

TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK MONARCH HERALD



Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Town of Highland Park

IN A PECAN SHELL:

- Annual Tree Lighting Event
- Town Hall Holiday Closures
- Toy Drive
- 2026 Tennis Permits
- Holiday Trash Collection Schedule
- Understanding FOGs & Proper Disposal
- BMW Marathon
- Winter Reading Challenge
- Library Upcoming Programs
- 2026 LitFest
- December 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.



Annual Tree Lighting Event



Thursday, December 4 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Landmark Pecan Tree (4202 Armstrong Pkwy)

Ring in the holiday season at the Town's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! Join the community on Thursday, December 4, as we gather at the Landmark Pecan Tree to usher in the most wonderful time of the year! Beginning at 6:00 PM, enjoy festive activities, delicious treats, and holiday cheer for all ages. At 7:00 PM, Santa will make his grand arrival to lead the countdown and light the tree, marking the official start of the holiday season.

To help spread a little extra cheer this season, attendees are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to the event to benefit children in need through Toys for Tots.

Bring your family, friends, and holiday spirit! We look forward to celebrating with you!

Happy Holidays

TOWN HALL & LIBRARY CLOSURES

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

New Years Day

Thursday, January 1



Marine Corps Toys for Tots Toy Drive



Help Bring Joy to a Child This Holiday Season!
Your generosity will help make the holidays
brighter for children in need. Every toy makes
a difference!



**Donate unwrapped toys
November 17th - December 8th**

Drop off locations:

**Town of Highland Park's Town Hall and
Dispatch Lobby**

Moody Family YMCA

6000 Preston Rd, Dallas, TX 75205

Park Plaza Condominiums

4500 Roland Ave, Dallas, TX 75219





Time to Renew Your Tennis Permit!

2026 Tennis Permits will be available for online purchase beginning December 15th. Access to the Town's tennis and pickleball courts is limited to resident permit holders and their guests. Permits can be purchased, and court reservations can be made, on [CivicRec](#). Permits are \$40 per person, per year.

Important Information:

- Reservations are required to use the tennis and pickleballs courts and may be made up to 72 hours in advance.
- Permit holders may reserve one hour of court time per day, per permit.

For help with CivicRec, contact Customer Service at (214) 521-4161, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
DEC 22 Regular Schedule	DEC 23 Regular Schedule	DEC 24 Regular Schedule	DEC 25 Regular collection will be picked up on Dec 24	DEC 26 Regular Schedule
DEC 29 Regular Schedule	DEC 30 Regular Schedule	DEC 31 Regular Schedule	JAN 01 Regular collection will be picked up on Dec 31	JAN 02 Regular Schedule

WHAT ARE FOGS & HOW TO HANDLE USED COOKING OIL

FOGs are **Fats, Oils, and Grease**, and include items such as cooking oil, butter, lard, shortening, margarine, gravy, sauces, meats, sour cream, and mayonnaise. Disposing of these greasy materials down the sink can lead to clogged sanitary sewer lines. To learn more about preventing FOG buildup, visit: www.hptx.org/FOGs.

Are you frying a turkey this year? Not sure how to dispose of used cooking oil? The Town offers **HHW On-Call Curbside Collection** for residents to safely dispose of cooking oil and other household hazardous waste. To learn more about this service, visit: www.hptx.org/hhw.



HOW THE Grease Monster STOLE THE HOLIDAYS



A small bit of grease in the hot roasting pan.

- Some leftover oil from old Uncle Dan.

“Pour it down the drain. What harm could it do?”
says dear old Aunt Bertha with the hair of light blue.

But under your home, in sewer lines and spans,
the oils and grease hatch their evil plans.

Next thing you know, a new guest arrives,

A clogged drain bubbles up as if it's alive!

Recycle your grease or just throw it away,

And this year we'll keep the Grease Monster at bay.

Recycle grease by dropping it off at the
nearest Grease Recycling Bin!!

Save the Holidays!
Visit CeaseTheGrease.org



ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Ring in the holiday season as we gather to light the Landmark Pecan Tree! Enjoy sweet treats, warm drinks, festive activities, and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!

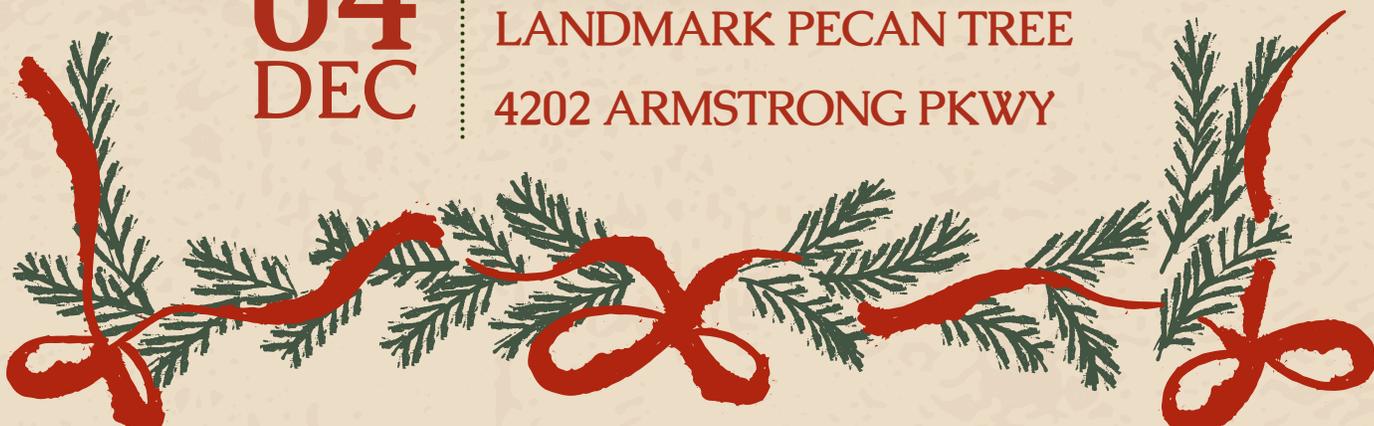
Help spread a little extra cheer this season by bringing new, unwrapped toys to benefit children in need through Toys for Tots.

04
DEC

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

LANDMARK PECAN TREE

4202 ARMSTRONG PKWY

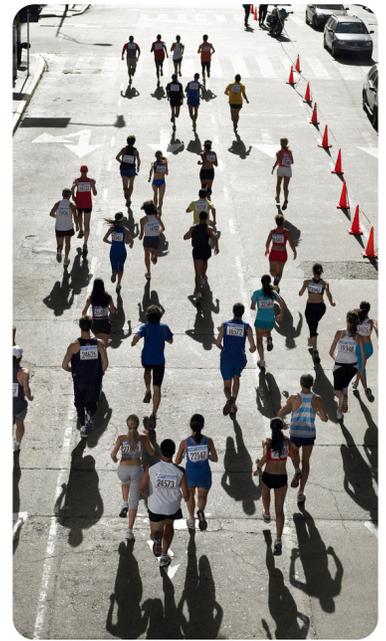


BMW Dallas Marathon Traffic Advisory

The BMW Dallas Marathon will take place on Sunday, December 14. This annual event benefits Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and showcases the best areas of the City of Dallas, with a portion of the route running through Highland Park. Please be aware of temporary street closures and traffic detours during the event. The race typically passes through the Town by noon, after which roads and intersections will reopen.

Please take a moment to view the [official course map](#) and [turn-by-turn directions](#) to plan alternate routes or find the best place to spectate.

For full marathon details, visit the [BMW Dallas Marathon website](#). Residents are encouraged to cheer on the runners as they make their way through Town!



It's Snow Secret, We Love Books – Winter Reading Challenge is Here!



The adult Winter Reading Challenge is br-r-ringing the fun! Read or listen to three books and record their titles, as well as attend three library programs (in-person or virtually).

Complete the challenge to enter our drawing for one of three grand prizes, including tea for two at the Adolphus French Room. The drawing will be held after the challenge ends on March 17, 2025.

Sign up for the challenge at hptx.beanstack.com.

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

Library Programs: Your Connection to Lifelong Learning

— Adult Program
— Children's Program
— All Ages

Gingerbread Workshop - Saturday, December 6 at 1pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Kick off the holiday season with a sweet and cozy tradition! Join us for a Gingerbread House Workshop, perfect for families and friends to come together and get creative. Each registration reserves a table for your household or group (up to six people). Every table receives one gingerbread house kit—complete with all the materials you'll need to build and decorate your masterpiece. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Whether you're crafting a candy-covered cottage or a sprinkle-studded chalet, this festive event is sure to spark joy and holiday cheer! Space is limited, so register early to reserve your table by calling 214-559-9345.



Mahjong Open Play - Tues, Dec. 9 & 23 from 4:30pm-6:30pm | 1st Floor, Library
All experience levels welcome. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.

Lunch Bunch Book Club - Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 12pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
This month, we will gather to discuss our favorite books of 2025, along with a festive book exchange. If you would like to participate in the book exchange, please bring a wrapped new or gently used book. Suitable for adults 18+.



Holiday Joy with Harp Essence - Saturday, Dec. 13 at 1pm | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Harp Essence, an ensemble of harpists who came together in 2009 to celebrate their passion for the harp, will perform traditional holiday music from around the world. Suitable for all ages.



Tall Tails - Wednesday, December 17 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/>.

Adult Crafting Hour - Saturday, December 20 at 10am | 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Join other craft enthusiasts for some fun and fellowship! This month, we'll be making snowflakes! Suitable for adults 18+. As supplies are limited, please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your spot.



Santa Storytime - Saturday, December 20 at 1pm | 2nd Floor Town Hall

Join us for a festive Santa Storytime! Santa is making a special trip from the North Pole to the Highland Park Library, and he can't wait to see you! Celebrate the season and enjoy holiday stories read by Kris Kringle himself! Suitable for all ages. [Registration](#) is required.



Canine Photos with Santa - Saturday, December 20 at 2pm | Town Hall

Bring your furry best friend for a festive photo shoot with Santa! In an effort to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all, dogs will be required to show proof of current vaccinations and be accompanied by a responsible person age 16 or older. Aggressive or socially awkward dogs may be asked to leave. Please call 214-559-9345 to reserve your space.

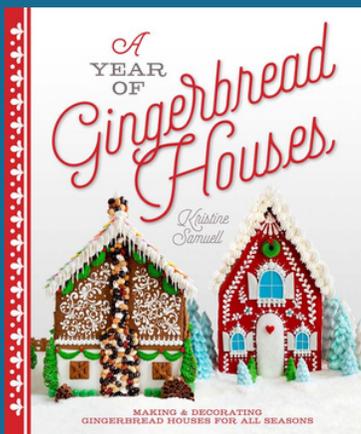


STEAM Cinema - Saturday, December 20 at 3:30pm | 2nd Floor Town Hall

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+. As supplies are limited, [registration](#) is required.



WHAT TO CHECK OUT NEXT?



Who says gingerbread is just for December? ***A Year of Gingerbread Houses*** proves that frosting and gumdrops deserve a year-round spotlight. From springtime cottages to spooky autumn mansions, this book serves up sweet designs for every season; no baking anxiety required. Build, decorate, and nibble. Get ready to crumble!

Need a library card? There is no charge for a library card if you are a resident of the Town of Highland Park. Apply in person, online, or by phone. Visit the [Library Card Webpage](#) or call (214) 559-9400 for more information.

2026 HP LitFest Keynote Speaker: Blake Crouch

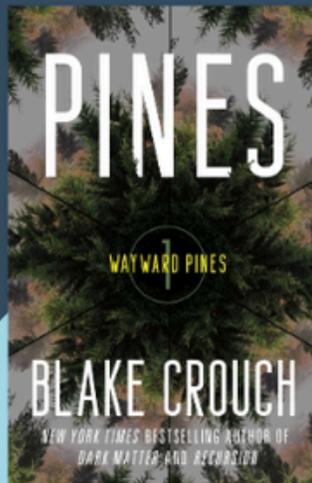
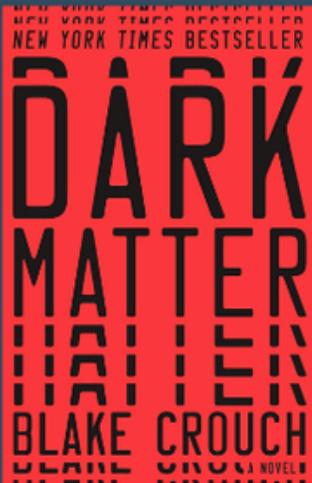
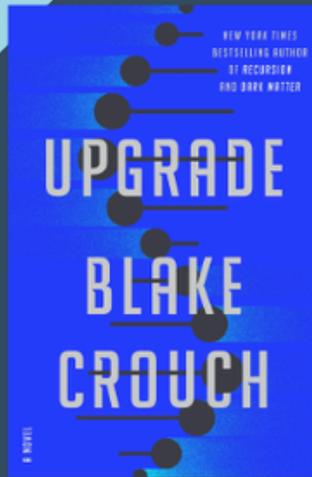
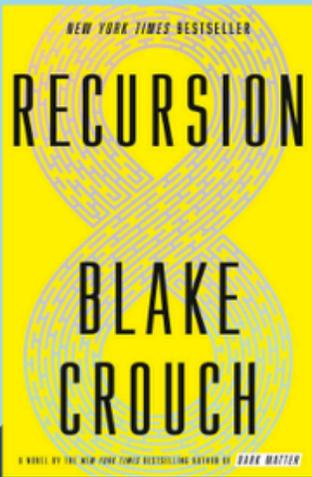
HP LitFest is excited to announce its 2026 HP LitFest keynote speaker, bestselling author and screenwriter, **Blake Crouch**. His acclaimed novels include *Dark Matter*, *Recursion*, *Upgrade* and the *Wayward Pines* trilogy. Crouch currently serves as head writer and showrunner for the hit Apple TV+ adaptation of *Dark Matter*, starring Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Connelly.

Mark your calendars and gather your book friends for this community event on **Thursday, February 19, 2026**. Thanks to the generosity of La Fiesta de la Seis Banderas, this event is free and open to the public. The HP LitFest Committee would like to thank La Fiesta for supporting the keynote event over the last 20 years, enabling HP LitFest to achieve prominence as a community literary festival. Reservations are appreciated via the link at [Eventbrite](#).



HP LitFest
write here, write now

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Bestselling Author and Screenwriter

BLAKE CROUCH

Community Event on February 19, 2026

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Every Tuesday at 11:45 AM: Mindful Meditation - Room 206 (2nd Floor, Town Hall)

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.*

December 2, Tuesday **Town Council Meeting & Study Session** - Council Chambers
8:00 a.m. Agendas are made available [online](#).

December 4, Thursday **Yoga in the Park** - Prather Park
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration is encouraged, click [here](#) to sign up.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Annual Tree Lighting** - 4202 Armstrong Pkwy

December 6, Saturday **Gingerbread Workshop** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
1:00 p.m. Each registration reserves a table (up to 6 people). Call 214-559-9345 to register.

December 8, Monday **Last Day of the Toy Drive benefitting Toys for Tots**
Drop off locations: Town Hall, Highland Park DPS, and Moody YMCA

December 9, Tuesday **Mahjong Open Play** - 1st Floor, Library
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration is required.

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

December 13, Saturday **Holiday Joy with Harp Essence** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
1:00 p.m. Suitable for all ages.

December 15, Monday **2026 Tennis Permits Available for Online Purchase** - www.hptx.org/recreation

December 17, Wednesday **Tall Tails** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
4:30 p.m. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

December 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.

1:00 p.m. **Santa Storytime** - 2nd Floor, Town Hall
Suitable for all ages. Registration is required, click [here](#) to sign up.

2:00 p.m. **Canine Photos with Santa** - Town Hall
Dogs must have proof of current vaccinations and must be accompanied by a responsible person age 16+. Call 214-559-9345 to reserve your spot.

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

December 23, Tuesday **Mahjong Open Play** - 1st Floor, Library
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration is required.

December 24-25 **Town Hall Offices and Library Closed for Christmas Eve & Day**

January 1, Thursday **Town Hall Offices and Library Closed for New Years Day**