

# HILLTOP HAPPENINGS

BY: AMBER NEEL, LMSW - ACTIVITIES & MARKETING SUPERVISOR

February is a month that invites us to slow down and reflect on what we love, and here in Hilltop Lakes, there is a lot to appreciate. When we asked our community on Facebook to share what they love most about living here, the responses were heartfelt, thoughtful, and a beautiful reminder of why so many call this place home.

Many of you mentioned the people - friendly neighbors and the way folks look out for one another. Others shared their love for the peaceful lakes, quiet mornings, wildlife sightings, and the sense of calm that comes with life here. From fun events to casual conversations at the Post Office, it's clear that Hilltop Lakes is more than just where we live... it's a place that has been cherished for generations for some, and a place where neighbors feel more like family for most.

To keep that spirit going and stick with the theme of February (LOVE!), I'm excited to introduce a "Community Kindness Wall", a space where Hilltoppers can continue sharing kind words, shoutouts to neighbors, and the little things that make this place special...or what they LOVE about Hilltop Lakes.

As you read through this month's Hilltop Happenings, I hope you feel the same warmth and appreciation that came through so clearly in your responses. Thank you for making Hilltop Lakes a community filled with kindness, care, and connection - this month, and all year long.



## COMMUNITY NEWS/UPDATES

The Brandin' Iron Cafe at the Overlook has new seasonal hours:

**Tuesday** 4pm - 8pm  
**Wednesday** 4pm - 8pm  
**Thursday** 4pm - 8pm  
**Friday** 12pm - 9pm  
**Saturday** 8am - 9pm  
**Sunday** 8am - 2pm



## Streamlined Email System

The Hilltop Lakes POA is introducing a new email system that will allow for more seamless communication with the various departments that keep Hilltop Lakes running. A list of current email address contacts is available on page 12!

## TROUPE OVER THE HILL NEWS

By: Joyce Perkins



Come join the fun of singing Broadway show tunes as Troupe Over The Hill begins preparation and planning for our spring musical, All Together Now! A Benefit Event for Disaster Relief on February 24, at 4:00 at the Main Street Playhouse in Normangee. Auditions dates will be announced soon.

Musical Theatre International (MTI) is pleased to offer a special musical revue production to theatres who have been significantly impacted by a natural disaster. All Together Now! A Benefit Event for Disaster Relief is a show designed to be used as a major fundraiser for theatres affected. Our very own Main Street Playhouse suffered severe storm damage in 2023 when straight-line winds blew off the roof, two HVAC units, and water damage. This storm significantly impacted the use of the venue making it unusable for close to a year. Nearly \$120,000 worth of damage was done by this storm.

All Together Now! A Benefit Event for Disaster Relief is a recognition from MTI, its authors and rightsholders that flexible assistance is needed to help theatres continue producing shows on their stages. A fantastic selection of songs is featured in this brand-new musical revue from shows including Rent, Fiddler on the Roof, Hairspray, My Fair Lady, Annie, Oliver! and many more.

Please come be part of this spring production. We will need cast and crew members for the success of this production. The tentative show dates are April 17-26, for the first time to run two weekends. Since this is a concert type show, the cast members may be flexible in their participation for these shows. Please come join in the fun. For more information call or text, Joyce Perkins, 979-820-3200 or any Troupe board member. Please come join in the fun.



## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE WAS A SUCCESS!

On January 31, a truly blistering cold day, several clubs/organizations and community members braved the cold and spent their morning at the Community Open House! There were even special guests Rex Swearingen and Andres de la Garza, both running for county positions. This is a time for Hilltop Lakes clubs and organizations to provide information about what they do, in hopes to recruit new members to their groups. These events are great for new Hilltoppers looking for ways to meet new people, but are also great for those who have lived here for years to find new ways to enjoy living on The Hill. If you didn't make this one, be on the lookout for information on our next one this year!

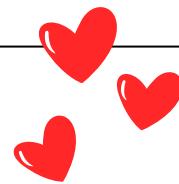
## KIDS CORNER

Make sure to join us for this month's **storytime!**  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am, at the Welcome Center



A small craft will follow, and there will be plenty of coffee for parents!

## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT HILLTOP LAKES



"The people! I love how everyone pitches in when there is a need. Also the deer- even though they eat my plants." - Allison

"I love the lakes, the water is so beautiful. Driving by on my way home, walking my dog, going fishing, and soon some swimming! I also love the sense of community, the quiet, and the stars. We're so happy to call this place home." - Kimmie

"The people and the fun activities. So happy to be part of our community." - Shellie

"The Beautiful white fences around grazing horses when you first drive in, and the nice red barn with pretty shade trees!"



"The Community and wildlife 😊" - Sara

"The people and deer! 🐐" - Tita

"When in need, help is near! After our head on accident, this community took care of us!!! Lots of food, trips to town, lawn care....the list goes on!" - Swen

"I love the peace and quiet. Coming from Chicago, you never get that. I've met some of the nicest folks around here. I also love to truck around through the endless maze that is Hilltop lakes and take in all the beauty that this place has to offer. I love the bingo night and the community events that we have here. I have longed for this for most of my 49 years of life. I think it would be easier to highlight what someone doesn't like about HTL. So far for me there is nothing I don't love about this. BTW. I'm parked at Tonkawa lake watching the water ripple on by. It is a masterpiece." - Jay

"I love that Hilltop is like summer camp for old people!!" - Lynne

"The dedicated people whose spirits and energy continues to decorate for holidays/seasons." - Kevven

"I love the nature and the people." - Laverne

## CLUB/ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



### WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION OF HILLTOP LAKES

Inviting all female golfers to join for the 2026 season for weekly playdays on Thursdays, March through November! Tee time in March is 9:00am.

**2026 Membership Dues: \$52**

**Kick-Off Scramble & Luncheon:**  
Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

For more information or for membership forms, please contact the Pro Shop at (936) 855-2100



**CC:** Community Ctr  
**GC:** Golf Course  
**KC:** Kickapoo Club  
**TR:** Tonkawa Room  
**WC:** Welcome Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/12/26 - Ben Bius Meet & Greet - CC, 1:30pm
- 2/12/26 - Community Game Night - TR, 6pm
- 2/13/2026 - Rex Swearingen Meet & Greet - CC, 6pm
- 2/14/2026 - Storytime - WC, 9am
- 2/14/2026 - Valentine's Day Dance - TR/KC, 8pm
- 2/16/2026 - POA Board Meeting - CC, 6pm
- 2/17/2026 - Garden Club Lunch 'n Learn - CC, 12pm
- 2/22/2026 - Group Golf Lesson - GC, 1pm
- 2/23/2026 - Cooking with Dee - CC, 6pm
- 2/26/2026 - Neighbors Teaching Neighbors - CC, 6pm
- 2/28/2026 - Karaoke with Kenny Ray - KC, 8pm



## MEET THE HTL STAFF!

Mya, originally from Oklahoma, has lived and worked in Hilltop Lakes for going on three years now. When not working hard at the Welcome Center, she enjoys reading, astrology, and traveling. Her favorite dessert is blackberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream. A couple of fun facts about her is that she has four sisters, and she plays the piano!

Mya works in Accounts Receivable and can assist you with the following:

- Accepting payments for everything - maintenance fees, renting facilities, activities, and more!
- Making sure that deeds for new property owners are transferred correctly between owners
- Reservations sometimes

& our favorite... comedic relief!

[mya.anderson@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:mya.anderson@hilltoplakes.com) | 936-855-2222 ext. 169

## MOVIE MATINEE AT THE MAINSTREET PLAYHOUSE

How about coming to the Main Street Playhouse to enjoy a Saturday afternoon movie?



Troupe Over The Hill has a goal to show a major movie that helps showcase musicals and classic dramas each month. We all enjoyed many of these movies and would love to see them again. The Main Street Playhouse has comfy seats and a ten foot wide by eight foot high screen. The movie for February 21 at 3:00 p.m. will be Grease, starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. This is a 1978 American musical romantic comedy film. There is no fee for admission but snacks will be available for a donation. Hope to see you there!

**COMMUNITY GAME**

**NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 12 | 6-9PM**

Theme: Card Games  
(Uno, Skip-Bo, Rummy, etc)

Bring games to share - all ages welcome!!!

For more info: (903) 512-0358

Tonkawa Room



**FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PINES!**

Pine trees offer numerous benefits, including supporting ecosystems by providing food and shelter for wildlife, purifying the air, controlling soil erosion, and beautifying landscapes; they also have medicinal uses, with parts like needles and bark containing antioxidants and compounds beneficial for respiratory, immune, and skin health, and their wood and cones are used in crafts, building, and as mulch. DID YOU KNOW that Pine needle tea has 4-5 times more vitamin C than orange juice or a lemon. Come and learn everything you wanted to know about pine trees!

Teresa Klepac has been a Leon County Master Gardener since 2018.

**LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

12:00 PM - COMMUNITY CENTER

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

NEW DATES FOR 2026! ALL CLASSES WILL BE THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

NEXT CLASSES: MAR 17, APRIL 21, MAY 19, & JUNE 16.

HILLTOP LAKES GARDEN CLUB  
P.O. Box 1932  
Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871

## HTL CHAPEL NEWS

### Services

Sunday School-9:45AM  
Sunday worship-11 AM  
Wed. Bible study - 5:30PM

Ladies Bible Study will now be offering an additional Bible Study Group beyond the group on Mondays at 10am - you can now join on Thursdays at 7:00pm!

### Upcoming

Galentine's Day Party - February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Join for dinner, games, and fellowship!

Men's Prayer Breakfast - February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am



## HILLTOP CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY

Egg-Stravaganza planning is underway! Want to help make it egg-cellent? Join us on **February 18th** for our next planning meeting. Volunteering is a fun way to get involved and help make our community and events great... and it counts toward your Hilltop Challenge checklist!



## Join us for Meet & Greet with Ben Bius

**Candidate for Congressional District 10**



**DATE:** Thursday, February 12th  
**WHEN:** 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** Hilltop Lakes Community Center  
**WHO:** Open to Public; All are Welcome

*Come meet Ben and learn more about the Campaign. Ben will get things Done!*

RSVP to [field.director@ben4congress.com](mailto:field.director@ben4congress.com)  
[www.ben4congress.com](http://www.ben4congress.com)

★★★  
**BEN BIUS**  
FOR CONGRESS

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Ben4Congress Campaign

# MEET THE CANDIDATE

**WHEN**  
Friday Feb. 13th  
6pm

**WHERE**  
Hilltop Lakes  
Community Center  
3 Hilltop Drive Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871

**Candidate**  
**Rex Swearingen**  
Candidate for Leon County Commissioner Precinct 4

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE



HEAR POSITIONS ON TOPICS THAT MATTER TO YOU!

ASK QUESTIONS AND VOICE YOUR CONCERNs

LEARN ABOUT MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We're building our calendar and want your ideas! From family-friendly fun to adult nights out, workshops, tournaments, or seasonal events... what would get you excited to participate? For those who have been around for years, what are some things you would love to see brought back?

Let us know by emailing Amber at  
[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)

To share Hilltop news, stories, pictures, and more, email:  
[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)

**WANTED**

## EGG-STRAVAGANZA BOOTH VENDORS!

### Calling all vendors!

We're looking for businesses and organizations to sell products or share information at this year's Egg-Stravaganza. Don't miss this chance to connect with the Hilltop Lakes crowd!

Reach out to Amber Neel for more information:  
[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)





THE BRANDIN' IRON CAFE  
PRESENTS A

# VALENTINE

*Steak Dinner*



FEBRUARY 14, 2026



**Enjoy a romantic  
steak dinner for  
two!**

**\$74.99 / couple**



**Dinner Includes:**

- 20-22oz heart-shaped Ribeye
- 2 side salads
- 1 potato & 1 additional side

**For Reservations:**

Marquez Location:

(903) 529-1200

Hilltop Lakes Location:

(903) 208-9124

JOIN THE KICKAPOO CLUB FOR  
OUR

# Valentine's Dance

FEBRUARY 14TH

Featuring the music of Randy Schiamara

Saturday, February 14, 2026 |

7:30 PM | Tonkawa Room



# GROUP GOLF LESSON

**2/22/2026 1-2pm with Instructor Brody Hamby**

In high school Brody was 4x All Conference, 2x All State, 3A State runner up, FCA Camp @ A&M Champion. Was part of his varsity golf team at Wyoming College and NJCAA National Championship Qualifier. Now he is working on getting his pro card.

**PRICE INCLUDES RANGE BALLS    \$25 / person**



Location: HTL Driving Range



Sign up at the Pro Shop



Walk-ups welcome if space available

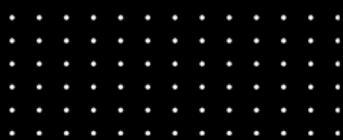


**(936) 855-2100**

# NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS

## Photography with Zack

Discover how to improve everyday photo skills with guidance from a local photographer. This relaxed, beginner-friendly session is open to anyone who wants to learn and have fun!



Thursday, February 26  
6pm - 8pm



Community Center



### ABOUT me

Howdy! I'm Zack, a photographer based in Central Texas. Some people know my name from an old TV show. The rest know my for my goofy personality and my creative imagination. I've been in photography for over 10 years now, starting small, but have steadily grown since then. I am a general photographer, in that I specialize in multiple areas. I have done bridals, weddings, senior portraits, family shoots, as well as architecture, art pieces, and a host of other subjects.



[www.hilltoplakes.com](http://www.hilltoplakes.com)



[amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com)



(903) 512-0358

## WINTER IN HILLTOP

Towards the end of January, Hilltop Lakes got a true taste of winter! On January 25th, residents woke up to a sparkling "Winter Wonderland." While it looked like snow, it was mostly ice - but that didn't stop Hilltoppers from venturing outside. My personal favorite sight? Sledding down the hills that make the name "Hilltop" Lakes so fitting! There were a few close calls, but for the most part, it looks like everyone had a blast.



Photograph By: Jay Velez



Photograph By: Marsha Laird



Photograph By: Amber Neel



## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February is Black History Month, a time to honor and learn about the achievements, contributions, and experiences of Black Americans throughout history. From leaders who fought for civil rights to artists, scientists, and innovators who have helped shape our culture and society, this month encourages reflection and understanding.

**Learn more:** Explore trusted online resources to discover more about Black History Month, such as: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.gov/>

"PEOPLE WILL FORGET  
WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE  
WILL FORGET WHAT YOU  
DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL  
NEVER FORGET HOW YOU  
MADE THEM FEEL"

~ Maya Angelou

## CELEBRATE “NATIONAL RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS” WITH US BY SHARING KIND WORDS

Stop by the Welcome Center, grab a heart, and share on it:

- something you LOVE about Hilltop Lakes
- a kind note about a neighbor
- a moment that made you smile

& then pin the heart on the board to brighten someone's day... yours included!



## COMMUNITY NEWS/UPDATES CONT'D FROM PAGE 1



### Email Notification Updates

We are thrilled to announce that we have established a distribution group email system to effectively manage property owner requests. Each email group includes the employee responsible for the task, the Department Supervisor, and the Board Member Liaison(s).

Maintenance Requests: [MaintenanceRequests@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:MaintenanceRequests@hilltoplakes.com)  
Any general maintenance request, housekeeping, road issues, etc.

Post Office: [PostOffice@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:PostOffice@hilltoplakes.com)  
Hold mail requests or general post office questions

Maintenance Fees: [MaintenanceFees@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:MaintenanceFees@hilltoplakes.com)  
Question related to your maintenance fees

Golf Course & Pro Shop: [GolfCourse@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:GolfCourse@hilltoplakes.com)  
Any question or inquiry about the Hilltop Lakes Golf Course or Pro Shop

As we continue to develop the email distribution groups we will update the community and/or our vendors.



## UPDATED LOTS LIST

The list of Hilltop Lakes lots for sale has been updated! You can view this list by visiting the Welcome Center!



for more information:

[Kyla.Lemoine@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Kyla.Lemoine@hilltoplakes.com)

For updates regarding our Egg-Stravaganza, visit the Hilltop Lakes website at:

<https://hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza>

*Thank you for reading!*

(936) 855-2222

[hilltoplakes.com](http://hilltoplakes.com)

3 Hilltop Drive, Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871

To share Hilltop news, stories, pictures, and more, email: [Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)