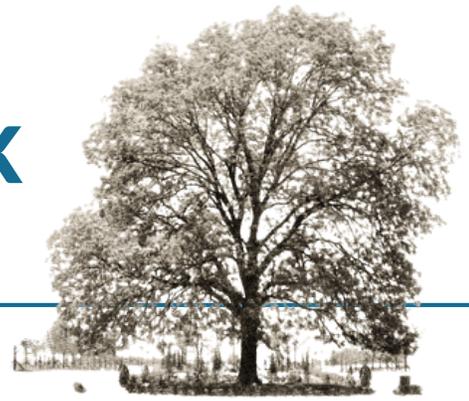


# TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



## IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Honoring Lives Lost
- Public Hearing Notice
- Self Defense Courses
- Prather Park Pickleball Courts Grand Opening
- Labor Day Town Hall Closure
- Labor Day Celebration at the Pool
- Library Programs
- August 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.



## Honoring Lives Lost in the Texas Hill Country Floods

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn alongside fellow Texans in the aftermath of the catastrophic flooding that struck the Texas Hill Country on July 4. This unimaginable natural disaster claimed lives, including beloved children from our community.

Even in the midst of overwhelming grief, our community shows up for one another with care, strength, and unity. This heartfelt support can be seen in the green ribbons that have appeared on trees throughout Town.

This quiet yet powerful gesture began in response to the tragedy and has become a way for communities across Texas to show support, particularly for the families connected to Camp Mystic.



To all those who have taken the time to tie a ribbon or simply pause in reflection: thank you. These ribbons serve as a visible reminder of the lives we hold in our hearts, the families we stand beside, and the strength we find in coming together during difficult times.

We honor the memory of those lost and extend our deepest condolences to all the families forever changed by this tragedy.

# Public Hearing Notice: FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget

 Tuesday, August 5, 2025

 8:00 a.m.

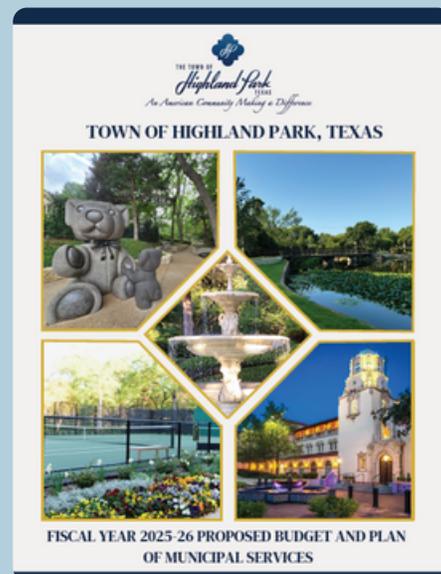
 Council Chambers at Town Hall  
4700 Drexel Drive Highland Park, Texas

The Highland Park Town Council will hold a **public hearing** on **Tuesday, August 5 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers to provide a forum for comments from the public on the **FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget**.

A copy of the proposed budget is available to view on the Town's website at [hptx.org](http://hptx.org) and in the Town Secretary's Office at Town Hall.

Following the public hearing, The Town Council is scheduled to consider approval of the following items at its meeting on **Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers:

- An ordinance adopting the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget and related Capital Improvement Plan
- An ordinance adopting the 2025 Property Tax Rate for FY 2025-26
- A resolution approving the FY 2026 Master Fee Schedule
- A resolution approving the FY 2025-26 Pay Plan



## Spots Available for HPDPS Self-Defense Course

The Highland Park Department of Public Safety (HPDPS) will host a **Women's Self-Defense Course** beginning August 5. This course is free of charge, and you do not have to be a resident of Highland Park to attend.

Self-defense techniques are perishable skills, so we welcome any former participants to attend for refresher training. For those that may encounter a scheduling conflict, accommodations can be made to ensure all participants feel confident with the course material.



### Course Details

- Designed for: Females ages 14 and older
- Schedule: A 12-hour course held over four sessions
  - Dates: Tuesdays - August 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
  - Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Location: Bradfield Elementary School, 4300 Southern Avenue

### Registration Details

To register, complete the [registration form](#) and email it to Captain Jessa Russell at [jrussell@hpdps.org](mailto:jrussell@hpdps.org) or drop the form off at:  
HPDPS  
4700 Drexel Drive Highland Park, TX 75205  
Attention: Capt. Jessa Russell

Participants under 18 years old must have a signed parental consent form. Former attendees do not need to complete a new registration form but should email Capt. Russell to confirm their intent to attend.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# Prather Park Pickleball Courts

GRAND OPENING

Join us on **National Pickleball Day** to celebrate the new courts with a ribbon cutting ceremony, mini lessons, paddle battle play, and more!

10:00 A.M.  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 8  
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





**HAPPY**  
*Labor Day*

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**  
**Town Hall Offices Closed**



**LABOR DAY LUAU**

**Saturday, August 30 | 11 AM - 1 PM | HP Swimming Pool**

**Celebrate Labor Day with a splash! Bring your family and friends for one last summer bash! Food, fun, and sun await at the pool!**



**Pool Holiday Hours:** The pool will be open on Labor Day, Monday, September 1 for Lap Swim (7AM-10AM) and Open Swim (10AM-6PM)

## **Keep Your Home Safe While You're Away With Vacation House Watch**

Highland Park DPS offers **Vacation House Watch** services to help protect your home while you're out of town for longer than three days. Residents can conveniently submit a request through the same website used for Blue Zone News.

### **How to Request a Vacation House Watch:**

1. Visit [www.hpcrimewatch.org](http://www.hpcrimewatch.org).
2. If you already receive Blue Zone News, you have an existing login. Click "**Login**" under RESIDENTS section on the left side of the page
  - o If you don't remember your password, select "**Click here to create or reset our login password**" at the top of the page.
3. If you don't receive Blue Zone News, select "**Click Here to Register**" under RESIDENTS and follow the prompts. You'll receive an email once your registration is approved.
4. After registration approval, click the **house icon** to access the Vacation House Watch form. Your basic information should auto-fill, so you only need to update information regarding your vacation details.
5. Once submitted, you'll receive a confirmation email after your request is reviewed.

While HPDPS strives to conduct daily house checks during your absence, please note that staffing and call volume may affect availability. If an officer encounters anything that they feel you should be notified of, you will be contacted through the emergency contact numbers that you provide.

For more information, visit: [House Watch Webpage](#)  
For help with accessing Blue Zone News or submitting a request, contact **Lt. Lance Koppa** at [lkoppa@hpdds.org](mailto:lkoppa@hpdds.org).





## 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 has been mailed to each household with return instructions
-  Online - Visit [hptxsurvey.org](https://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.

## Way to Go, Reading Superstars

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Library's Adult, Teen, and Children's Summer Reading programs! Children can continue logging their reading for June and July and may pick-up prizes through the end of August.

Thank you to Christine McKenny and Allie Beth Allman & Associates for sponsoring youth summer reading. Thank you to the Friends of the Highland Park Library for funding the Sharing Literacy book donation program.

We look forward to all the summer reading fun ahead for 2026.



## Your Library Card Just Got Smarter

As you check off school supply lists, do not forget to include **HelpNow**, a free online homework help service available with your Highland Park Library card. Whether it's brushing up on math, conquering tricky science concepts, or improving your writing skills, HelpNow's live tutors are here to help students succeed.

Students in kindergarten through introductory college can connect with online tutors using an interactive virtual whiteboard to chat, write, draw, and share content in real time. Tutors are available online Monday through Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Visit the [library's website](#) for more information.

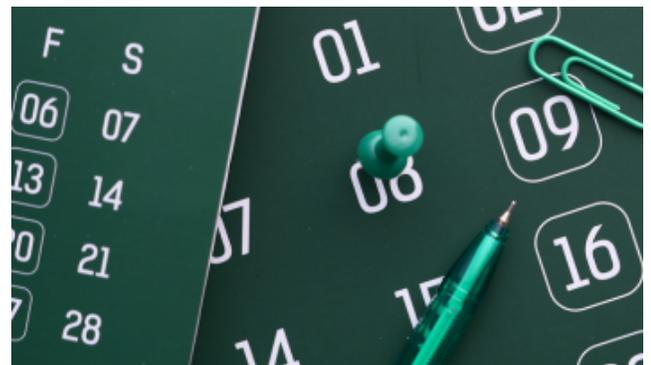


## Research Help, No Shushing Required

Need help with in-depth research, digital resources, job searching, genealogy, business planning, and more? The Library's **Book-a-Librarian** service offers free, one-on-one sessions with a librarian, tailored to your specific needs. Designed to provide a more personalized library experience, this service makes it easier than ever for community members to access the wealth of resources available at the library to support personal or professional growth.

From navigating 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, Book-a-Librarian is here to help.

To book an appointment, visit: [Book-a-Librarian Webpage](#)



# Library Programs: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

— Adult Program

— Children's Program

— All Ages



**Family Day** - Saturday, August 2 at 2pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Families can join the Highland Park Library for a few hours of fun! Supplies will be provided for open ended crafting and play, and families can mingle with each other. Suitable for all ages. [Registration](#) is open.

**Mahjong Open Play** - Tuesday, August 5 and 19 from 4:30pm - 6:30pm | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Library  
Suitable for adults 18+. As seats are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to sign up.



**Baby Splash Storytime** - Wednesday, August 6 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! Suitable for parents, caregivers, and children ages 3 or younger. [Registration](#) is required for the children.

This event is hosted in collaboration with the HP Parks Department. **Note:** In the event of inclement weather, this program will be canceled.



**Lunch Bunch Book Club** - Wednesday, August 13 at 12pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

This month, we will be reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. For those interested, we will also be showing the 1974 version of the film after we discuss the book. Feel free to bring your own lunch (no food provided). Suitable for adults 18+.



**Japan-In-A-Suitcase** - Friday, August 15 at 10am | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

How does a flat piece of paper become a three-dimensional animal? Can a single word be a work of art? Students will explore the history of ancient Japanese art forms that remain popular among children in Japan today. Participants will create their own origami masterpieces and practice Japanese calligraphy using a brush pen. Suitable for ages 6+.  
[Registration](#) is open.



**Adult Crafting Hour** - Saturday, August 16 at 10am | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! This month we will learn Suminagashi Marbling. Suitable for adults 18+. As supplies are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your spot.



**Mommy & Me Yoga** - Wednesday, August 27 at 10am | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Bond with your baby while nurturing your body and mind in this gentle 60-minute yoga practice, designed for parents and caregivers with babies 8 weeks to 1 year old. This program incorporates soothing movements, stretches, massage, and postural exercises to promote relaxation and connection. Through swaying, lifting, and interactive play, and sweet songs and rhymes, you'll support your baby's development while engaging in mindful movement yourself. This event is presented in partnership with the Moody Family YMCA.



**Important note:** For participation, the Library requires a signed waiver from both parents/guardians, or the custodial parent/guardian, of any minor participating. A waiver form will be sent upon registration and must be submitted to [votterbine@hplibrary.info](mailto:votterbine@hplibrary.info) no later than one week before the program.

**Tall Tails** - Wednesday, August 27 at 4:30pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

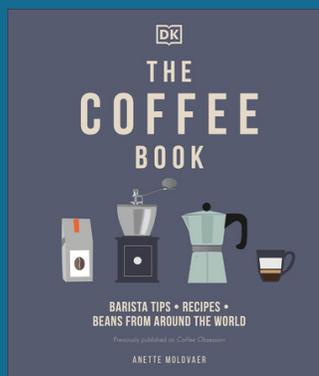
Spend one-on-one time and read a story with a furry friend! Children of all reading levels are encouraged to get to know one of Canine Companion's future service dogs. These dogs will one day work alongside people with disabilities to help increase their independence. Each child will get 15 minutes of 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?



August is National Book Lovers Month, making it the perfect time to combine a good book with a love for coffee. In **The Coffee Book** by Anette Moldvaer, readers will find recipes, brewing equipment guides, and instructions to help you become an expert, at home barista.

Coffee lovers, check out this title to discover your perfect brew!

# BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Request an appointment with a librarian for one-on-one help with various topics.



# AUGUST 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Town Hall)

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

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

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

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

**August 2, Saturday Family Day** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Suitable for all ages. Registration is open, click [here](#) to sign up.

**August 5, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers

**8:00 a.m.** Agendas are made available [online](#).

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mahjong Open Play** - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Library

Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

**August 6, 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.

**August 7, Thursday Yoga in the Park** - Lakeside Park

**10:00 a.m.** Registration is encouraged, click [here](#) to sign up.

**August 8, 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.

**August 13, Wednesday Lunch Bunch Book Club** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

**12:00 p.m.** Suitable for adults 18+.

**August 15, Friday Japan-In-A-Suitcase** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Suitable for ages 6+. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

**August 16, Saturday Adult Crafting Hour** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Suitable for adults 18+. Supplies are limited, call 214-559-9345 to register.

**August 19, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers

**8:00 a.m.** Agendas are made available [online](#).

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mahjong Open Play** - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Library

Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

**August 27, Wednesday Mommy & Me Yoga** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Suitable for parents/caregivers with babies 8 weeks to 1 year old. A signed waiver must be sent to [votterbine@hplibrary.info](mailto:votterbine@hplibrary.info).

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tall Tails** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

**August 30, Saturday Labor Day Luau** - Highland Park Swimming Pool

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Celebrate Labor Day with a splash! Food, fun, and sun await at the pool!

**September 1, Monday Town Hall Offices and Library Closed in Observance of Labor Day**