

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Public Hearing Notice
- Prather Park Pickleball Courts Grand Opening Event Recap
- Pool Season Hours
- Upcoming Community Conversations
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Library Programs
- September 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.



Public Hearing Notice: FY 2025-26 Property Tax Rate & Master Fee Schedule

 Tuesday, September 2, 2025

 8:00 a.m.

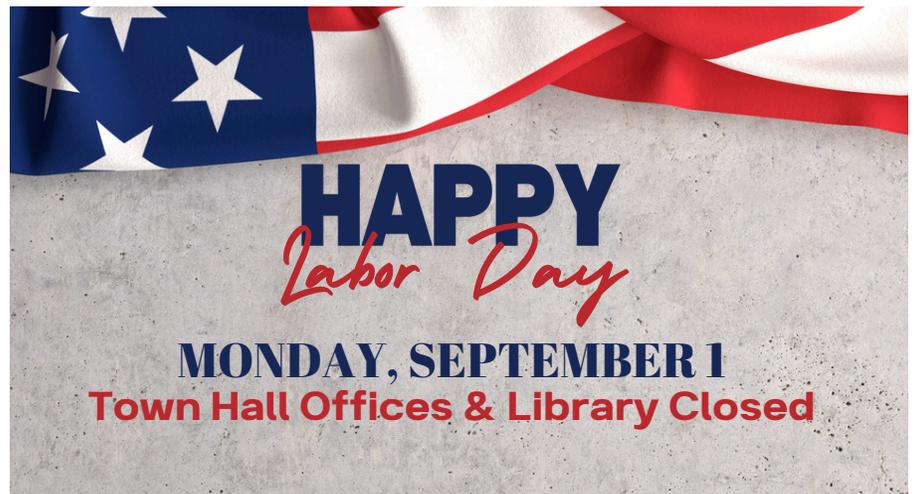
 Council Chambers at Town Hall
4700 Drexel Drive Highland Park, Texas 75205

The Highland Park Town Council will hold **public hearings** on **Tuesday, September 2 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers to provide a forum for comments from the public on the **FY 2025-26 proposed property tax rate and amendments to the Master Fee Schedule.**

Following the public hearings, The Town Council is scheduled to also consider approval of the following items:

- An ordinance adopting the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget and related 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan
- An ordinance adopting the FY 2025-26 property tax rate
- A resolution approving the FY 2025-26 Master Fee Schedule
- A resolution approving the FY 2025-26 Pay Plan

A copy of the proposed budget is available to view on the Town's website at hptx.org and in the Town Secretary's Office at Town Hall.



Prather Park Pickleball Courts Grand Opening Event

On National Pickleball Day, Friday, August 8, the Town celebrated the grand opening of the new Prather Park Pickleball Courts which was met with a strong community turnout. Guests enjoyed refreshments, giveaways, mini lessons, and friendly “paddle battle” play to mark the occasion.

Mayor Will Beecherl shared the project’s journey that began with the 2018 Hackberry Creek Master Plan and later moved forward to design in 2023.

Construction of the courts began in October 2024, transforming Tennis Court #1 into four dedicated pickleball courts. The project also brought key park enhancements to Prather Park, including new seating, improved sidewalks, a reconstructed creek wall, and the planting of 36 new trees.



During the ceremony, Mayor Beecherl also thanked Kimley-Horn, Perfect Finish Landscaping, A&A Landscaping, and Town staff for their roles in bringing the project to life and then cut the ceremonial ribbon. Residents then celebrated by being among the first to enjoy Highland Park’s newest recreational amenity.



We hope to see you soon on the new courts! Please note that a valid 2025 Tennis Permit is required to access the courts. Permits and reservations are available through Civic Rec at www.hptx.org/recreation.



2025 Swim Season

POST SEASON

AUGUST 12 - SEPTEMBER 28

Lap Swim: Tuesday - Sunday | 7 AM - 10 AM
Open Swim: Saturday & Sunday | 10 AM - 3 PM

[Click to view the full 2025 Swim Season Schedule](#)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Your voice. Your Town.

BE PART OF OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. ATTEND AN UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AND SHARE YOUR INPUT.

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, code enforcement, library and more. Join us for an in-depth discussion at one of following community conversations:

Meeting Details

*Virtual meetings will be scheduled at a later date for those unable to attend in person.

- ◇ Thursday, September 11th
- ◇ 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- ◇ Council Chambers, Town Hall (4700 Drexel Drive)

- ◇ Thursday, September 11th
- ◇ 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- ◇ Cafeteria, Bradfield Elementary School (4300 Southern Ave)

- ◇ Friday, September 12th
- ◇ 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
- ◇ Hodges Hall, Moody Family YMCA (6000 Preston Rd)

HELP SHAPE HIGHLAND PARK'S FUTURE

Join us at one of the community conversations!

Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month this September!

Each September, **Library Card Sign-Up Month**—an annual initiative led by the American Library Association (ALA)—highlights the vital role libraries play in opening doors to knowledge, resources, and opportunity.

This year's theme, "One Card, Endless Possibilities," recognizes the many ways a library card empowers people of all ages. Whether its exploring a new hobby, discovering your next favorite book, learning new technology skills, or helping children succeed in school—it all begins with a library card.

With just one card, you'll have access to:

- Free educational and enrichment classes
- Homework help and test prep resources
- eBooks and eAudiobooks
- Streaming movies and music
- Cultural events and community programs
- And much more!

Getting a card is easy and free for Town of Highland Park residents. Apply in person, online, or by phone. Visit the [Highland Park Library Card page](#) or call (214) 559-9400 for details.

Stop by, sign up, and discover where a library card can take you—endless opportunities await!

The Highland Park Library proudly serves as the community's connection to lifelong learning.



September is
**Library
Card
Sign-up
Month**

Library Programs: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

— Adult Program
— Children's Program
— All Ages

Mahjong Open Play - Tuesday, Sept. 2 and 16 from 4:30pm - 6:30pm | 1st Floor, Library
Suitable for adults 18+. As seats are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to sign up.



Lunch Bunch Book Club - Wednesday, September 10 at 12pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
This month, we will be reading *The Bright Years* by Sarah Damoff. The author herself will be joining us in person for the discussion! Feel free to bring your own lunch (no food provided). Suitable for adults 18+.



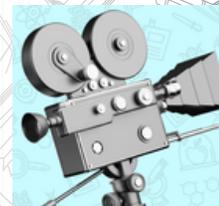
Ramp Racers - Saturday, September 13 at 2pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Join the Highland Park Library and Crafty Behavior in this fast-paced, bracket-style competition. Participants will design and customize their very own miniature race cars, whether sleek and simple or bold and flashy, and put them to the test on Crafty Behavior's specialized ramp. Each car's time and speed will be recorded as racers compete for a special prize! Suitable for ages 5+. [Registration](#) is required.



Adult Crafting Hour - Saturday, September 20 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! This month's craft features making a bracelet using beads crafted from magazine pages. Suitable for adults 18+. As supplies are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your spot.



Steam Cinema - Saturday, September 20 at 3:30pm | 2nd Floor Town Hall
Join us on the third Saturday of each month for a family-friendly film paired with a fun activity or craft! Each month features a new theme designed to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) concepts and encourage scientific exploration. Recommended for ages 6+. [Registration](#) is required.



Mommy & Me Yoga - Wednesday, September 24 at 10am | 2nd 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, 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. [Registration](#) is required.



Important note: A waiver form will be sent upon registration and must be submitted to votterbine@hplibrary.info no later than one week before the program.

Tall Tails - Wednesday, September 24 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.



Ukulele for Beginners - Saturday, September 27 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Participants will learn four chords, how to tune your instrument, and a strumming pattern. Suitable for adults 18+. If you are interested in signing up, please call Pamela at 214-559-9345.



Manhattan Short Film Fest - Saturday, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 at 1pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Be part of a global film event! From September 25 to October 5, 2025, over 100,000 film lovers in more than 500 cities across six continents will gather to view and vote on the Finalist Films in the **28th Annual MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival**.

You be the judge! Not only will you watch the year's best international short films, but your vote will help decide the worldwide winner. In 2024, four of the ten Finalist films were shortlisted for the Oscars, two were nominated, including the Oscar-winning *I'm Not a Robot*.



Suitable for adults 18+. Please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your space.

Honeybee Show-and-Tell - Saturday, September 27 at 2pm | Prather Park
Discover the fascinating world of Earth's great pollinators! Hear firsthand from an experienced beekeeper as they share insights into honeybee biology, the art of beekeeping, and more. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to observe bees in a real mobile hive and even taste some honey. [Registration](#) is required.



Please note: real bees will be present during this program. Attendees and/or their caregivers are responsible for managing allergy concerns.

WHAT TO CHECK OUT NEXT?



In celebration of **Library Card Sign-Up Month**, we're inviting you to think *outside the book*—literally! With your library card, you can unlock a world of outdoor fun.

Did you know the Library offers outdoor game sets and activity kits for checkout? Whether you're planning a weekend at the park, hosting a backyard barbecue, or just looking to try something new, we've got everything you need to play, explore, and connect.

- **Pickleball Sets** – Perfect for a quick match on the court or driveway
- **Bocce Ball Set** – A classic game of skill and fun for all ages
- **Birdwatching Kit** - Includes binoculars and two bird song guidebooks to help identify different species of birds
- **Night Sky Kit** – Complete with star charts and a telescope, designed for ages 8 and up



Your library card isn't just for checking out books—it's your pass to experiences, activities, and new hobbies. This month, take the library with you—wherever fun happens!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

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

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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.*

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

September 2, 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** - 1st Floor, Library
Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

September 4, Thursday **Yoga in the Park** - Lakeside Park
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Registration is encouraged, click [here](#) to sign up.

September 10, Wednesday **Lunch Bunch Book Club** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
12:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+.

September 11, Thursday **Community Conversation** - Council Chambers
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Open to all residents.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Community Conversation** - Cafeteria, Bradfield Elementary School
Open to all residents.

September 12, Friday **Community Conversation** - Hodges Hall, Moody Family YMCA
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Open to all residents.

September 13, Saturday **Ramp Racers** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 5+. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

September 16, 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** - 1st Floor, Library
Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

September 20, Saturday **Adult Crafting Hour** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Steam Cinema** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Recommended for ages 6+. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

September 24, Wednesday **Mommy & Me Yoga** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Suitable for parents/caregivers with babies 8 weeks to 1 year old. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

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

September 27, Saturday **Ukulele for Beginners** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

1:00 p.m. **Manhattan Short Film Fest** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Honeybee Show-and-Tell** - Prather Park
Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.