

Hilltop Happenings



Happy New Year!

Happy New Year, neighbors!

As we step into a brand-new year, I'm excited to share the launch of *Hilltop Happenings*, a monthly newsletter created just for our Hilltop Lakes community. This is a space to celebrate what makes our little part of the world special - our people, our clubs and organizations, our amenities, our events, and the everyday moments that make Hilltop Lakes feel like home.

Each month, you'll find highlights of local organizations, upcoming events, community news, opportunities to get involved, and more! My hope is that this newsletter helps us stay connected, meet new neighbors, and continue building a strong, welcoming community together throughout the year.

This newsletter is for you, and it will grow best with your input. If you have news to share, photos to submit, or ideas for future issues, I'd love to hear from you. Here's to a wonderful year ahead and to making 2026 a great one on The Hill!

Warmly,
Amber Neel, LMSW
Activities and Marketing Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amber Neel'. The script is fluid and cursive.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Community News
and Updates

Upcoming Events

Club/Organization
Spotlight

"Meet Your
Neighbor"

Helpful Hints

"Safety
Considerations in
Winter"



Community News & Updates

There's a new store at the Brandin' Iron! From snacks to basic necessities, they've got you covered. Swing by and see what's new!

Tues-Sat: 9am-7pm | **Sun:** 9am-2pm

We have new activities starting this year - these will always be under "Events" and advertised elsewhere for community members who do not receive the newsletter!

For news related to the 9-1-1 re-addressing, check: <https://hilltoplakes.com/911-readdressing-info>



Club/Organization Spotlight

New club alert!

As of January 5, 2026, there is a new club on the Hill that you can join:

Ladies Mahjong

Mahjong basics involve drawing and discarding tiles to form a winning hand of four sets and a pair, aiming to declare "Mahjong!".

Tuesdays at 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Community Center

Questions? Contact Vickie Carrigan at 979-777-3549

Views Around the Hill



Photos by:
Zachary Morris

Please send your best Hilltop pictures to include in future issues!
amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com



Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan 1 - Beginning of "Hilltop Challenge"
- Jan 9 - Meet & Greet - CC, 4pm
- Jan 9 - Live Music w/ Jesse Duke - TR, 8pm
- Jan 10 - Chris Helms Live at the KC - 8pm
- Jan 15 - Community Game Night - TR, 6pm
- Jan 17 - Lions Club Blood Drive - TR
- Jan 19 - POA Board Meeting - CC, 6pm
- Jan 24 - Storytime at the WC - 9am
- Jan 24 - Karaoke with Kenny Ray - KC, 8pm
- Jan 25 - Golf Lesson at the Driving Range - 2pm
- Jan 29 - Neighbors Teach Neighbors - CC, 5:30pm
- Cooking with Dee DeFlora
- Jan 31 - Community Open House

CC: Community Center

KC: Kickapoo Club

TR: Tonkawa Room

WC: Welcome Center



Celebrations

Want your birthday and/or anniversary to be shared in a future issue of *Hilltop Happenings*? Send us those dates!

Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com



Meet Your Neighbor

If you've ever called or visited the Welcome Center, then I'm sure you have had the pleasure of meeting Debra. She is always a ray of sunshine, full of kindness, and if you are having a bad day, I promise she will make you feel better.

How long have you lived here?

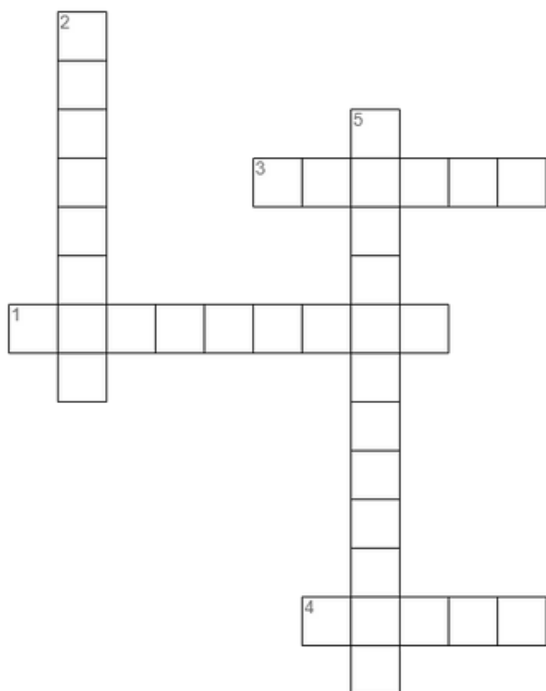
Debra moved here in 2017 after her mama passed away to help her father.

What is your favorite thing about living here?

It's very peaceful and the wildlife is entertaining to watch. You also just know someone everywhere you go, and get lots of hugs!

What is one "fun fact" about you?

Debra just really loves people and getting to know them - she has never met a stranger!



ACROSS

1. More than houses, a place where people are connected
3. buddy, pal, chum, mate
4. Lone Star State

DOWN

2. Someone living nearby
5. Best place to live!

answers on last page



Kids Corner

Parents, please share with us if you or your children have any:

- School achievements
- Sports updates
- Art to share
- & any other news!

This month we are excited to begin a monthly "Storytime" at the Welcome Center - 1/10, 9am!



Helpful Hilltop Info

Did You Know?

You can subscribe on the Hilltop Lakes website to receive important news and alerts via email and/or text message!

Visit: hilltoplakes.com

BLOOD DRIVE

Hilltop Lakes Lions Club

**Saturday, January 17
9:00 am - 1:30 pm
Tonkawa Room**

**Contact Judy Bryant (936) 245-2323
sponsor code: G801**

**PROMOTIONS:
LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRT &
A1c TESTING!**

CLAIM YOURS HERE:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



Landree, blood recipient



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

*Save lives on
the go with*



Complete your Health History Interview before you come in for your donation.

Go to <https://cflexpress.giveblood.org/> and complete the same day as your appointment.



GROUP GOLF LESSON

1/25/2026 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





Game Night

**JAN 15
6 - 9PM**

Bring games to share,
snacks for yourself, and
enjoy time with your family,
friends, and neighbors!

Hilltop Lakes
Tonkawa Room

**ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME!**

Theme for January
Clue, Monopoly, Chess, Life, etc.

(theme will change monthly)

Contact for more info:
Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com



**CLASSIC
BOARD
GAMES**

"Neighbors Teaching Neighbors"

Dee DeFlora



Looking for some new recipe ideas? New cooking techniques? How about some quick, easy, but still delicious options? Come learn about cooking from one of your neighbors!

this will be the first of a series of classes with Dee



JANUARY 29TH
6PM - 8PM
COMMUNITY CENTER



About Me

A Certified Culinarian with formal training in Culinary Arts, Dee brings years of hands-on experience in both food preparation and kitchen leadership. Her background includes preparing meals for community events, churches, camps, and large gatherings, as well as supervising kitchen operations and supporting teams and volunteers. Skilled in menu preparation, dietary accommodations, and food safety, she is passionate about creating welcoming experiences through thoughtfully prepared food that brings people together.

Join us for a

WINTER *storytime*



JANUARY 24TH, 2026

Starts at 9:00am

Hilltop Lakes Welcome Center

Small craft to follow

Come celebrate winter with us!

www.hilltoplakes.com



HILLTOP CHALLENGE


*Discover everything Hilltop
Lakes has to offer - at your
own pace!*

**JANUARY 1 -
DECEMBER 31**

Explore • Participate • Connect

What is the Hilltop Challenge?

A fun, year-long community challenge encouraging residents to explore Hilltop Lakes, attend events, get involved, get active, and connect with other Hilltoppers!



How it Works

- ✓ Pick up a checklist
- ✓ Complete activities anytime
- ✓ Check them off as you go
- ✓ Earn raffle entries & enter for prizes

Get Your Checklist

- 📍 Welcome Center
- ✉ amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com
- 🌐 hilltoplakes.com



For more info

amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com
(903) 512-0358





Safety Considerations in Winter

by: Leon County CERT - Hilltop Lakes Chapter

As cold weather approaches us (possibly... you never really know in Texas), there are several things to consider to keep you, your family, and your home safe!

Winterize Your Vehicle

Before going out in potentially dangerous weather conditions, check your battery, fluid levels, windshield wipers, and tire pressure and tire tread.

Create an Emergency Kit for Your Vehicle

- Blankets/sleeping bags, extra clothing
- Cell phone, radio, flashlight, batteries
- First-aid kit
- High calorie, non-perishable food and bottled water
- Bag of sand or car litter for better traction
- Windshield scraper, tool kit, booster cables, tow rope, and a shovel

Prepare Your Home, Family, and Pets

- Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls
- Make sure heaters and fireplaces are in good condition
- DO NOT operate generators inside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning
- Keep an emergency supply of food and water for your pets
- Stock up on supplies, including canned food and bottled water
- Check on friends, family, neighbors whose health and/or age might put them at greater risk from cold weather

If you are looking for warming centers during the cold weather, contact 2-1-1

Information found at: <https://gov.texas.gov/first-lady/post/winter-weather-safety-tips>

Thank you for reading!



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To share Hilltop news, stories, pictures, and more, email: Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com