

# 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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- HP4U
- Town Hall Holiday Closure
- Coyote Sightings in HP
- Temporary Library Service Outage
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- Access DMV Practice Tests
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- HP Swimming Pool Now Hiring
- February 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.



## Annual Pet Registration Reminder

If you haven't already, it's time to register your pet for 2025! As required by the Town Ordinance, all pets must be registered every January. The registration fees are \$20 for unneutered/unspayed dogs or cats and \$10 for neutered/spayed dogs or cats.

### How to Register:

- **Online:** Complete the form at [www.hptx.org/pet](http://www.hptx.org/pet).
- **Mail or In-Person:** Download the form, then mail or drop it off at Town Hall.
- **Email:** Send the completed form to [contactcustomerservice@hptx.org](mailto:contactcustomerservice@hptx.org). The fee will appear on your next utility bill after the application is processed.

Additionally, please provide proof of current rabies vaccination when you register. You can review the Town's ordinances on pets [here](#). For additional questions, please contact Customer Service at 214-521-4161.

## Report Issues with HP4U

Have you noticed something in Town that needs attention, such as a pothole or a fallen tree in the park? HP4U is the convenient resident portal for reporting issues directly to Town staff.

To submit a report, simply visit [HP4U Online Portal](#) or download the HP4U app on Apple or Android devices to report issues on the go.



We appreciate your help in keeping our community safe and well-maintained!

2025

PRESIDENTS' DAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

TOWN HALL OFFICES & LIBRARY  
WILL BE CLOSED



## Wildlife in Urban Environments: Coyotes

Periodically, Highland Park DPS receives notification of a coyote sighting in the area. Coyotes have adapted to urban environments, so it's not uncommon to see them, particularly at night. While there has been no noticeable increase in coyote sightings recently, their activity may rise in February due to their mating season.



Generally speaking, coyotes are skittish and naturally fearful of humans, seeking ways to avoid contact by using natural vegetation to conceal their movements. That said, HPDPS recently received a report of a coyote sighting at 12:30 a.m. near LaSalle Avenue and Westway Avenue. During the incident, the coyote ran toward a small dog being walked off-leash. The dog's owner quickly picked up their pet, about 15 yards away, and yelled at the coyote to scare it off. The coyote circled before running away, which is very unusual. While the "hazing" technique (e.g., yelling, making noise) coerced the coyote away in this situation, its behavior was less timid than expected.

Because January and February mark the coyote mating season, they may display bold or territorial behavior. If you encounter a coyote displaying such behavior, or if it appears sick or injured, please notify the HPDPS dispatch center at 214-521-5000.

### Tips to Minimize Human-Coyote or Pet-Coyote Conflicts:

- If you see a coyote on your property, make the experience unpleasant for the animal by using "hazing" techniques, such as yelling, making loud noises, waving your arms, or shining a flashlight at the coyote. This helps discourage coyotes from becoming too comfortable around people and pets. Contact HPDPS if you need assistance with hazing a coyote off of your property.
- Pet owners with small dogs may want to supervise their pets during nighttime bathroom breaks. For added safety, keep pets on a six-foot leash when walking.
- Consider keeping indoor/outdoor cats inside at night to protect them from potential encounters with coyotes.
- Avoid leaving pet food or water dishes outside, as they may attract wildlife.

If you witness a coyote sighting, please use the [online form](#) available on the Town's website for monitoring purposes. Thank you for helping keep Highland Park safe for both residents and wildlife!

# HIGHLAND PARK SWIMMING POOL

 3801 LEXINGTON AVENUE, HPTX 75205



**FREE LIFEGUARD  
CERTIFICATION &  
RECERTIFICATION**

## COMPETITIVE STARTING PAY

	CONCESSION ATTENDANT	\$12.19/HR
	LIFEGUARD	\$15.16/HR
	LEAD LIFEGUARD	\$20.00/HR
	SWIM INSTRUCTOR	\$20.00/HR

APPLY NOW  [www.hptx.org/jobs](http://www.hptx.org/jobs)

## CONTACT

Allison Keene, HR Coordinator  
[akeene@hptx.org](mailto:akeene@hptx.org)  
214-559-9332



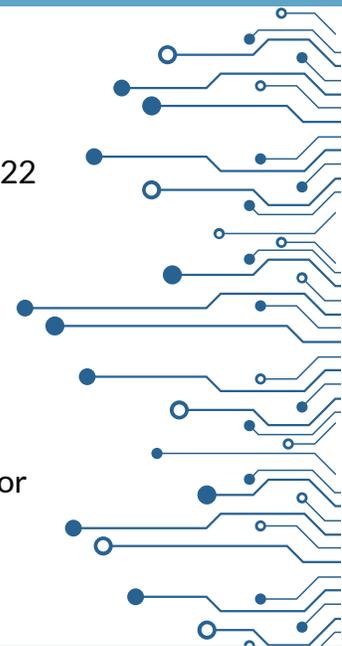
## Planned Technology Upgrade: Temporary Service Outages

The library will undergo a software upgrade to enhance services and improve patrons' experiences. As a result, there will be temporary service outages on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23. During this period, the following services may be unavailable:

- Access to online catalogs and databases
- Renewing materials and placing holds
- Digital resources (eBooks, audiobooks, etc.)

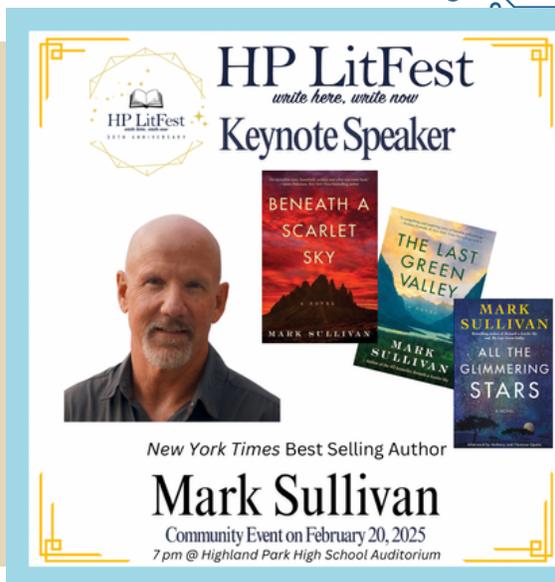
We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we work to improve the library's system. For updates or assistance, please visit [www.hplibrary.info](http://www.hplibrary.info) or contact library staff at [hplibrary@hplibrary.info](mailto:hplibrary@hplibrary.info) or 214-559-9400.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.



## HP LitFest Community Keynote Event

Highland Park LitFest is thrilled to celebrate its 30th anniversary and announce Mark Sullivan, New York Times bestselling author of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* and former investigative reporter, as the featured speaker for this year's community keynote event. Join us on **February 20** at **7pm** in the **Highland Park High School Auditorium**. Doors open at **6:30pm** and admission is free. For more information, please visit: [www.hplitfest.com](http://www.hplitfest.com). HP LitFest is made possible through the generous support of La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas, HP Arts and HPHS PTA, and families from the school district and beyond.



HP LitFest  
*write here, write now*  
Keynote Speaker

**Mark Sullivan**  
New York Times Best Selling Author  
Community Event on February 20, 2025  
7pm @ Highland Park High School Auditorium

Books featured: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, *The Last Green Valley*, *All the Glimmering Stars*.



## The Adult Winter Reading Challenge

Winter may have arrived, but there's still plenty of time to escape into a great book! Register now and embark on your next literary adventure. Read or listen to three books and record their titles to complete the challenge. Attendance at any adult library program or event also counts! Simply select one of the program Activity Badges to earn credit for attending an event.

Complete the challenge to be entered into a drawing for 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](http://hptx.beanstack.com) and start reading today!

# Highland Park Library

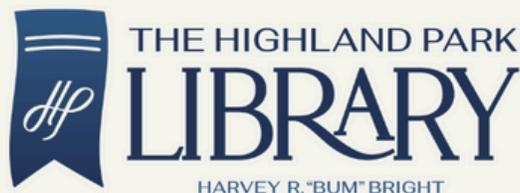
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## Temporary Closure

Starting on Tuesday, February 11,  
the Library will temporarily close for a  
recarpeting project.

The closure is expected to  
last for approximately two weeks.

For more information, please visit  
**[www.hplibrary.info](http://www.hplibrary.info)** or call **214-559-9400**.





## Free Access to DMV Practice Tests

The popular driver education platform, [Driving-Tests.org](https://Driving-Tests.org), is now available for free at the Highland Park Library. Whether you're a teenager, newcomer, senior citizen, or simply renewing your license, this resource is designed for all drivers.

Access the program at [Highland Park Library Driving Tests](#) from any computer or mobile device.

Features include:

- Official state driver's manuals
- Practice tests for car, motorcycle, and commercial driver's license (CDL)
- Exam simulator and DMV-related FAQs

Driving-Tests.org is a great way to prepare for your driving knowledge test more effectively and efficiently.

## Bringing Stories to Life, One Conversation at a Time

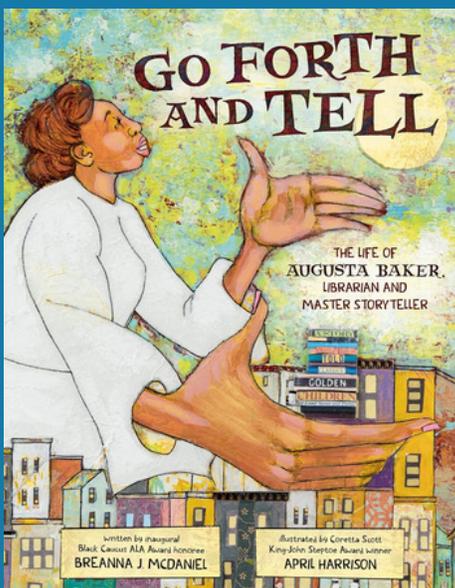
The Highland Park Library now showcases a monthly virtual author talk series, featuring bestselling, award-winning, and highly acclaimed authors from around the world. These engaging sessions will cover a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction genres.

The free, virtual events are held two to three times a month and includes opportunities for attendees to ask questions directly to the author. Registration and a full list of events are available on the Library's website: [Virtual Author Talk Series](#).

This series is presented in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium and generously funded by the Friends of the Highland Park Library.



## What to Check Out Next?



February is Black History Month and one meaningful way to observe it is through literature. The picture book *Go Forth and Tell: The Life of Augusta Baker, Librarian and Master Storyteller* by Breanna J. McDaniel is a biography that highlights Augusta Braxton Baker, the first Black coordinator of children's services at the New York Public Library and a beloved librarian and storyteller. Library staff have also designed in-Library displays showcasing poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by Black authors, allowing you to explore the rich diversity of voices and experiences.

Please visit <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/> to view Black History Month exhibits and collections from the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Gallery of Art, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

## HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

**Lunch Bunch Book Club** - Wednesday, February 12 at 12pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall

This month, we will be reading the gothic classic, Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. After the discussion, we will show the 1996 film version starring William Hurt, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and Anna Paquin. Feel free to bring your own lunch to eat while we discuss the book. No food is provided. For those who want to view the film after our discussion, it will start at 1 p.m. This program is for adults 18+. [Registration](#) is appreciated but not required.

**Adult Crafting Hour** - Saturday, February 15 at 10am, 2nd Floor Town Hall

This crafting hour will take place on the third Saturday of the month. Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! No registration is required.

**Stuffed Animal Hospital** - Saturday, February 22 at 10:30am, 2nd Floor Town Hall

Does your stuffed animal look like it's seen better days? Bring it to the Stuffed Animal Hospital for a check-up and minor repair! Our Stuffed Animal Care Team will assess your fuzzy friend's condition and create a care plan to make them feel all better! During your visit, stop at our care stations to make a sleep mask and create a collar or bracelet for your fuzzy friend. If your stuffed animal needs more extensive care, they're invited to stay for a stuffed animal sleepover, where repairs will be completed new friendships will be made! Repairs are limited to stuffing and sewing of cloth stuffed animals or dolls. This program is made possible through our partnership with the University Park Public Library. [Registration](#) is required.

**Tall Tails** - Wednesday, February 26 at 4:30pm, 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.

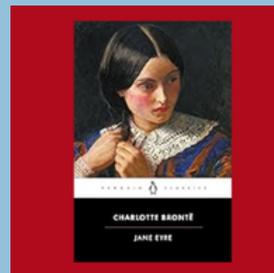
About Canine Companions- Canine Companions was established in 1975 and is a national organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs at no charge to the recipient. With six training centers spread across the US, Canine Companions is the largest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

**Mahjong in March** - Tuesday, March 11 and 25 at 5pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall

If you are interested in participating in Mahjong free play, please call the library at 214-559-9400 to sign up. If you'd like to learn how to play, please let us know as we are gauging interest in offering a class this Spring.

**Adult Spelling Bee** - Saturday, April 26 at 2pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall

Prove your spelling skills to win bragging rights! Winners will move on to compete against University Park Public Library at a later date. Pre-registration is required for your team. Open to ages 18 and up, with teams of 2-4 members. To register yourself or your team, please call the library at 214-559-9400. Solo participants are encouraged to sign up and will be paired with others to form a team.



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR



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

Every 1st Thursday of the month at 12:00 PM: Mindful Movement - Yoga in the Park - Class meets at Lakeside 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.*

## February 4, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Council Chambers

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

## February 6, Thursday Mindful Movement Yoga - Lakeside Park

This class will move to the DPS Training Room if the weather is not suitable to be outside.  
No registration required.

## February 12, Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book Club - 2nd Floor Town Hall

12:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Registration is encouraged at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-lunch-bunch-book-club-tickets-1125707143369?aff=oddtcreator>.

## February 15, Saturday Adult Crafting Hour - 2nd Floor Town Hall

10:00 a.m. No registration required.

## February 17, Monday Town Hall offices and Library closed for Presidents' Day

## February 18, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Council Chambers

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

## February 22, Saturday Stuffed Animal Hospital - 2nd Floor Town Hall

10:30 a.m. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stuffed-animal-hospital-tickets-1133588797609?aff=oddtcreator>.

## February 26, Wednesday Tall Tails - 2nd Floor Town Hall

4:30 p.m. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tall-tails-tickets-499628601597?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>.



X@HP\_Texas

X@HPDPS\_TX

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

 (214) 521-4161