

# TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

## IN A PECAN SHELL:

- New E-Bike Ordinance
- Town Hall Holiday Closures
- Tree Lighting Event
- Holiday Trash Collection
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- 2025 Tennis Permits
- BMW Marathon Info
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- Lead Service Line Inventory
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- December 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](mailto:starango@hptx.org) or call (214) 559-9308 with your ideas and recommendations.



## E-Bike Ordinance Effective Jan 1, 2025

Starting January 1, 2025, the Town Ordinance regarding the operation of electric bicycles (E-Bikes) will take effect. You may view the full ordinance on the [Town's website](#).

An E-Bike is defined as "any bicycle that is assisted in movement by an electric motor," with Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 E-Bikes as specified in the [Texas Transportation Code chapter 664](#).

### Requirements for Operating an E-Bike in Highland Park:

1. The operator must have a valid driver's license.
2. The operator must obtain a permit from Highland Park DPS.
3. The operator must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.
4. Any operator under 21 years old must wear a helmet.
5. The E-Bike must have a permanent manufacturer's label that includes the class, top speed, and motor wattage.

### Application for an E-Bike Permit:

E-Bike Permits must be submitted in person and in writing by the operator or their parent/guardian at the Highland Park Department of Public Safety lobby, available Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. As part of the permitting process, an inspecting officer will review roadway safety, E-Bike operational regulations, and answer any questions the applicant may have. HPDPS will offer inspection periods that accommodate student schedules.

**E-Bike Inspection:** The applicant and their E-Bike will be inspected to ensure compliance with the following:

- Applicant has a valid driver's license
- One operable front lamp emitting white light visible from 500 feet.
- One operable rear lamp emitting red light visible from 500 feet.
- Operable front and rear braking systems.
- At least two side reflectors—one visible from the right and one from the left.
- No modifications that place the E-Bike outside Texas Transportation Code specifications.
- Class 3 E-Bikes must have a speedometer.
- A Town-issued emblem affixed to the left-hand side of the frame.

Stay informed by checking the [HPDPS website](#) for the latest updates and additional information regarding the application process.

happy holidays

## TOWN HALL & LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25  
New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1

### Annual Pecan Tree Lighting Event



Kick off the holiday season at the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! Join the community on Thursday, December 5th as we gather at the Landmark Pecan Tree to usher in the most wonderful time of the year. Enjoy festive activities, delicious treats, and warm treats starting at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, friends, and holiday spirit—we look forward to celebrating with you!

### Holiday Trash Collection Schedule

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

- **Monday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Tuesday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Wednesday:** Regular collection will be picked up on Thursday, 12/26
- **Thursday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Friday:** Regular collection schedule

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1

- **Monday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Tuesday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Wednesday:** Regular collection will be picked up on Thursday, 1/2
- **Thursday:** Regular collection schedule
- **Friday:** Regular collection schedule

The Holiday Trash Collection schedule can be viewed online at [www.hptx.org/HolidayTrashSchedule](http://www.hptx.org/HolidayTrashSchedule).

### Understanding FOGs and Proper Disposal

FOGs (Fats, Oils, and Grease) include items such as cooking oil, butter, lard, shortening, margarine, gravy, sauces, meats, sour cream, and mayonnaise. Disposing of these greasy materials down the sink can result in clogged sanitary sewer lines. To learn more about preventing FOG buildup, visit: [www.hptx.org/FOGs](http://www.hptx.org/FOGs).

Are you frying a turkey this year? Not sure how to dispose of used cooking oil? Residents can utilize the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) On-call Curbside Collection service. To learn more about this service, visit: [www.hptx.org/hhw](http://www.hptx.org/hhw).



# HOW THE Grease Monster STOLE THE HOLIDAYS



A small bit of grease in the hot roasting pan.

Some leftover oil from old Uncle Dan.

“Pour it down the drain. What harm could it do?”  
says dear old Aunt Bertha with the hair of light blue.

But under your home, in sewer lines and spans,  
the oils and grease hatch their evil plans.

Next thing you know, a new guest arrives,

A clogged drain bubbles up as if it's alive!

Recycle your grease or just throw it away,

And this year we'll keep the Grease Monster at bay.

Recycle grease by dropping it off at the  
nearest Grease Recycling Bin!!

Save the Holidays!  
Visit [CeaseTheGrease.org](http://CeaseTheGrease.org)

## 2025 Tennis Permits

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Tennis Permits for 2025 will be available for online purchase beginning December 16th. The use of the Town's tennis courts is reserved for resident permit holders and their guests. To reserve a court, a permit must be purchased. Permits can be obtained, and court reservations can be made through CivicRec at [www.hptx.org/recreation](http://www.hptx.org/recreation). Permits are \$40 per person, per year.

### Important Information:

- Reservations are required to use the tennis courts and may be made up to 72 hours in advance.
- Permit holders may reserve one hour of court time per day, per permit.
- Tennis Courts #5 and #8 are also striped for two Pickleball courts, and reservations are required for these as well.

If you have any questions about using CivicRec, please contact Customer Service at (214) 521-4161 during normal business hours, or call the non-emergency line at (214) 521-5000 for after-hours assistance.

## BMW Dallas Marathon

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The BMW Dallas Marathon will take place on Sunday, December 15. This event benefits Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and showcases the best areas of the City of Dallas, with a portion of the route passing through Highland Park. Since the route through Town is primarily residential, please be aware of temporary street closures and traffic detours. The race typically passes through the Town by noon, after which roads and intersections will reopen to traffic. Please take a moment to view the course map in [Highland Park](#). The turn-by-turn route through Town is as follows:

- Continue north onto Turtle Creek Blvd
- Continue north onto Lakeside Dr
- Veer north / right onto Armstrong Ave ramp
- East / right on Armstrong Ave
- North / left on St Johns Dr
- East / right on Crescent Ave
- North / left on Cowper Ave
- East / right on Harvard Ave
- Continue southeast / right on Harvard Ave
- South / right on Cole Ave
- East / left on Monticello Ave



For more information about the BWM Dallas Marathon or to view the full course map, please visit [BMW Dallas Marathon Event Details](#). You are encouraged to cheer on the runners as they race through our Town!

# TOY DRIVE

November 18 - December 7, 2024

Collecting new and unwrapped toys  
to benefit Family Gateway  
helping families affected by homelessness



## Drop Off Locations

Town Hall and HPDPS Lobby, 4700 Drexel Drive  
Moody Family YMCA, 6000 Preston Road





TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK

# ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 5, 2024  
6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Landmark Pecan Tree  
4202 Armstrong Parkway



## **Mindful Wellness**

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Join us for **Mindful Meditation** every Tuesday at 11:45 a.m., in the HPDPS Training Room. Please note that classes may be cancelled during weeks with major holidays. The sessions are led by Andy McDonald, a certified yoga and meditation instructor who has been leading mindful wellness activities in the Dallas area since 2004. There is no registration or cost to attend.

**Mindful Movement - Yoga** classes take place on the first Thursday of each month at noon, in Lakeside Park, unless otherwise announced by the instructor. Please refer to the [Parks and Recreation calendar](#) for specific class dates. In case of extreme weather or holidays, classes may be relocated to the DPS Training Room or cancelled. Participants should bring their own yoga mat, blanket, or chair for this low-impact activity. These sessions are also led by Andy McDonald, an ERTY-500 certified yoga and meditation instructor. There is no registration or cost to attend. For more information, please call 214-559-9308.

## **Lead Service Line Inventory**

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On December 16, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced measures to strengthen regulations on lead in drinking water. Following this, on August 4, 2022, the EPA released guidance to help communities identify pipes connecting drinking water to homes and other buildings containing lead.

The goal of the rule revision is to replace all lead service lines. To assist with this effort, the Town is working to create an accurate inventory of lead service lines to be able to replace them as they are identified.

The EPA and other cooperating agencies continue to update regulations and guidelines, and the Town will stay apprised of changes to ensure our high standard of water quality.

To stay informed on how the Town is complying with the EPA's Revised Lead and Copper Rule, visit <https://www.hptx.org/LSLI>.

# What do I need to know about the EPA's Revised Lead and Copper Rule?

## 1. History

On December 16, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced steps to strengthen the regulations on lead in drinking water.

On August 4, 2022, the EPA released guidance to help communities identify pipes connecting drinking water to homes and other buildings containing lead.

## 2. Goal

The goal of the rule revision is to replace all lead service lines on both the private and public side of service lines.

Rules and guidelines continue to be updated by the EPA and cooperating agencies. Town will stay apprised of changes to maintain our high level of water quality.

## 3. Process

- I. The Town has developed an inventory of over 5,000 service lines available to the public.
- II. Notifications will be sent to residents with unknown materials by November 14, 2024. Notices will be annual until the status of the service line is known. If your line has been identified as non-lead, there will be no notification.
- III. The Town will inspect all water service lines containing unknown materials for lead contamination over the next three years (October 2024 – October 2027).
- IV. If lead materials are identified, they will be logged, and you will be notified within 24 hours of identification.



Learn more about LSLI at:  
[www.hptx.org/LSLI](http://www.hptx.org/LSLI)

The Adult Winter Reading Challenge is Snow Much Fun!

Join us for the Adult Winter Reading Challenge! Read or listen to three books and record their titles. Participation in any adult library program or event during the challenge also counts. Simply select one of the Activity Badges to earn credit for the event. Complete the challenge for a chance to win one of five winter reading-themed gift bags! The drawing will take place after the challenge ends on March 15, 2025.



Sign up for the challenge at [hptx.beanstack.com](https://hptx.beanstack.com) and start reading today!

Highland Park Library | [hplibrary.info](https://hplibrary.info)

December 1, 2024 - March 15, 2025  
[hptx.beanstack.com](https://hptx.beanstack.com)



The season's best deals are at the library!



Libby.

Season's Greetings from Your Next Favorite eBook!

This season's best deals are at the library! Download or stream books, audiobooks, magazines, operas, classical music concerts, and The Great Courses from OverDrive's Libby app. Simply set up your account with your Highland Park Library card number and PIN. For more information on these and other online resources available to Library cardholders, please visit <https://www.hptx.org/170/eBooks-More>.

## HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

**Craft & Create for Adults: “No Knit” Gnomes** - Saturday, Dec 7 at 2 p.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall - We'll make adorable “no knit” gnome ornaments for your holiday décor. Suitable for adults 18 and up. [Registration](#) is required.



**Craft & Create for Adults: Kirigami Boxes** - Sat, Dec 14, 10:30 a.m., 2nd Floor Town Hall - Join us and learn how to make Kirigami boxes for small holiday gifts. Kirigami is the Japanese art or technique of cutting and folding paper into objects or designs. Suitable for adults 18 and up. [Registration](#) is required.

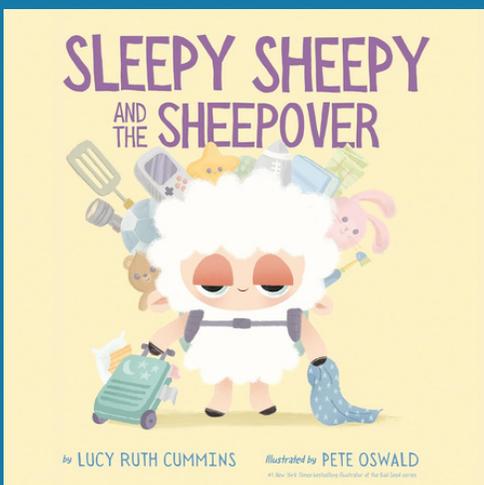


**Tall Tails** - Wednesday, December 18 at 4:30 p.m., 2nd floor Town Hall  
Spend one-on-one time and read a story with a furry friend! Children of all reading levels are encouraged to get to know one of Canine Companion's future service dogs. These dogs will one day work alongside people with disabilities 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 U.S., 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/>.

## What to Check Out Next?



As 2024 draws to a close, it's time for numerous “Best of 2024” lists. Included in the Best Picture Books of 2024 is *Sleepy Sheepy and the Sheeppover* by Lucy Ruth Cummins and illustrated by Pete Oswald. Not only is the title one for the “say five times fast” club, but the sweet message about the emotions surrounding a first sleepover is both kind and relatable. The illustrations, especially the ones depicting Sleepy Sheepy packing for a visit to Grammy and Grampy’s house, are sure to bring a smile to readers. For more Best Books of 2024 library staff picks, please visit [Library Staff Picks](#).

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.hplib.info](http://www.hplib.info) or call (214) 559-9400 for more information.

# DECEMBER 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 - Class meets at Dyckman Park.  
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 are required for entry to Story Time on Fridays. Tickets are free and available at the Library Circulation Desk each Friday.*

**December 3, 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>.

**December 5, Thursday** **Annual Pecan Tree Lighting** - 4202 Armstrong Parkway  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community event with delicious treats, warm drinks, and a visit from Santa!

**December 7, Saturday** **Craft & Create for Adults: "No-Knit" Gnomes** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 18 and up. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/no-knit-gnome-ornaments-tickets-1085641174979?aff=oddtcreator>.

**December 14, Saturday** **Craft & Create for Adults: Kirigami Boxes** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Suitable for ages 18 and up. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kirigami-boxes-tickets-1085500363809?aff=oddtcreator>.

**December 15, Sunday** **BMW Dallas Marathon** - info and route map available at [www.rundallas.com](http://www.rundallas.com).

**December 16, Monday** **2025 Tennis Permits Available for Online Purchase** - [www.hptx.org/recreation](http://www.hptx.org/recreation)

**December 18, Wednesday** **Tall Tails** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.

**December 24-25** **Town Hall offices and Library are closed for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day**  
**Christmas Eve & Day** Wednesday's residential trash collection will be picked up on Thursday, December 26th.

**January 1, Wednesday** **Town Hall offices and Library are closed for New Year's Day**  
**New Years Day** Wednesday's residential trash collection will be picked up on Thursday, January 2nd.



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X @HPDPS\_TX

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

 (214) 521-4161