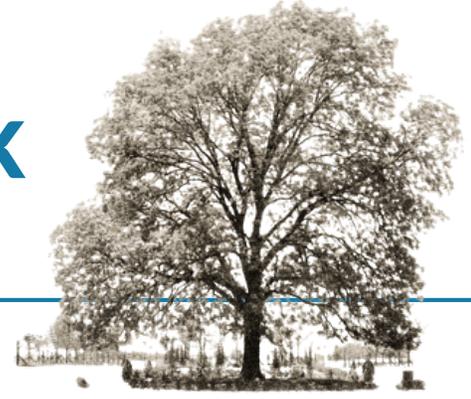


TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

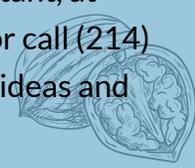


Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

IN A PECAN SHELL:

- 2025 Resident Survey
- 9-1-1 System Upgrades
- Park Cities 4th of July Parade & Town Hall Holiday Closure
- Prather Park Pickleball Courts Grand Opening
- Library Summer Reading Challenges
- Library Programs
- July 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.



2025 Resident Survey

The Town of Highland Park is developing a Strategic Plan to help guide future decisions, and residents are encouraged to participate by completing a short community survey. Each household will receive one printed survey by mail with return instructions. Residents may also complete the survey online at hptxsurvey.org.

Survey responses are confidential and will be compiled by ETC Institute, an independent research firm. Results will be shared with the Town Council and made available to the public.

Thank you for taking the time to share your input and helping shape the future of Highland Park!

Highland Park Upgrades to Next Generation 9-1-1

Highland Park has taken a significant leap forward in public safety by upgrading from the legacy 9-1-1 network to the advanced AT&T ESInet™ system.

What does this mean for our community?

- Faster and more reliable 9-1-1 call routing
- Enhanced location accuracy for quicker emergency response
- Support for next-generation communication technologies (like text, images, and video)
- Improved coordination and interoperability between public safety agencies



This upgrade marks a major milestone for Highland Park, equipping our first responders with cutting-edge tools to respond more efficiently and effectively in emergencies. We are proud to be operating on a **Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)** platform—strengthening safety for all residents.

**ANNUAL PARK
CITIES 4TH OF JULY
PARADE**

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH AT 9AM

(Town Hall offices and Library will be closed for the day)

[Click here for event details](#)



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Prather Park Pickleball Courts

GRAND OPENING

Join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony, mini lessons, paddle battle play, and more!

10:00 A.M.
FRIDAY, JULY 11
PRATHER PARK - 3800 LEXINGTON AVE



PROJECT RENDERING

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



COMPLETED PROJECT





Artventure: A Palette of Possibilities

Step into a world of imagination, color, and creativity with the vibrant transformation of the Children's Room! The hue-riffic transformation will be for a limited time!

Whether it's painting a planet, doodling a dream, or diving into a colorful book, the space is where imagination knows no bounds. From crayons to canvases, stories to sculptures, every corner encourages innovation. Be sure to stop by, get inspired, and explore before the excitement ends!

The Artventure experience is generously funded by the Highland Park Quality of Life Foundation and features original artwork by local artist [Amber Williams](#).

Be sure to register for the children's, teen, and adult summer reading programs, which run through July 31.

Adult Summer Reading Program

Artfully Read, Wonderfully Done - Summer Reading Challenge Ends July 31st!

Join the fun this summer with our Summer Reading Challenge! Adults who register will receive a special prize, while supplies last.

To qualify for the grand prize drawing, participants must log 1,000 minutes of reading—that's about the length of two audiobooks—and attend at least two programs in June or July.

All types of reading count: whether it's a paperback, e-book, audiobook, website, cereal box, or even the picture book you've read to your child dozens of times.

Don't miss your chance to win one of three exciting grand prizes, including a stunning tile set and mat from The Mahjong Line or a gift card to the Highland Park Village. Register and track your reading minutes and program attendance [online](#).

Let's make this a summer to remember—happy reading!

Children's Summer Reading Club

Be a Reading Artist – Create Your Story Before Summer Reading Ends!

The Summer Reading Club runs through July 31, and points earned during those months can be logged through the end of August. Sign-up bags are available for pickup with each including reading logs and a few extra goodies!

For questions or concerns, please contact us at hplibrary@hplibrary.info or votterbine@hplibrary.info.

The Library would like to thank our 2025 Summer Reading Club Sponsor, Christine McKenny and Allie Beth Allman & Associates, as well as The Friends of the Highland Park Library for generously funding the Sharing Literacy program.

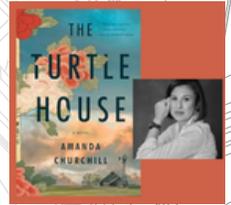


Library Programs: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

- Adult Program
- Children's Program
- Teen Program
- All Ages

Lunch Bunch Book Club - Wednesday, July 9 at 12pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

This month, we will be reading *The Turtle House* by Amanda Churchill. The author will be joining us in person for this discussion. Feel free to bring your own lunch (no food provided). Suitable for adults 18+.



Teen Altoids Wallets - Thursday, July 10 at 3:30pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Relax and let your personality shine with a cute and compact Altoids wallet! Create a tin filled with your favorite aesthetic, ready to take with you anywhere. Supplies are provided by the Highland Park Library and University Park Public Library, but feel free to bring personal trinkets to customize your creation!



This program is presented in partnership with the University Park Public Library. Attendees of this event can earn 25 points towards the Summer Reading Program reading goal! Suitable for ages 10+. [Registration](#) is open.



Colors of Kindness - Friday, July 11 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Join us for a colorful magic show to learn about tolerance, self-esteem, and kindness! Enjoy interactive storytelling, meet some special puppet friends, and even learn a few magic tricks to perform at home. Attendees of this event can earn 25 points towards the Summer Reading Program reading goal! Suitable for all ages. [Registration](#) is required for children.

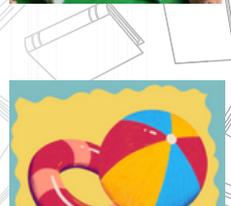


Puzzle Competition - Saturday, July 12 at 1pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Gather your puzzle-loving friends to complete a 300-piece puzzle and win a prize! Suitable for adults 18+. Call 214-559-9375 to register your team of 2-4 people.



Mahjong Open Play - Tuesday, July 15 and 29 from 4:30pm - 6:30pm | 1st Floor, Library
Suitable for adults 18+. As seats are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to sign up.



Baby Splash Storytime - Wednesday, July 16 at 10am | Highland Park Pool

Book it to the pool this summer! Join us for a special storytime at the Highland Park Wading Pool. Children will listen to stories, sing songs, and play games while splashing around!

This event is hosted in collaboration with the HP Parks Department. **Note:** In the event of inclement weather, this program will be canceled. Suitable for parents, caregivers, and children ages 3 or younger. [Registration](#) is required for the children.



Adult Crafting Hour - Saturday, July 19 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! This month we are making festive holiday trees! Suitable for adults 18+. Supplies are limited, so please call to reserve your space at 214-559-9345.



Teen Museum Escape - Thursday, July 24 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

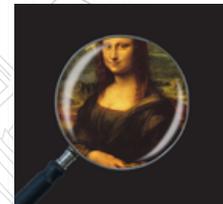
A group of sleuths discover that a famous painting is missing! Rather than take the painting, an elusive thief has a grudge against the security team at the museum and has hidden it somewhere inconvenient. Can you and other amateur investigators locate it? Team up to find out! Each group will have 45 minutes to complete the escape room and may find some goodies along the way!

This program is presented in partnership with the University Park Public Library. Attendees of this event can earn 25 points towards the Summer Reading Program reading goal! Suitable for ages 10+. [Registration](#) is open.



Ukelele for Beginners - Saturday, July 26 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

In this beginner-friendly class, we'll start by tuning the ukulele, then dive into four essential chords and a variety of strumming patterns to get you playing with confidence. Suitable for adults 18+. Supplies are limited, so please call to reserve your space at 214-559-9345.



Tall Tails - Wednesday, July 30 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/>.



WHAT TO CHECK OUT NEXT?



A summer blockbuster could be defined as a film that holds certain characteristics, such as big budget, wide release, star power, and spectacle. But there's one more trait worth adding to the list...based on a book.

Welcome to **Jurassic Park**; cue the dinosaurs. This iconic 1993 adventure film, directed by Steven Spielberg and based on Michael Crichton's book, is the epitome of a summer blockbuster. Decades later, it continues to thrill audiences and inspire sequels.

So, pop some popcorn, gather your family and friends, and enjoy the timeless movie magic of *Jurassic Park*.

HIGHLAND PARK SWIMMING POOL

Private Swim Lessons and the Swim Conditioning Classes are still open for registration through August 1st!

Register now at www.hptx.org/recreation.



2025 RESIDENT SURVEY

We want your feedback!

The Town of Highland Park is embarking on a strategic planning process to guide the future of our community. Your input is essential in identifying long-term goals and priorities that affect nearly every aspect of our community including public safety, parks and recreation, public works, community development and code enforcement, libraries and more.

Complete the survey one of the following ways:

-  Mail - A printed survey will be mailed to each household with return instructions
-  Online - Visit hptxsurvey.org
-  Scan the QR code



HELP SHAPE HIGHLAND PARK'S FUTURE

Your voice. Your Town.

All responses are confidential and collected by ETC Institute, a trusted municipal research firm.

JULY CALENDAR



Every Tuesday at 11:45 AM: Mindful Meditation - DPS Training Room, Third Floor

Every 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM: Mindful Movement - Yoga in the Park - Lakeside Park

Every Tuesday & Thursday at 9 AM: Water Aerobics - HP Pool

Every Thursday at 10:00 AM: Baby Bounce - meets in the Council Chambers (2nd Floor Town Hall)

Every Thursday at 10:45 AM: Baby Bounce - meets in the Council Chambers (2nd Floor Town Hall)

Every Friday at 10:00 AM: Toddler Story Time - meets in the Council Chambers (2nd Floor Town Hall)

Every Friday at 10:45 AM: Preschool Story Time - meets in the Council Chambers (2nd Floor Town Hall)

***Tickets are required for entry to Story Time on Fridays. Tickets are free & available at the Library Circulation Desk each Friday.*

July 1, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session - Council Chambers
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available [online](#).

July 3, Thursday Yoga in the Park - Lakeside Park
10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. Registration is encouraged, click [here](#) to sign up.

July 4, Friday Town Hall Offices and Library Closed

9:00 a.m. Annual Park Cities 4th of July Parade - Centennial Park in University Park
Click [here](#) for event details

July 9, Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book Club - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
12:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+.

July 10, Thursday Teen Altoids Wallets - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Suitable for ages 10+. Registration is open, click [here](#) to sign up.

July 11, Friday Prather Park Pickleball Courts Ribbon Cutting - 3800 Lexington Avenue
10:00 a.m. Parking is available along Lexington Avenue, St. Johns Drive, and Drexel Drive.
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Colors of Kindness - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Suitable for all ages. Registration is required for the children, click [here](#) to sign up.

July 12, Saturday Puzzle Competition - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
1:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call 214-559-9375 to register your team of 2-4 people.

July 15, Tuesday Mahjong Open Play - 1st Floor, Library
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

July 16, Wednesday Baby Splash Storytime - Highland Park Swimming Pool
10:00 a.m. Suitable for ages 3 or younger. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

July 19, Saturday Adult Crafting Hour - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Supplies are limited, call 214-559-9345 to register.

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10:00 a.m. Suitable for ages 10+. Registration is open, click [here](#) to sign up.

July 26, Saturday Ukelele for Beginners - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Supplies are limited, call 214-559-9345 to register.

July 29, Tuesday Mahjong Open Play - 1st Floor, Library
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

July 30, Wednesday Tall Tails - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.



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