

The Town of Highland Park MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of The Town of Highland Park

JANUARY 2026 | VOL 6 ISSUE 01

In A Pecan Shell

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

2026 Tennis Permits Available

Your New Year Reading List,
Made Easy in Libby

Leadership Highland Park
2026

Winter Reading Challenge

HP LitFest



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.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

The holidays may be over, but there's still one last task: recycling your Christmas tree! The Town makes it easy with regular brush collection. Residents may place their Christmas tree on the parkway before 7:00 AM on regular brush collection days:

- West of Preston Road: Mondays and Thursdays
- East of Preston Road: Tuesdays and Fridays

Please remove all decorations, especially tinsel, as trees will be mulched at the landfill. Additionally, please avoid blocking the tree with parked cars to allow the sanitation crew easy access for collection. Thank you for your cooperation!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Town Hall offices will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



2026 Tennis Permits

A new year means it is time to renew your tennis court permit! Permits may be purchased online at hptx.org/recreation for \$40 per person and are valid for the entire calendar year.

To purchase a permit, you must be a resident of the Town of Highland Park. A valid permit is required to reserve and use the Town's tennis and pickleball courts.



Court Locations

Court 1 (Prather Park)	Pickleball Courts A, B, C, D	3800 Lexington Ave
Court 2 (Hackberry Creek)	Tennis Court	5300 Drexel Dr
Court 3 (Fairfax Park)	Tennis Court	4525 Edmondson Ave
Court 4 (Fairfax Park)	Tennis Court	4525 Edmondson Ave
Court 5 (Fairfax Park)	Tennis/Pickleball Courts (A and B)	4525 Edmondson Ave
Court 7 (Davis Park)	Tennis Court	4501 St. Johns Dr
Court 8 (Abbott Park)	Tennis/Pickleball Courts (A and B)	4814 Abbott Ave

Your New Year Reading List, Made Easy in Libby

Ready to level up your reading game? Planning your New Year's reading doesn't have to be overwhelming. With tags in the Libby app, you can curate your own personal bookshelf, track your favorite titles, create reading lists, and more.

Libby gives you access to eBooks, digital audiobooks, magazines, and streaming content, including *The Great Courses*, classical music concerts, and crafting tutorials. All you need is a library card!

There is no charge for a library card for residents of the Town of Highland Park and may be obtained in person, online, or by phone. Visit [HP Library Card](#) or call (214) 559-9400 for more information.



2026

Leadership Highland Park is a citizen academy engagement course designed to provide Highland Park residents a deeper understanding of their municipal government. This program provides a comprehensive overview of departments, programs, and services.

Participants will gain insight into how the Town of Highland Park is governed, how the annual budget is developed, and how your tax dollars are utilized. Additionally, they will have the unique opportunity to connect with Town and department leaders, engaging in informal discussions on various topics. The program is open to residents aged 18 and older, and there is no cost to participate.

Mission

To enhance understanding of Town Hall operations while fostering community engagement to help preserve and enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Highland Park residents.



THE TOWN OF
Highland Park
TEXAS



SESSIONS

All sessions will be held at Town Hall, located at 4700 Drexel Drive.

Thursday, January 29 The Heart of Governance

5-7 p.m. *A comprehensive look at how leadership, strategy, and financial stewardship guide the Town's vision and direction.*

Thursday, February 26 Protecting Our Community

5-7 p.m. *An exploration of how prevention, preparedness, and strong partnerships work together to keep Highland Park safe.*

Thursday, March 26 Enriching Everyday Life

5-7 p.m. *An overview of the programs and services that support lifelong learning, recreation, and community engagement.*

Thursday, April 23 Building and Maintaining Our Town

5-7 p.m. *Understand the planning, construction, and maintenance efforts that sustain Highland Park's infrastructure.*

Thursday, May 14 Investing in Community Spirit

5-7 p.m. *Discover how civic pride, philanthropy, and community partnerships strengthen Highland Park.*

HOW TO APPLY:

- Must be a resident of the Town of Highland Park
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions

Register online at www.hptx.org/LeadershipHP. The deadline to register is January 26, 2026, or until capacity is reached.

For more information, contact Sofia Tarango, Administrative Assistant, at 214-559-9308 or starango@hptx.org.



Winter Reading Challenge

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.

A promotional graphic for HP LitFest 2026. At the top left is the HP LitFest logo with the tagline "write here, write now". Below it, the text "KEYNOTE SPEAKER" is written in large, bold, white letters. In the center, there is a portrait of Blake Crouch, a man with glasses and a dark jacket. To the left of the portrait are four book covers: "RECURSION" (yellow), "UPGRADE" (blue), "DARK MATTER" (red), and "PINES" (black). Below the portrait, the text "Bestselling Author and Screenwriter" is written in a smaller font, followed by "BLAKE CROUCH" in large, bold, dark blue letters. At the bottom, it says "Community Event on February 19, 2026".

HP LitFest

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 at 7:00 PM at Highland Park High School. 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](https://www.eventbrite.com).



What to Check Out Next?

Celebrate the cozy joy of creativity. When the weather tells you to hibernate, we suggest grabbing your yarn, paint, paper, or whatever sparks your imagination. **Macramé: The Power of Knots** by Nghi Ho is a wonderful place to start. This inspiring guide walks you through creating beautiful and functional pieces, from wall hangings and plant hangers to jewelry and more. New to macramé? Nghi Ho guides you every step of the way, introducing essential materials, explaining foundational knots, and helping you build the skills you need to get started with confidence.

Need a library card? There is no charge for a library card for Highland Park residents. [Apply for a library card](#) in person, online, or by phone. Call (214) 559-9400 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Town Council Meeting

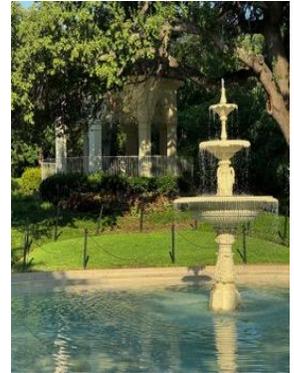
8:00 AM | Town Council Chambers

Agendas are made available online: [Town Council Agendas](#)

Mahjong Open Play

4:30 PM-6:30 PM | 1st Floor, Library

All experience levels welcome. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.



Friday, January 9, 2026

Minecraft Castle Siege

1:30 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Embark on an epic castle siege! Scale the castle walls, outsmart devious traps, and defeat fearsome monsters as you explore ancient dungeons filled with puzzles, traps, and hidden riches. Choose your role as an attacker or defender, then design and build your own majestic castle complete with towers, moats, and secret passages.



Participants must bring their own devices. To ensure a smooth experience, it is essential for participants to install Minecraft on their personal devices before arriving.

- Supported devices: Laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, and tablets
- Supported editions: Minecraft Bedrock Edition, Minecraft Java Edition
- Not supported devices: Nintendo Switch, School-issued Chromebooks
- Not supported editions: Minecraft Education Edition or modded versions

This program is presented by Arrayscape Gaming. Suitable for ages 7+. [Register Now](#) to save your spot!



Saturday, January 10, 2026

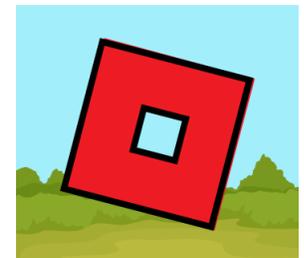
Roblox Ember Games

1:30 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Step into a thrilling player-vs-player survival arena where quick thinking and strategic resource management are your keys to victory. Themed after the Hunger Games movies, this tournament-style combat game challenges participants to strategically gather resources, outwit opponents, and become the ultimate survivor in a fast-paced battle.

Participants must bring their own devices. To ensure a smooth experience, it is essential for participants to install Roblox on their personal devices before arriving.

- Supported Devices: Laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, and Tablets
- Not supported Devices: Nintendo Switch, School-issued Chromebooks



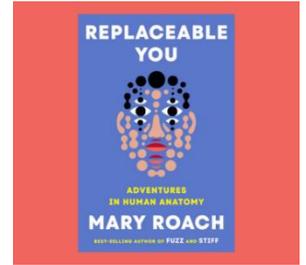
This program is presented by Arrayscape Gaming. Suitable for ages 10+. [Register Now](#) to save your spot!

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Lunch Bunch Book Club

12:00 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

This month, the Lunch Bunch Book Club will be reading *Replaceable You* by Mary Roach. Ms. Roach will be joining the discussion via Zoom. Suitable for ages 18+.



Saturday, January 17, 2026

Adult Crafting Hour

10:00 AM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Participants will create decorative gratitude jars for this month's craft. Supplies are limited, so please call to 214-559-9345 to reserve your space. Suitable for adults 18+.



STEAM Cinema

3:30 PM | 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: [Register for STEAM](#)

This project is made possible by the Friends of Highland Park Library through funding from La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas.

Monday, January 19, 2026

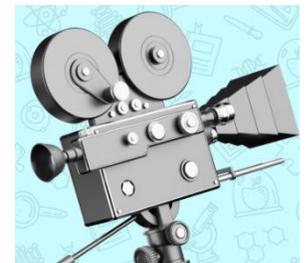
Town Hall Offices are Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Town Council Meeting

8:00 AM | Town Council Chambers

Agendas are made available online: [Town Council Agendas](#)



Mahjong Open Play

4:30 PM-6:30 PM | 1st Floor, Library

All experience levels welcome. Suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Mommy and Me Yoga

10:00 AM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Mommy and Me Yoga returns this January! 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. Registration is required: [Register for Mommy and Me Yoga](#)



Saturday, January 24, 2026

Puzzle Competition

1:00 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Be the first team to complete a 300-piece puzzle and win a prize! Suitable for adults ages 18+. To enroll your team of 2-4 people, please call 214-559-9345.



Balloon Twisting Workshop

2:00 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Start the new year with a twist! The Highland Park Library invites participants to start the new year with this colorful and creative workshop. Attendees will learn a new skill as their guided through the basics of balloon twisting and transform their balloons into works of art! Suitable for ages 6+. Please note that the balloons used are made of latex. [Register Now](#) to save your spot!



Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Mommy and Me Yoga

10:00 AM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Mommy and Me Yoga returns this January! 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. Registration is required: [Register for Mommy and Me Yoga](#)

Tall Tails

4:30 PM | 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.



Saturday, January 31, 2026

Ask a Locksmith – Home Security in the Park Cities

1:00 PM | 2nd Floor, Town Hall

How secure are today's smart locks? What steps can take to protect your home if your keys are lost or stolen? How can you safeguard children and vulnerable adults without creating additional safety risks? And how can you avoid an expensive after-hours service call when a door unexpectedly malfunctions? Join experienced locksmith Tex Thompson for an interactive, hands-on session addressing the most common home security concerns in our community. Bring a notepad and all your burning questions! This program is suitable for adults ages 18+.

