

# The Town of Highland Park MONARCH HERALD

*Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of The Town of Highland Park*

**MARCH 2026 | VOL 6 ISSUE 03**

## In A Pecan Shell

DART Membership Election

Backflow Prevention Program

HP Pool Now Hiring!

Court Resurfacing Project

Your Party's Secret Ingredient?  
A Library Card!



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.

## DART Membership Election

The Town Council has ordered a Special Election to be held on May 2, 2026. At this election, Highland Park voters will have the opportunity to determine whether the Town should remain a member of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system.

To support voter education, the Town has created a dedicated webpage that provides factual and educational information about the upcoming election, including background materials and frequently asked questions.

Residents may visit [www.hptx.org/DART](http://www.hptx.org/DART) for additional information.



## Backflow Prevention Program

The Town is introducing a State-Mandated Backflow Prevention Program to protect against the contamination of the public water supply. This program is required under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 via the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

### Why It's Important

This program helps:

- Prevent contamination of our water supply
- Protect and safeguard public health
- Maintain the integrity of the Town's water supply
- Ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations

### What's Included

To streamline the process and ensure consistency, the Town will provide a concierge-style service through a qualified contractor. The contractor will:

- Inventory all backflow prevention devices
- Perform required testing for both residential and commercial properties



### Cost Details

Testing costs will be billed directly to the property owner and conveniently included on the monthly water bill. Anticipated costs are:

- Irrigation/Domestic: \$75 per unit
- Fire/Commercial: \$85 per unit

### Next Steps

The Town will contact property owners directly with information on scheduling the required backflow prevention testing. No immediate action is needed until you are notified. Visit the [Backflow Prevention Program](#) webpage on the Town's website for additional information and updates.



## Highland Park Swimming Pool Now Hiring!

The Highland Park Swimming Pool is now accepting applications for seasonal positions! Available positions include Concession Attendants, Lifeguards, Lead Lifeguards, and Swim Instructors. Free lifeguard certification and recertification are offered.

View [pay rates and position details](#) on the Town's website, and [submit your application](#) today to join the team!

For questions, please contact Allison Keene, HR Coordinator, at [akeene@hptx.org](mailto:akeene@hptx.org) or 214-559-9332.





## Court Resurfacing Project

All courts (excluding the Prather Park Pickleball Courts) will be resurfaced in the coming weeks to restore their appearance, safety, and playability. New nets will also be installed as part of this project. As work progresses, tennis permit holders will begin to see temporary court closures reflected in the reservation system.

Resurfacing has begun at the Fairfax Park courts (#3, #4, and #5). These courts will remain closed until work is complete, which is anticipated in mid-March, weather permitting. The remaining courts will follow on a rolling schedule.

We understand that these temporary closures may cause some inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we complete these improvements. During this time, we encourage players to utilize other available courts within the Town.

Please continue to check [CivicRec](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information on closures and reopening dates.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## Your Party's Secret Ingredient? A Library Card!

There are sweet new additions to the Library of Things collection, decorative cake pans! Whether you are planning a birthday celebration, a themed party, or just want to try your hand at creative baking, these specialty pans will help you create desserts that wow!

The new collection features a variety of fun shapes and designs, perfect for adding a personal touch to your cakes without purchasing pans you may only use once. Borrowing is simple and a great way to explore new baking projects.

Stop by the library or browse the [online catalog](#) to view the full selection of decorative cake pans and other items available in the Library of Things. From pickleball sets to tech gadgets, and now baking essentials, check out items to help you make, create, and celebrate!

Library cards are available at no cost to Town of Highland Park residents. Apply in person, [online](#), or by phone at (214) 559-9400.



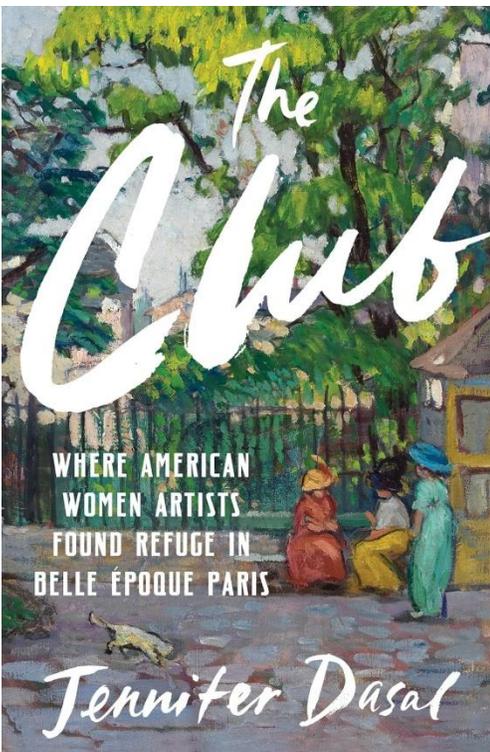


## Snow Much to Read, So Little Time— Finish by March 15! Winter Reading Challenge

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](https://hptx.beanstack.com).



## What to Check Out Next?

March is Women's History Month! The book ***The Club: Where American Women Artists Found Refuge in Belle Époque Paris*** by art historian, curator, and podcast host Jennifer Dasal details the never-before-told history of a residence for American women artists in Paris from 1893 to 1914. Readers will not only learn the history of the residence but also discover the lives of the philanthropists who created it and the artists it housed.

Be sure to visit the library to browse the displays of titles showcasing poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by women.

To view Women's History Month exhibits and collections online, including resources from the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, please visit [womenshistorymonth.gov](https://womenshistorymonth.gov).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 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

Twice a month, the Library offers free play for players of all experience levels. This program is suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.



**Wednesday, March 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 *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Feel free to bring a snack or lunch to eat while we discuss the book (no food is provided). This program is suitable for ages 18+.



**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

### Teen Patch Projects

3:30 PM | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Turn tired garments into something that speaks to you with patches and appliques! Each attendee will receive a canvas pencil bag to decorate with an array of choices. Participants are welcome to bring clothes, bags, or other fabric items to decorate, in line with the following guidelines. Durable fabrics with minimal stretch, such as cotton, denim, or canvas. Personal items must be something that attendees are open to customization, with the understanding that errors may happen. Participants may bring their own patches and appliques, provided they contain no obscene or inappropriate images, words, or messages. Library staff may evaluate content as needed.



Sewing needles and irons will be used, and a waiver is required to participate. Waivers will be emailed before the program and also provided on the day of the program. Both parents or guardians, or the custodial parent/guardian, must complete the waiver for attendees to participate.

The program is presented in partnership with the University Park Public Library. Suitable for ages 10+. Registration is required: [Register for Teen Patch Projects](#)

**Tuesday, March 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

Twice a month, the Library offers free play for players of all experience levels. This program is suitable for adults 18+. No registration required.



## **Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

### **Mommy and Me Yoga**

10:00 AM | 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Registration is required: [Register for Mommy and Me Yoga](#)



## **Thursday, March 19, 2026**

### **Animal Adventures**

10:00 AM | Prather Park

Take a walk on the wild side with the Highland Park Library and the Dallas Zoo for an exciting, educational program that brings the wonders of the animal kingdom to life. Audience members will have an opportunity to get up close with six to seven ambassador animals from around the world.

Please note that touching the animals is not guaranteed. For the safety and comfort of both animals and attendees, food is not permitted. In the event of inclement weather, this program will be cancelled. Suitable for ages 5+. Registration is appreciated but not required: [Register for Animal Adventures](#)



## **Saturday, March 21, 2026**

### **Adult Crafting Hour**

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

This crafting hour takes place on the third Saturday of each month. Participants will be making a decoupaged box for this month's craft. Supplies are limited, so please call to 214-559-9345 to reserve your space. Suitable for adults 18+.

## **Wednesday, March 25, 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](#)



### 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, March 28, 2026

#### Ukulele Jam Session

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

At the beginning of the month, call the library to be sent three songs that will be featured in this month's jam session. All songs use four chords and by the end of the year, participants will have learned 36 songs! Ukuleles are available to borrow, though attendees are welcome to bring their own. This program is suitable for ages 18+. Call the library at 214-559-9345 for more information.



#### Bonsai for Beginners

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

Discover the art and patience of bonsai in this hands-on beginner workshop. Participants will learn the basics of shaping, pruning, and caring for miniature trees while exploring the history and tradition behind this centuries-old practice. No experience required—just curiosity and a love of plants. Join us and start your own bonsai journey. This program is suitable for ages 18+. Supplies are limited, so participants are encouraged to reserve a space by calling 214-559-9345.

