

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park



IN A PECAN SHELL:

- National Night Out
- Extended Lap Swim Season Update
- Town Hall Offices & Library Closure
- Community Survey Results
- Amendments to the Master Fee Schedule
- Virtual Community Conversations
- HHW Mobile Event
- Park Cities Recycling Event
- Wellness Classes
- Carter Blood Drive
- New Mahjong Table at the Library
- Boo at the Moody Event
- Library Programs
- October Town 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.

National Night Out: Back to Where It All Began

This year, we're bringing National Night Out back to its roots. Over 20 years ago, neighbors and DPS personnel gathered on Armstrong Avenue for a simple get-together—just one fire engine, one police car, and a shared goal: to connect with each other and with the first responders who serve the community. In that same spirit, DPS personnel will be at two neighborhood gatherings on **Tuesday, October 7:**

- **4300 block of Southern Avenue** (across from Bradfield School), 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- **3600 block of Cornell Avenue** (across from Armstrong School), 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Come out, say hello, and visit with neighbors and DPS staff—just like we did all those years ago.

Weekend Lap Swim is Here!

We are excited to announce the addition of weekends to the Lap Swim Extended Season! For the remainder of the 2025 Swim Season (September 30th through November 26th), lap swim will be available from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Tuesdays through Sundays.



This pilot program will be evaluated at the end of the 2025 Swim Season to determine feasibility for the upcoming 2026 Swim Season.

Please note: Pool closures may occur when the air temperature is below 55°F and the water temperature is below 78°F. Please be sure to enable text notifications in [CivicRec](#) to receive weather-related updates and closure alerts.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Town Hall Offices & Library Closed For In-Service Staff Training

All essential services, including Public Safety, will remain fully operational. For non-emergencies, please call 214-521-5000. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

OVERALL PERCEPTIONS



AS A PLACE TO LIVE:

99% very satisfied or satisfied

AS A PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN:

98% very satisfied or satisfied

QUALITY OF SERVICES:

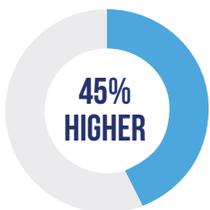
96% very satisfied or satisfied

SAFETY:

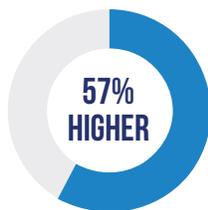
99% felt safe

HIGHLAND PARK RANKS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE ACROSS ALL 47 AREAS, SPECIFICALLY:

Overall Quality of
Town Services



Customer Service Provided
by Town Employees



QUALITY OF TOWN SERVICES

Categories with the highest satisfaction levels included:



BIGGEST ISSUES FACING HIGHLAND PARK OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS:



TOP OVERALL PRIORITIES

(Categories with the highest importance satisfaction rating)



Amendments to the Master Fee Schedule

For the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, the Town has allocated approximately 48% of its expenditure budget toward infrastructure improvements within the Town. Investing in core infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and sewer lines, storm water facilities is of paramount importance to the success of any community.

Some of the key projects planned for Fiscal Year 2025-26 include:

<i>Road, Bridges & Equipment</i>	
Douglas Ave Reconstruction - South Town Limits to Arcady	\$1,836,826
Eastern Ave Reconstruction - Westside to Mockingbird	\$2,314,890
Wycliffe Reconstruction - Oaklawn to East Town Limits	\$18,660,000
Various Right-of-Way Improvements	\$1,255,599
<i>Water & Sewer Infrastructure</i>	
Wycliffe Water and Sewer Reconstruction	\$4,600,000
Eastern Avenue Reconstruction	\$567,018
Douglas Avenue Reconstruction	\$ 281,948
<i>Stormwater Infrastructure</i>	
Hackberry Creek Phase 1A - Byron to Beverly	\$2,500,000
Exall Lake and Connor Lake Dredging	\$3,000,000

To continue funding projects identified in the Town's pay-as-you-go 10- year Capital Improvement Plan and address additional operational costs, the Town Council approved amendments to the Master Fee Schedule, effective October 1, 2025.

Stormwater Drainage Fees: Increase of 100% to address future capital needs related to the Town's stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Water and Sewer Rates: Increase of 3.9% (Water Rates) and 3% (Sewer Rates) to address rising operating costs and to support the Town's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Fees: Increase of 3.5% due to the anticipated escalation of current contracts with the Town's third-party service providers.

Swimming Pool Fees: Increased to reflect rising operational costs and enhanced pool services.

Regular Open Season Pool Permit (May-September): Increase of \$5, from \$60 per person to \$65 per person.

New All-in-One Pool Permit (April-November): Includes Pre-Season, Regular, and Extended Lap Swim Seasons, \$125 per person

Resident and Guest Day Pass: Increase of \$3, from \$7 to \$10

The new fees for stormwater, water, sewer, and solid waste will be reflected on the utility bills sent out at the end of October. The approved Master Fee Schedule for FY 2025-26 can be viewed on the Town's [Annual Budget webpage](#).

UPCOMING VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Your voice. Your Town.

BE PART OF OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS.
ATTEND AN UPCOMING VIRTUAL 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. For those unable to attend the in-person meetings held in September, please join us at one of the following virtual meetings:

Meeting Details

- ◇ Tuesday, October 14th
- ◇ 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- ◇ Click the link below to join:
<https://zoom.us/j/97635232620>

- ◇ Thursday, October 30th
- ◇ 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- ◇ Click the link below to join:
<https://zoom.us/j/98168715809>



*Or scan the QR code
to access the Zoom
link instantly!*



HELP SHAPE HIGHLAND PARK'S FUTURE

Join us at one of the community conversations!

Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Event

 Saturday, October 25 | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 3801 Lexington Avenue (HP Pool parking lot)
 HP Residents Only

Accepted items include unused paint cans, chemicals, old cleaners, and any items labeled with hazardous signal words such as *Caution*, *Warning*, *Danger*, *Poison*, *Flammable*, *Reactive*, *Corrosive*, or *Toxic*.

For more information or to make a reservation, please visit www.hptx.org/hhw or call Customer Service at (214) 521-4161 during business hours.



Park Cities Recycling Event

 Saturday, November 8 | 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 3001 University Blvd

Drop off documents for shredding, gently used items for donation, and electronics for recycling. No reservation needed!

If you have any medicinal items that need to be disposed of, Highland Park DPS has a drop-box located in the DPS lobby that is accessible at all times. All over-the-counter or prescription drugs may be turned in to keep them from entering our waterways or from harming others who do not need to take them.



Stay Active and Mindful with our Wellness Classes

Support your physical and mental well-being this fall with our free, instructor-led wellness programs:

Yoga in the Park: Held every first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Prather, led by E-RYT 500 instructor Andy McDonald. *Civic Rec [registration](#) is encouraged.*

Mindful Meditation - Unwind each Tuesday at 11:45 a.m. in the DPS Training Room with calming sessions also led by Andy. *Civic Rec [registration](#) is encouraged.*

For more information, visit [Civic Rec](#) or call 214-559-9308.

2025 Swim Season

EXTENDED LAP SWIM SEASON

SEPTEMBER 30 - NOVEMBER 26

Lap Swim: Tuesday - Sunday | 7 AM - 10 AM

BLOOD Drive



Receive an exclusive t-shirt.*

Yolanda from Fort Worth, TX
Blood Recipient

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM


Schedule an appointment


Prepare for Your Donation

- ✓ Stay hydrated and get a good night's rest
- ✓ Eat a healthy meal before donating
- ✓ Bring a valid photo ID
- ✓ Complete your QuickScreen health questionnaire on the day of your donation

Donation Time
45 minutes–1 hour

Special Reward

- \$50 e-gift card for every platelet donation made in 2025
- \$50 e-gift card for every whole blood or double red donation from O negative donors in 2025

(Restrictions apply. [See link for details.](#))

Highland Park DPS
Training Room
4700 Drexel Drive
Highland Park, TX 75205

Kelle Hall
(214) 559-9396
khal@hptx.org



CarterBloodCare.org
800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Appreciation gifts may be substituted for a different gift.

Welcome October at the HP Library

It's the perfect time to curl up with a great read or explore a hobby and your library is here to help you make the most of the season.

Discover a world of autumn reads, engaging programs, and learning opportunities for all ages. Whether you're looking for inspiring fiction, educational resources, or a quiet space to study and reflect, the library is your cozy corner this fall. Enjoy new book arrivals, storytimes and crafts, and workshops

designed to spark creativity and learning, all with the support of our friendly staff.

Getting a library card is easy and free for Town of Highland Park residents. Apply in person, online, or by phone. Visit the [Highland Park Library Card webpage](#) or call (214) 559-9400 for details. Stop by and fall into something wonderful this October!

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

Highland Park Library Debuts Automatic Mahjong Table with Saturday Reservations and Open Play Nights

The Highland Park Library is pleased to announce the arrival of its new automatic Mahjong table, now available for public use. This modern table features automatic tile shuffling and a sleek design, offering an elevated experience for both seasoned players and newcomers.

Mahjong, a tile-based game that originated in China during the Qing dynasty, has long been celebrated for its blend of strategy, skill, and social connection. Over the years, it has evolved into various styles, including American Mahjong, which incorporates unique rules and scoring systems. The game continues to bring people together across generations and cultures.

Library patrons may reserve a two-hour time slot on Saturdays to enjoy the new table with their own group. The library provides the table and Mahjong cards, while participants bring their own party. To make a reservation, call the Highland Park Library at 214-559-9345.

In addition to Saturday reservations, the library hosts

open play nights twice a month on Tuesdays, available on a first-come, first-served basis. These evenings offer a relaxed opportunity for community members to gather and enjoy the game in a welcoming environment.

For more information about upcoming play dates and availability, call the Highland Park Library at 214-559-9345 or visit during regular hours.





BOO Day!

at the Moody

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 3 - 6 PM

CANDY | CRAFTS | GAMES

THEMED HAUNTED HOUSE ROOMS FOR AGES 10 AND UP

Costumes encouraged!



FREE EVENT
FOR ALL AGES

Moody Family YMCA, 6000 Preston Rd. Dallas, TX 75205

Contact for more info: Victoria Otterbine | votterbine@hplibrary.info | 214.559.9407



SCAN FOR VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES



Library Programs: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

— Adult Program

— Children's Program

— All Ages

Manhattan Short Film Fest - Saturday, October 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.

Lunch Bunch Book Club - Wednesday, October 8 at 12pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

This month, we will be reading *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Feel free to bring your own lunch (no food provided). Suitable for adults 18+.

Pumpkins with Pizzaz - Saturday, October 11 at 11am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Create a beautiful fall centerpiece with pumpkins and succulents, presented by the Dallas County Master Gardener Association. Suitable for adults 18+. To reserve your spot, please call 214-559-9345.

Boo Day at the Moody - Saturday, October 11 at 3pm | Moody Family YMCA

Join us for candy, crafts, and games the whole family can enjoy! Attendees of all ages will discover not-so-spooky surprises throughout the event. For those seeking a little fright, a themed haunted house will be open! General admission is suitable for all ages, while haunted house admission is recommended for ages 10+. No registration is required.

Mahjong Open Play - Tuesday, Oct. 14 and 28 from 4:30pm - 6:30pm | 1st Floor, Library
All experience levels welcome. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.

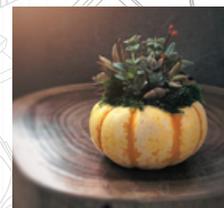
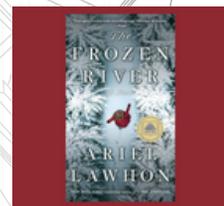
Mommy & Me Yoga - Wednesday, Oct. 15 and 22 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

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.

Benefits: Strengthens the bond between parent and baby, supports baby's motor skill development and coordination, enhances postpartum recovery and reduces stress, encourages relaxation and better sleep for both baby and parent, and creates a supportive community of parents.

What to bring: A yoga mat for your comfort and a soft blanket for your baby.

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.



Fire Safety Storytime - Friday, October 17 at 10am | Prather Park

Join us for a special all-ages Storytime in celebration of Fire Prevention Month this October. A Highland Park Department of Public Safety Officer will visit to demonstrate firefighting gear and equipment and share important fire safety tips.



In the case of inclement weather, this program will be moved indoors to the 2nd floor of Town Hall. Suitable for all ages. No registration is required.

Genealogy Marathon - Friday, October 17 | Various Virtual Sessions

The Highland Park Library participates in the Genealogy Network of Texas' annual Genealogy Seminar. Join fellow genealogists and family historians for a full day of research and learning.



This event features eight sessions for both aspiring and experienced genealogists/family historians. A variety of topics are covered, such as beginning your family history, tracing a civil case through court documents, research road trips, and using AI as your genealogy assistant.

All sessions are available virtually. To register, please call 214-559-9345.

Adult Crafting Hour - Saturday, October 18 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! This month's craft is inspired by Hojalata—traditional Mexican tin art known for its vibrant colors and intricate designs. Suitable for adults 18+. As supplies are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your spot.



STEAM Cinema - Saturday, October 18 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.



This month's activity is Halloween string art! Recommended for ages 6+. [Registration](#) is required.

Trick-or-Treat Storytime - Friday, October 24 at 10am | 2nd Floor Town Hall

Join Miss Victoria and Mr. Tre for a special all-ages storytime! Enjoy not-so-scary stories, festive songs, and follow along with Miss Victoria to get into the holiday spirit! After Storytime, children will be guided through Town Hall to receive treats! Costumes are welcome!



Tickets will be required for entry to Storytime. Tickets are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Library's circulation desk.

Ukulele for Beginners - Saturday, October 25 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.

Author Event: Josh Hickman - Saturday, October 25 at 2pm | HP Library

Join local author Josh Hickman as he discusses his latest book, *Forgetting: The Trials and Triumphs of Caregiving for a Difficult Parent with Dementia*. An honest and poignant account of the power of perseverance and reconciliation, *Forgetting* recounts the struggle of a son to come to terms with his deeply troubled relationship with his mother as she succumbs to dementia. Mr. Hickman writes for the Park Cities People and Preston Hollow People.



Tall Tails - Wednesday, October 29 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.

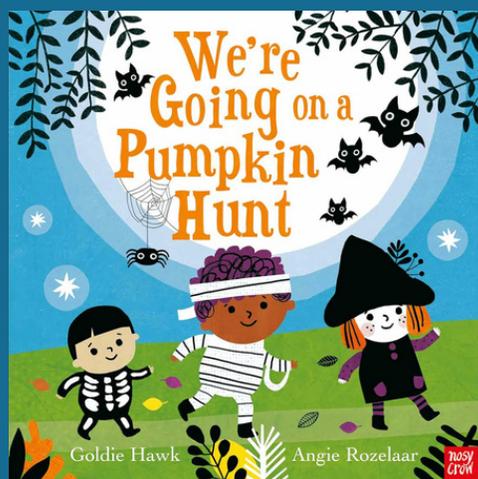


About Canine Companions:

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?



Get ready for thrills, giggles, and pumpkin-filled fun in ***We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt*** by Goldie Hawk. Join three brave trick-or-treaters as they venture into the crisp fall night, creeping past spiders, swooping bats, and howling cats in search of the perfect pumpkin.

With catchy rhymes, playful repetition, and enchanting illustrations, this festive twist on a beloved classic it's the perfect story to share during autumn, whether you're reading aloud at bedtime, in the classroom, or during family storytime. Little ones will delight in joining the hunt, chanting along with the rhythm, and soaking in the festive fall atmosphere!

BOOK A LIBRARIAN

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

OCTOBER 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)

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.*

October 2, Thursday **Yoga in the Park** - Prather Park

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Registration is encouraged, click [here](#) to sign up.

October 4, Saturday **Manhattan Short Film Fest** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall

1:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

October 7, Tuesday **Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers

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

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. **National Night Out** - 4300 Block of Southern Avenue (across from Bradfield School)

The community is encouraged to come out to visit with neighbors and DPS staff!

6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. **National Night Out** - 3600 Block of Cornell Avenue (across from Armstrong School)

The community is encouraged to come out to visit with neighbors and DPS staff!

October 8, Wednesday **Lunch Bunch Book Club** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+.

October 11, Saturday **Pumpkins with Pizzaz** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall

11:00 a.m. Suitable for adults 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Boo Day at the Moody** - Moody Family YMCA (6000 Preston Rd)

General admission is suitable for all ages, while haunted house admission is recommended for ages 10+. No registration is required.

October 13, Monday **Town Hall Offices and Library Closed for In-Service Staff Training**

All essential services, including Public Safety, will remain fully operational. For non-emergencies, please call 214-521-5000. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

October 14, 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.

7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. **Virtual Community Conversation** - Virtual

Open to all residents. Click the following link to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/97635232620>

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- October 15, Tuesday 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.
- 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Carter Blood Drive** - DPS Training Room (4700 Drexel Dr)
Click [here](#) to make an appointment!
- October 17, Friday Fire Safety Storytime** - Prather Park
10:00 a.m. Suitable for all ages. No registration is required.
- Various sessions Genealogy Marathon** - Virtual
Call the library at 214-559-9345 to register.
- October 18, 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.
- October 21, Tuesday Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available [online](#).
- Wednesday, October 22 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.
- October 24, Friday Trick-or-Treat Storytime** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
10:00 a.m. Suitable for all ages. Tickets are required for entry. Tickets are free and available at the Library's circulation desk.
- October 25, 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.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 P.M. Author Event: Josh Hickman** - Library
No registration required.
- October 28, 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.
- October 29, Wednesday Tall Tails** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
4:30 p.m. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.
- October 30, Thursday Virtual Community Conversation** - Virtual
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Open to all residents. Click the following link to join:
<https://zoom.us/j/98168715809>