

# The Town of Highland Park

# MONARCH HERALD

Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of The Town of Highland Park

FEBRUARY 2026 | VOL 6 ISSUE 02

## In A Pecan Shell

Annual Pet Registration

Rotational Pickleball at Prather Park

PressReader: News, Magazines, and Puzzles Too!

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](mailto:starango@hptx.org) or call 214.559.9308 with your ideas and recommendations.

## Annual Pet Registration

It's time to register your pet for 2026! As required by the Town Ordinance, all pets must be registered every year. The registration fees are \$20 for unneutered/unspayed dogs or cats and \$10 for neutered/spayed dogs or cats.

### How to Register:

- **Online:** Complete the form at [www.hptx.org/pet](http://www.hptx.org/pet).
- **Mail or In-Person:** Download the form, then mail or drop it off at Town Hall.
- **Email:** Send the completed form to [contactcustomerservice@hptx.org](mailto:contactcustomerservice@hptx.org). The fee will appear on your next utility bill after the application is processed.

Additionally, **please provide proof of current rabies vaccination when you register.** For additional questions, please contact Customer Service at 214-521-4161.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Town Hall offices will be closed on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for In-Service Staff Training. All essential services will remain fully operational. For non-emergencies, call 214-521-5000.



## Join the Fun: Pickleball Saturdays at Prather Park

At the request of fellow residents, the Town will pilot open rotational pickleball play at Prather Park for players of all skill levels. Supporting a welcoming and social environment where players can interact and play with others, Courts C and D will be reserved every Saturday beginning in February from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for open play. Participation is open to all Highland Park residents and their guests.

The Town welcomes feedback on this pilot program. Comments may be directed by phone at 214-559-9308 or by email at [starango@hptx.org](mailto:starango@hptx.org). We hope you join the fun!



## PressReader: News, Magazines, and Puzzles Too!

PressReader, the digital newspaper and magazine platform, now offers even more ways to engage in your favorite content. Along with access to thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the world, including *USA Today*, *Time*, and *Vanity Fair*, users can now enjoy interactive puzzles such as crosswords and Sudoku directly within the platform.



Discover everything PressReader has to offer on the Library's [eBooks & More](#) page. All you need to access this resource is your library card number and PIN. Dive in and discover your favorite news, magazines, and puzzles anytime, anywhere!



## Winter Reading Challenge

The adult Winter Reading Challenge is br-r-inging 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.

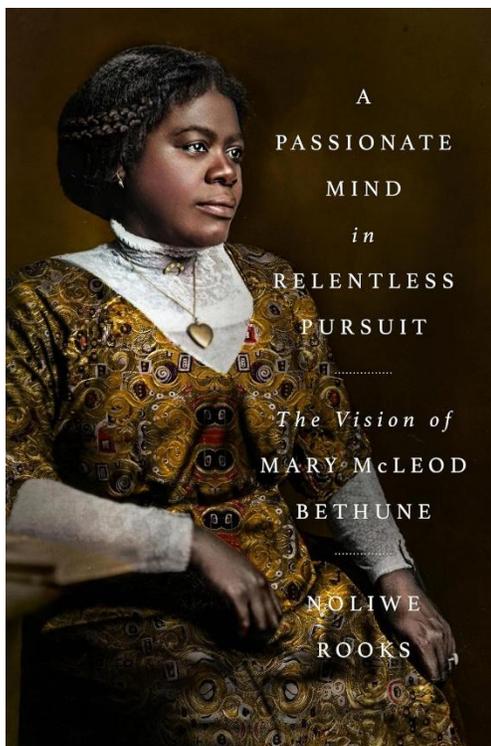
Sign up for the challenge at [hptx.beanstack.com](http://hptx.beanstack.com).



## 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](#).



## What to Check Out Next?

February is Black History Month! The 2026 theme, from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), is "A Century of Black History Commemorations."

One standout read is *A Passionate Mind in Relentless Pursuit: The Vision of Mary McLeod Bethune* by Noliwe Rooks, which offers an inspiring portrait of Bethune's groundbreaking work as an educator, activist, and leader. Through rich historical detail and insightful analysis, the book shares Bethune's fight for racial and gender equality and her lasting influence on U.S. policy.

Library staff have also designed in-Library displays showcasing poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by Black authors. Please visit <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/> to view Black History Month exhibits and collections from the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Gallery of Art, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Tuesday, February 3, 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 | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Library

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

## Saturday, February 7, 2026

### James Wand Magic Show

2:00 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Join the Highland Park Library on a magical mission! Your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to join James Wand on an exciting and hilarious adventure of magic and mystery. Help him solve clues and decode secret messages, and get ready to be amazed by the most incredible magic you will ever see!

This program is suitable for ages 5+. Registration is required: [Register Now](#) to save your spot!

## Wednesday, February 11, 2026

### Lunch Bunch Book Club

12:00 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

This month, the Lunch Bunch Book Club will be reading *Beth is Dead* by local author Katie Bernet. Ms. Bernet will be joining in person to discuss her debut novel. This program suitable for ages 18+.

## Saturday, February 14, 2026

### Sweet Notes for Your Sweetheart with Flutopia

1:00 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Join us at the library this Valentine's Day for a special performance by the members of Flutopia. All ages are welcome!

### Family Day

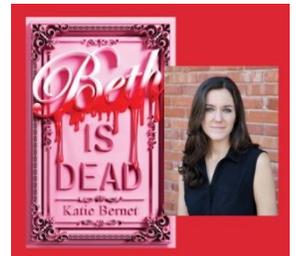
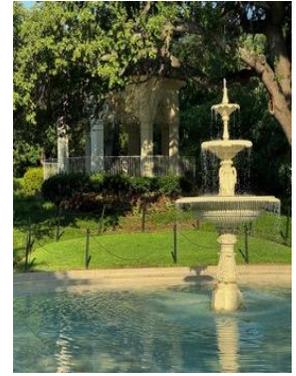
3:00 PM-4:00 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Families are invited to spend a few hours of fun at the Highland Park Library! Supplies will be provided for open-ended crafting and play, and it's a great opportunity to mingle with other families. Suitable for all ages. Registration appreciated but not required: [Register for Family Day](#)

## Monday, February 16, 2026

### Town Hall Offices are Closed for In-Service Staff Training

All essential services, including Public Safety, will remain fully operational. For non-emergencies, call 214-521-5000.



## Tuesday, February 17, 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 | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Library

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

## Wednesday, February 18, 2026

### Mommy and Me Yoga

10:00 AM | 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, February 21, 2026

### Adult Crafting Hour

10:00 AM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

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

## Wednesday, February 25, 2026

### Mommy and Me Yoga

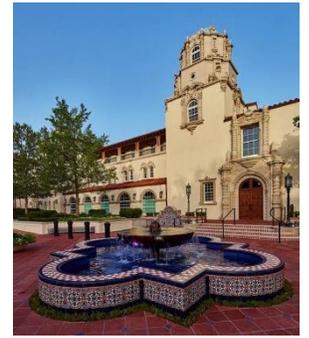
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### Tall Tails

4:30 PM | 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.



**Saturday, February 28, 2026**

**Artificial Intelligence: Myths, Reality, and Real-World Impact**

1:00 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Artificial intelligence is everywhere, but what does it really do? Join undergraduate students of the The Biotech Club at the University of Texas at Dallas for an interactive session that explores the true capabilities of AI. Explore common myths and discover practical ways AI can enhance productivity and support innovation. Whether you're curious, skeptical, or excited about AI, this workshop will give you the tools to understand and use it with confidence. Suitable ages 18+.



**Stuffed Animal Hospital**

3:30 PM | University Park Public Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza Suite 200

Bring your favorite stuffed friend to the Highland Park Library for some tender loving care! Our Stuffed Animal Care Team will assess your fuzzy friend's health and create a care plan to make them feel all better!

During your visit, stop by the care stations to make a sleep mask, collar, or bracelet for your fuzzy friend. If your stuffed animal is in need of more extensive care, it can stay for a special stuffed animal sleepover where repairs will be completed new friendships can be made!



Repairs are limited to stuffing and sewing of cloth stuffed animals or dolls. This program is possible in partnership with the University Park Public Library. Registration is required: [Register Now](#) to save your spot!