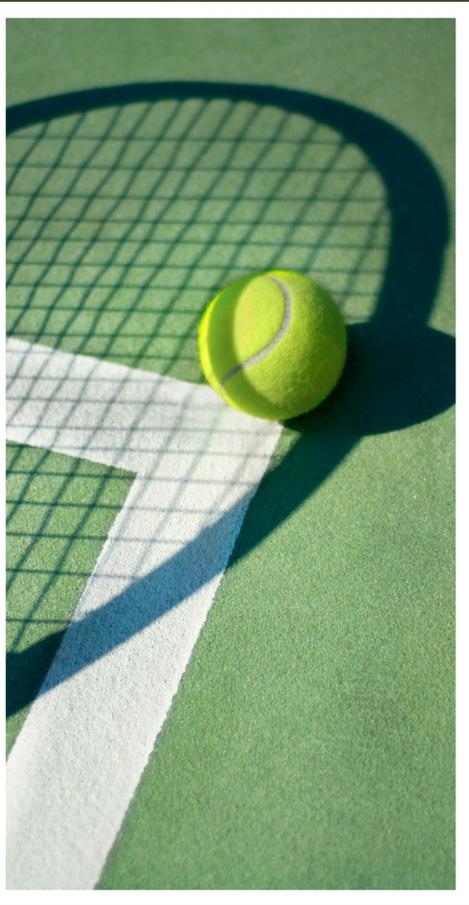


X @HP_Texas

X @HPDPS_TX

www.hptx.org

(214) 521-4161



TENNIS 105

 MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

 COURTS #3-5 AT FAIRFAX PARK
4524 BEVERLY DRIVE

PICKLEBALL CLINIC

 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

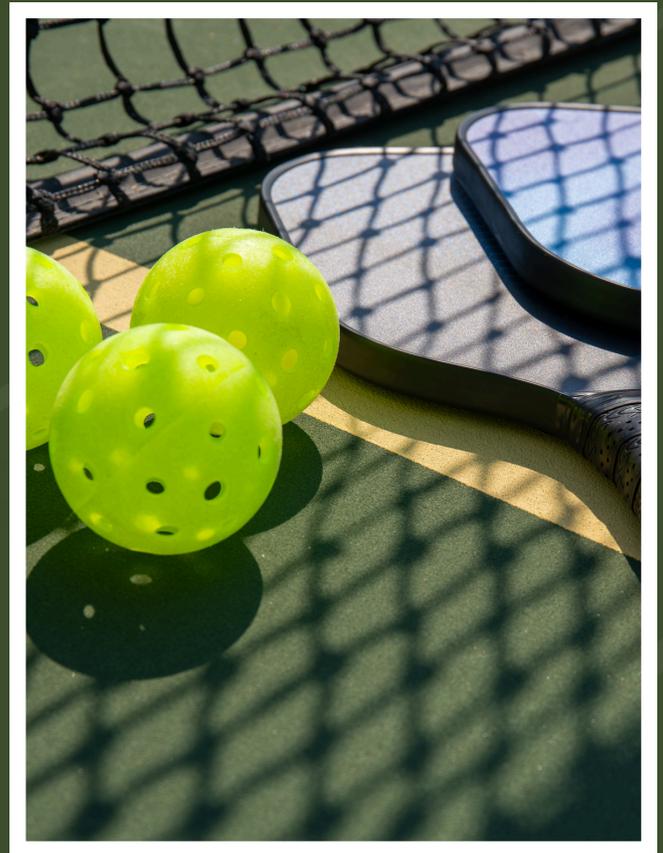
 COURT #8 AT ABBOTT PARK
4814 ABBOTT AVENUE

PICKLEBALL PADDLE BATTLE

 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

 COURT #8 AT ABBOTT PARK
4814 ABBOTT AVENUE



Registration encouraged at www.hptx.org/recreation
For questions, contact 214-559-9308 or starango@hptx.org



Blood Drive



Breonna B.

Blood Recipient
Dallas, Texas



Wednesday, October 16, 2024

10:00am - 3:00pm

Highland Park DPS

4700 Drexel Dr
3rd Floor Training Room

Contact:

Kelle Hall
khall@hptx.org

Schedule an appointment



*Receive a Tailgate Trio gift pack.**



CarterBloodCare.org
800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Item may be substituted for item of equal value.



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

PRATHER PARK

Closure Notice

Beginning **Monday, October 14**, the Town will be closing Prather Park, including Tennis Court #1, to begin construction of the Prather Park Pickleball Courts.

Improvements Include:

- Four dedicated pickleball courts
- Ledgestone style bench seating
- Flagstone pathway
- Improved creek walls
- Enhanced lighting and landscaping

Road Closure: Drexel Drive from Highland Avenue to Lexington Avenue will remain closed throughout the construction period.

Construction Schedule: Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. including occasional work on Saturdays.

Estimate Completion: Spring 2025



The Town of Highland Park appreciates your patience during these park improvements.

LEXINGTON AVENUE

