

# TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

## IN A PECAN SHELL:

- HP Maintains Elite ISO Class 1 Rating
- Adult Winter Reading Challenge Ending Soon
- What to Check Out Next?
- Library Programs
- HP Pool Hiring
- Leadership HP 2025
- March 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.



## Town Recognized for Maintaining the Highest Public Protection Classification

On February 4, 2025, the Assistant State Fire Marshal formally recognized the Town of Highland Park for maintaining its prestigious Class 1 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This designation is the highest rating awarded and reflects excellence in fire suppression and prevention capabilities.

ISO, a New York-based advisory organization serving the property and casualty insurance industry, assesses fire protection services nationwide. ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) program evaluates communities using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), which measures fire prevention and suppression capabilities. Communities are rated on a scale from Class 1, the highest level of fire protection, to Class 10. The Town's Class 1 designation was originally presented on November 13, 2017.

Achieving and maintaining a Class 1 rating requires excellence in five key areas:

- Water distribution
- Fire department equipment and apparatus
- Firefighting personnel
- Emergency communications (dispatch services)
- Community risk reduction (fire prevention and investigation)

This recognition is a testament to the Town's unwavering commitment to safety and preparedness. The ISO Class 1 designation is an elite distinction, with fewer than 1% of the more than 29,000 fire departments nationwide achieving it, including only 74 in Texas. Beyond the honor, this rating may also contribute to lower insurance premiums for Highland Park homeowners and businesses. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of the Town Council, Town staff, emergency personnel, and the community in ensuring the highest level of fire protection.

We extend our gratitude to the residents for their ongoing support in making this achievement possible.

## The Adult Winter Reading Challenge is Ending Soon!

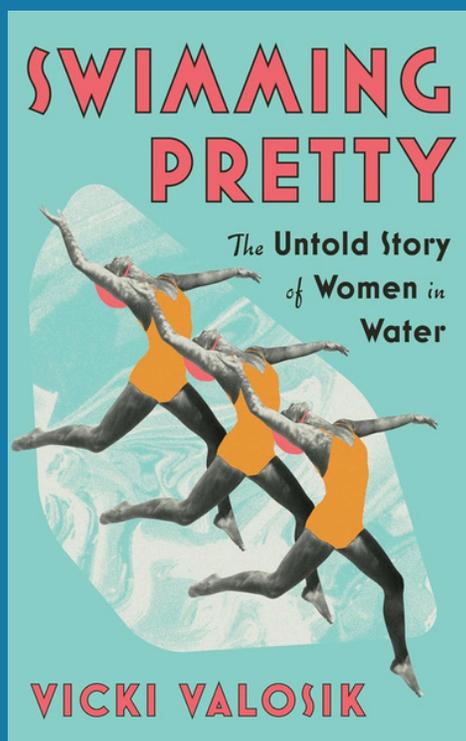
Winter may be here, but there's still plenty of time to escape into a great book! The Winter Reading Challenge is ending soon so don't miss your chance to participate and finish strong. Read or listen to three books and record their titles to complete the challenge. Attendance at any adult library program or event also counts! Simply select one of the program Activity Badges to earn credit for attending an event.

Complete the challenge by March 15, to be entered into a drawing for one of five winter reading-themed gift bags.

Make the most of the season and log your reading at [hptx.beanstack.com](http://hptx.beanstack.com) before time runs out!



## What to Check Out Next?



March is Women's History Month, and we're excited to celebrate with the book *Swimming Pretty: The Untold Story of Women in Water* by Vicki Valosik. This book explores the groundbreaking history of how women discovered synchronicity—and empowerment—in water. Valosik traces a century of aquatic performance, from vaudeville to the Olympic arena, unveiling a captivating history of grit, glamour, and sheer athleticism.

In addition, Library staff have curated in-Library displays of featuring titles that celebrate poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by women authors.

To explore Women's History Month exhibits and collections online, visit 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, at <https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/>.

# HP Library: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

**Teen Girl Scout Cookie Pairing** - Tuesday, March 11 at 1pm, University Park Public Library  
Kick off Spring Break with an assortment of sweet treats! Nothing goes better with ice cream than cookies, especially girl scout cookies. Taste test to find the best confectionary combination, while we watch a movie and make colorful bracelets. The Highland Park Library and University Park Public Library cannot guarantee that allergens will not be present. Each attendee/attendee guardian is responsible for the management of potential allergens. Suitable for ages 8+. [Registration](#) is required.

**Mahjong in March** - Tuesday, March 11 and 25 at 5pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
If you are interested in participating, please call 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.

**Lunch Bunch Book Club** - Wednesday, March 12 at 12pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
This month, we will be reading *Braver Than You Think* by Maggie Downs. Ms. Downs will be joining us virtually as we discuss the book. Feel free to bring your own lunch as no food is provided. Suitable for adults 18+. [Registration](#) is appreciated but not required.

**Teen Puzzling Competition** - Wednesday, March 12 at 1pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
Join us for a friendly tournament and see who the champion of puzzling will be. Bring your friends and participate in this exciting competition. Groups of 3-5 will face off against each other to see who can complete a puzzle the fastest. Each group will have 2 hours to complete their puzzle, and winners will receive a special prize. Suitable for ages 10+. [Registration](#) is required, with each ticket covering one group, not individual participants. Please note the number of participants in your group when registering.

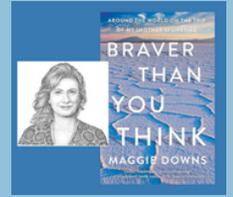
**Animal Adventures** - Friday, March 14 at 2pm, Davis Park  
Take a walk on the wild side with the HP Parks Department, the HP Library, and the Dallas Zoo. This educational program allows audience members to get up close and personal with 6-7 ambassador animals from around the world. While animal touching is not guaranteed, you'll have the chance to learn fascinating facts about these incredible creatures. For the safety and comfort of both attendees and animals, food is not permitted. Suitable for ages 5+. [Registration](#) is appreciated but not required.

**Adult Crafting Hour** - Saturday, March 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.

**Tall Tails** - Wednesday, March 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.

**Estate Planning 101** - Saturday, March 29 at 1pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
An estate planning attorney with over twenty-five years of experience will talk about what you need to get your affairs in order. [Registration](#) is appreciated but not required.

**Adult Spelling Bee** - Saturday, April 26 at 2pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
Put your spelling skills to the test for a chance to claim bragging rights! Winners will advance to compete against University Park Public Library at a later date. Open to ages 18+, with teams of 2-4 members. Team pre-registration is required by calling the library at 214-559-9400. Solo participants are encouraged to sign up and will be paired with others to form a team.



# 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





## FEW SPOTS LEFT!

**Leadership Highland Park** is a citizen academy engagement course designed to provide Town of Highland Park residents a deeper understanding of their municipal government and the delivery of town services. This program provides a comprehensive overview of Town departments, including the programs and services each offers.

Participants will gain insight into how the Town of Highland Park is governed, how the annual budget is developed, and how your tax dollars are utilized. Additionally, they will have the unique opportunity to connect with Town and department leaders, engaging in informal discussions on various topics. The program is open to residents aged 18 and older, and there is no cost to participate.

### **Mission**

To enhance citizens' understanding of Town Hall operations while fostering community engagement to help preserve and enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Highland Park residents.



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## SESSIONS

All sessions will be held at Town Hall, located at 4700 Drexel Drive.

**March 6, 2025 Making a Town & Town Administration**

**5-7 p.m.** *Town History, Governance Model, Town Administrator, Town Secretary, Tour of Town Hall*

**April 10, 2025 Town Services: Department Overviews**

**5-7 p.m.** *The Budget Process, Town Library Services, Department of Public Safety*

**May 1, 2025 Town Services: Department Overviews**

**5-7 p.m.** *Community Development, Engineering, Public Works, Parks, Recreation, Strategic Initiatives & Policy Development*

**May 29, 2025 Graduation & Community Partnerships**

**5-7 p.m.** *Celebrate completion of the program, explore local organizations serving the community, and discover ways to apply the knowledge you've gained.*

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Must be a resident of the Town of Highland Park
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Encouraged to attend all sessions to gain the full experience

Register online at [www.hptx.org/LeadershipHP](http://www.hptx.org/LeadershipHP). The deadline to register is March 3, 2025, or until capacity is reached.

For more information, contact Sofia Tarango, Administrative Assistant, at 214-559-9308 or [starango@hptx.org](mailto:starango@hptx.org).



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# MARCH 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.*

**March 4, Tuesday** **Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers  
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online at <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

**March 6, Thursday** **Mindful Movement - Yoga in the Park** - Lakeside Park  
12:00 p.m. This class will move to the DPS Training Room if the weather is not suitable to be outside. No registration required.

**March 11, Tuesday** **Teen Girl Scout Cookie Pairing** - University Park Public Library  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 8+. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-girl-scout-cookie-pairing-tickets-1134735868529?aff=erelexpmlt>.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Mahjong in March** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
Call the library at 214-559-9400 to register.

**March 12, Wednesday** **Lunch Bunch Book Club** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Registration is encouraged at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-lunch-bunch-book-club-tickets-1246240832879?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.

1:00 p.m. **Teen Puzzling Competition** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
Suitable for ages 10+. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-puzzling-competition-tickets-1135081161309?aff=erelexpmlt>.

**March 14, Friday** **Animal Adventures** - Davis Park  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 5+. Registration is encouraged at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-adventures-tickets-1246469336339?aff=erelpanelorg>.

**March 15, Saturday** **Adult Crafting Hour** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
10:00 a.m. No registration is required.

**March 18, Tuesday** **Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers  
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available online at <https://www.hptx.org/895/Town-Council-Agendas>.

**March 25, Tuesday** **Mahjong in March** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Call the library at 214-559-9400 to register.

**March 26, 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>.

**March 29, Saturday** **Estate Planning 101** - 2nd Floor Town Hall  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Registration is encouraged at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/estate-planning-101-tickets-1217147554099?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.



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