

# HILLTOP HAPPENINGS

BY: AMBER NEEL, LMSW - ACTIVITIES & MARKETING SUPERVISOR

March is here, bringing with it the first signs of spring and a month dedicated to something I personally love...**reading!** March is recognized as National Reading Month, a time to celebrate the joy of all things reading, and learning.

But this month at Hilltop Lakes, we're thinking about reading a little more broadly. Yes, we'll be celebrating books and encouraging time spent with a good story, but we're also celebrating the stories that live right here in our community. Every resident, every family, and every neighbor has a story worth sharing - whether it's how you found Hilltop Lakes, a favorite memory here, or the little moments that make this place feel like home.

As spring begins to bloom around the Hill, it feels like the perfect time to turn a new page together. Throughout the month, you'll see activities and opportunities centered around reading/storytelling and sharing experiences with one another. My hope is that these moments help us learn more about each other and continue building the sense of belonging that makes Hilltop Lakes so special.

If you have a Hilltop story you'd like to share, I would love to hear it. After all, the best stories are the ones we tell together.

Happy Reading, and Happy Spring!



Amber Neel, LMSW - Editor, *Hilltop Happenings*



## COMMUNITY NEWS/UPDATES

Address changes to the golf course area homes were discussed by the BVCOG at a special 911 Readdressing Meeting held on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Following the meeting, a map index was made to show changes in street names (**included on page 15**).

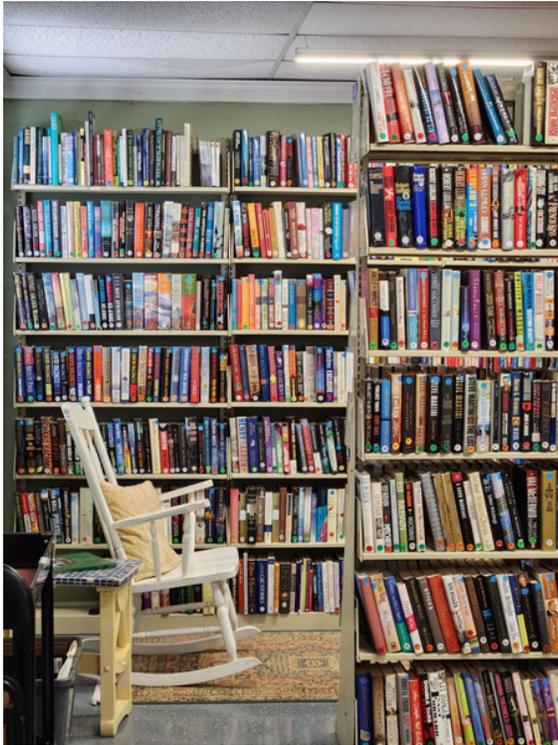
While this is very confusing and frustrating, please keep in mind that these changes are being administered by the Brazos Valley Council of

Governments (BVCOG), and the POA Board is working hard to fight against changes. To voice your concerns and advocate for yourself and our community, please reach out to the BVCOG directly!

(979) 595-2800  
[info@bvcog.org](mailto:info@bvcog.org)  
[bvcog.org](http://bvcog.org)

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE HILLTOP LAKES COMMUNITY LIBRARY?

By: Kathy Petry



Pictured: Adult section in the HTL Community Library

The Hilltop Lakes Community Library is part of the Fire Department Complex, located on Spring Road across the street from the Fire Station. It stays open so you can visit whenever you would like!

- No library card is required at the library - it is run on an honor system only! Returning books allows other families to love them
- There are selections of hardback and paperback books, craft and garden books, audio books, DVD's, and puzzles
- There is a large assortment of Westerns, Romance books, Mystery stories, Historical works, and a Children/Teen section. There is also a small section of books that could be used for homeschool families.

As with most things in our community, the Library is always looking for volunteers! If you are interested, contact Kathy Petry at: 409-670-7160

*"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life." - Henry Ward Beecher*

We couldn't agree more. Come visit your local library. A quiet place to study, relax, work or simply escape in a good book. It's fun, the old fashioned way.



## COOKING WITH CHEF DEE

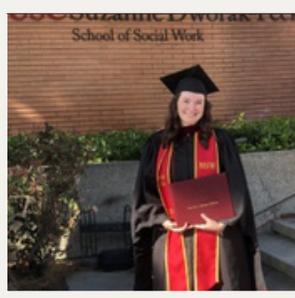
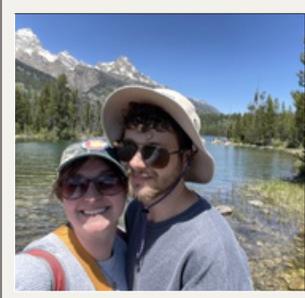
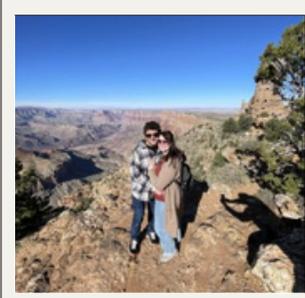
Once per month, you can join fellow community members to learn from one of your neighbors - Dee DeFlora! Dee is a Certified Culinarian with formal training in Culinary Arts. Her background includes preparing meals for community events, churches, camps, and large gatherings, as well as supervising kitchen operations and supporting teams and volunteers. Her love for cooking is apparent in her classes - these classes begin with a lecture or a short lesson, then comes the "hands-on" portion of the evening, where attendees are split into groups and assigned a recipe to create. The best part of these evenings? After everything is made... you get to EAT! Making new friends, learning about cooking, and trying new foods is what these classes are all about. In February it was all about healthy alternatives and the menu included:

- Homemade crepes with all the fixings (Nutella, fruit, fat-free whipped cream)
- Homemade marinara sauce
- Plant-based meat options
- Spiralized vegetables as pasta

Did you know that there is such a thing as spaghetti squash that is a healthier (and similar) alternative for spaghetti pasta noodles??

Don't worry, if you're a picky eater like me, there is still a lot to learn, friends to meet, and the foods change every class!

## MEET THE HTL STAFF!



Amber moved here in 2021 after graduating with her Bachelor's from Texas State University (eat 'em up cats), so that she could be in a more peaceful environment while getting her Masters Degree. She started working in Hilltop Lakes in November 2025 to be closer to home and her and her husband's (Chase) first child, Elias. When not working at the Welcome Center, she enjoys reading, momming, and road-tripping with Chase. Her favorite snack is Reese's and all things sweet. A couple of fun facts about her is that she did ballet for over a decade and she is a VERY picky eater.

Amber is the Activities & Marketing Supervisor & does the following:

- Manage rentals and use of all facilities by local clubs & organizations, guests, etc.
- Oversee the Reservations Department
- Plan, coordinate, and execute all major events and activities in HTL
- Market events and HTL
- Create this Newsletter :)

Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com | 903-512-0358

## NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS, PHOTOGRAPHY WITH ZACK MORRIS



February's Neighbors Teaching Neighbors class was taught by Zack Morris, a local photographer

Participants learned simple tips and tricks for taking better photos, from understanding lighting and composition to making the most of the cameras right in their pockets. It was a fun, hands-on evening filled with learning, laughter, and a new appreciation for capturing everyday moments. We are so grateful to Zack for sharing his knowledge and helping make this new series such a success! For more information or to contact Zack, visit his website at: [www.zmorrisphoto.com](http://www.zmorrisphoto.com)

**Game Night**

Join us for a fun book-themed game night... trivia style!!! Bring a team, or come prepared to join one.

**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> | 6PM**  
Tonkawa Room

**FREE TO JOIN**  
for more information:  
Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

# HILLTOPPERS

By: Emmett J. Toups

My name is Emmett Toups. I am 93 years old and I have lived at Hilltop Lakes for over 25 years! I have seen the best and the not-so-good and would like to share some experiences with you.

I was in charge of an event we used to call "Hilltoppers Potluck Supper", the first Friday night of each month. Couples would bring their favorite dish and share with 65 to 70 people. There was a charge of \$1 per couple which was donated to the Fire Department. Delicious desserts were available along with drinks.

I also arranged for a surprise guest entertainer, which was enjoyed by all. We had "door prize" drawings each month, and special announcements about our community were shared.

After each event, most participants would help clean up and dismantle tables and chairs, etc. to return the Fire Station for its normal use.

This event always brought fun and fellowship to

## CLUB/ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

### LADIES OF THE LAKES LITERARY GUILD



Do you have a love for reading and want to share that with others who feel the same? Join the Ladies of the Lakes Literary Guild! The group meets the second Thursday of every month in the Community Center at 1:00pm.

For more information, please contact Karen Woods at (979) 777-6048

community members and is one of my fondest memories of Hilltop Lakes.

Maybe someday, someone will bring this event back!



*Editor's Note: We are thrilled to include this piece from long-time Hilltopper Emmett Toups, who brings with him extensive knowledge and history of our community. I would love to see events like this back in our community, and know several others would like to see the same. Part of celebrating this month is sharing personal stories of the past, and reminiscing on memories or moments that make Hilltop home. Please never hesitate to share your own positive stories or experiences with me to include here, and if there are things from the past you want to bring back... I look forward to trying to make it happen! - AN*

**HTL READING PROGRAM**  
Read a Book, Earn a Reward!

**FEEDING MINDS & IMAGINATIONS**  
- and appetites!

- Choose a Reading Goal
- Track Reading using provided Reading Log
- Meet goals and earn a Reading Reward Voucher - redeemable at the Brandin' Iron Cafe at the Overlook for a 7" one-topping pizza

\*For children Pre-K through 6th Grade  
\*One reward per child per quarter

☀ 903-512-0358      ☀ 3 Hilltop Dr, Hilltop Lakes, TX  
☀ amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com      ☀ www.hilltoplakes.com



## Easter at the Chapel



### Saturday, March 28

- Kid Zone at the Easter Eggstavanza 10:00am - 2:00pm

### Palm Sunday, March 29

- 9:45am Bible Classes
- 11:00am Worship Service

### Good Friday, April 3

- 11:30am Good Friday Service

### Easter Sunday, April 5

- 8:00am Sunrise Service
- 8:45am Easter Breakfast
- 9:30am Egg Hunt
- 9:45am Bible Classes
- 11:00am Worship Service Special Choral and Orchestral Performance, "Worthy is the Lamb"



## HILLTOP CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY

Egg-Stravaganza planning is underway! Want to help make it egg-cellent? Join us as a volunteer for the event!!! Volunteering is a fun way to get involved and help make our community and events great... and it counts toward your Hilltop Challenge checklist!



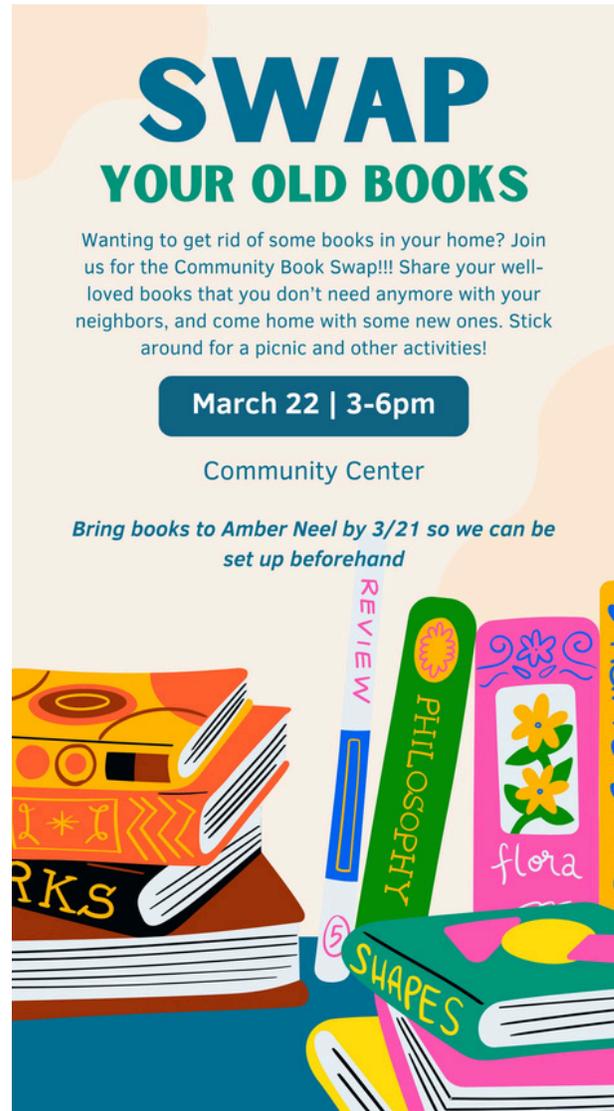
## HTL CHAPEL NEWS

### Services

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

### Upcoming

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



**CALL FOR VENDORS**

**HILLTOP LAKES, TX**

Join us as a vendor for our upcoming Easter Egg-Stravaganza!  
Event is outside (rain or shine) from 10am-2pm and the cost to be a vendor is \$30!

**SATURDAY | MARCH 28**  
3 HILLTOP DR, HILLTOP LAKES, TX 77871

[www.hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza](http://www.hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza)

**Hilltop Lakes**  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**Happy Birthday!**

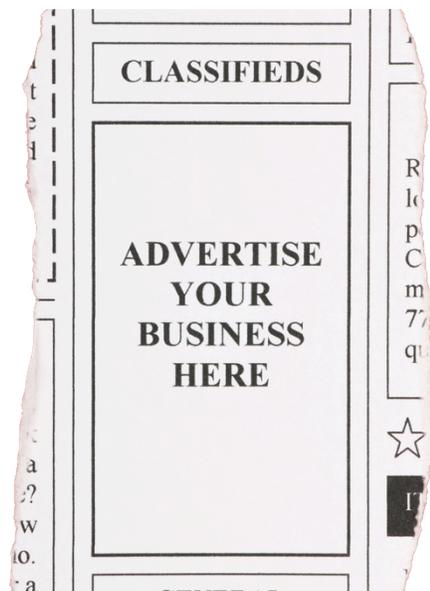
to all of the Hilltoppers with a birthday in March!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

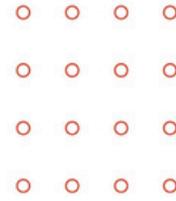
We're building our calendar and want your ideas! From family-friendly fun to adult nights out, workshops, tournaments, or seasonal events... what would get you excited to participate? For those who have been around for years, what are some things you would love to see brought back?

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

To share Hilltop news, events, local club/organization information or news, stories, pictures, and more, email:  
[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)



**Become a 2026 Hilltop Lakes Activities Sponsor to have the opportunity to advertise your business HERE!**



Join Hilltop Lakes for our annual

# Community Garage Sale

**Saturday, May 30**

**08:00am - 02:00pm**  
**Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871**



Get great deals on household goods, tools, collectibles, toys, furniture & more!

Register today to be included in the Community Garage Sale!

For more information:

[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)  
903-512-0358



*You're Invited!*

*Help Us Extend Well Wishes to*

## **Bill Lyle**

Bill is moving, and we want to send him off with love, laughter, and gratitude!

Join us for a come-and-go goodbye gathering as we thank him for all he has meant to us.

*Hosted by Friends of Bill*

**Saturday, March 21**  
**1:00-3:00 PM**  
 Hilltop Lakes Chapel Fellowship Hall

Finger foods provided.

*God's Blessings*

*Everyone Welcome!*

## HTL GARDEN CLUB LUNCH 'N LEARN



What better way to prepare for Spring than getting ready for planting!!!

Join the Hilltop Lakes Garden Club for their monthly Lunch 'n Learn on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center at 12pm. They will be discussing sprouts and will have some sprouts kits available to purchase.



*Thank  
you for  
being a  
2026  
HTL  
Sponsor!*

# **HARRIS RENTALS**

**Delivery & Pickup Provided**

**Mini-X  
36" Trencher  
15YD Dumpster  
Heated Pressure Washer  
Portable Toilets  
Hand Wash Stations  
Septic Pumping  
Equipment/Carhauler Trailer  
Compact Tractor**

Locally Family Owned & Operated

**979-450-1120**

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



## KIDS CORNER

### Did You Know?

Dr. Seuss wrote Green Eggs and Ham using only 50 different words!

Can you try writing your own silly story using just a few words?



### Spring Scavenger Hunt

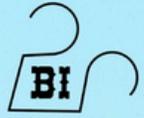
Next time you're outside, see if you can spot:

- A bird building a nest
- A blooming flower
- A butterfly
- A squirrel
- A cloud that looks like something funny



Share your stories or scavenger hunt pictures with us for next month's newsletter!

Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com



# SPRING INTO READING

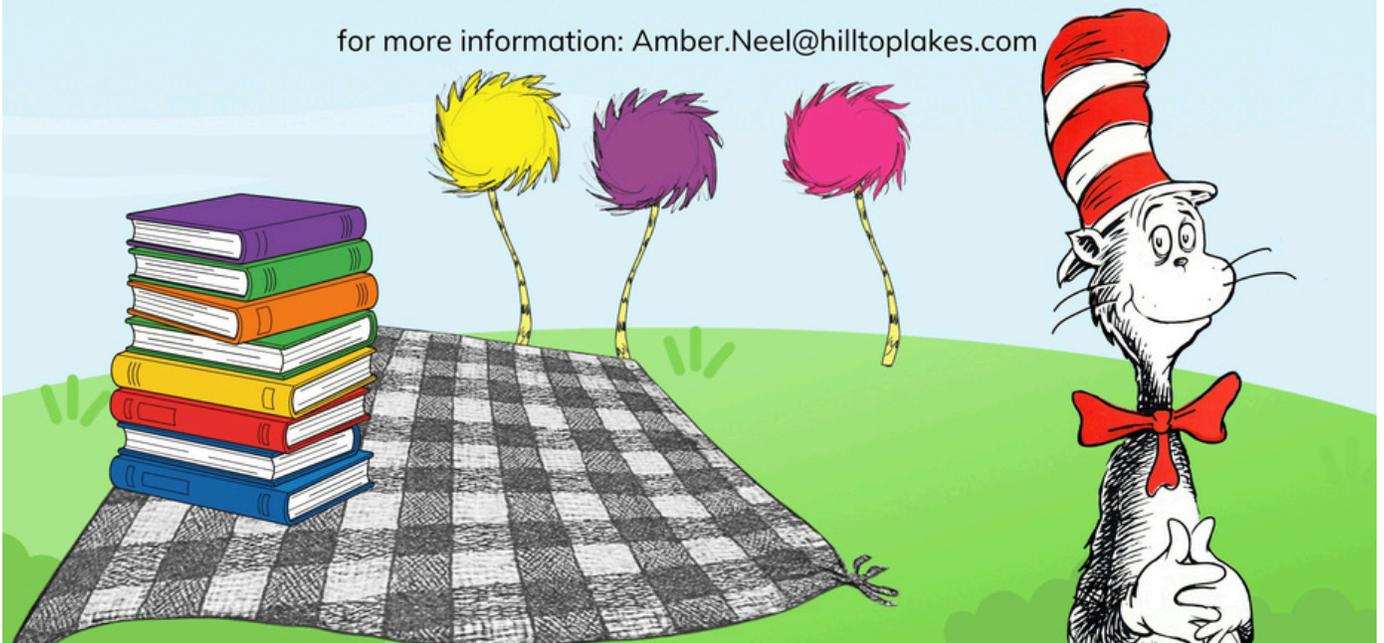
## COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP AND PICNIC

Join us for a Community Book Swap to celebrate Reading Month! But that's not all... stick around after to enjoy a picnic to kick-off springtime!!! Hot dogs will be available for purchase from the Brandin Iron.



**MARCH 22 | 3PM - 6PM**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

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





# Health Fair

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hilltop Lakes Health Fair! Visit vendor booths, get free health screenings, enjoy refreshments, and hopefully win prizes!



 **Door Prizes**

 **Health Screenings**

 **March 16th | 10am-12pm**  
**Tonkawa Room**

*Resources to help you know what you need before you need it*

 For More Information  
**[amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:amber.neel@hilltoplakes.com)**



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

# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Pizza & Plan - Brandin Iron, 1pm	2	3	4	5 Special POA (911 Readdressing) Meeting - CC, 5pm	6 Jesse Duke @ Kickapoo - KC, 8pm	7 Kickapoo Club Annual Golf Tournament
8 Movie & Storytime - TR, 3pm	9	10	11	12 POA Board Workshop - CC, 5:30pm	13	14 Storytime - WC, 9am
15	16 Hilltop Lakes Health Fair - TR, 10am	17 Garden Club Lunch 'n Learn - CC, 11am	18	19 Community Game Night - TR, 6pm	20	21 POA Board Mtg - CC, 10am St. Thomas More Catholic Church Fish Fry - 11-2pm
22 Community Book Swap - CC, 3pm	23 Cooking with Dee - CC, 6pm	24	25	26	27	28 EGG-STRAVAGANZA 10-2pm 
29	30	31				

2026  
*March*

 *Golf Course Calendar*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Normangee Invit. 9:00 Shotgun	3	4 MGA Day	5 WGA Day	6	7 Kickapoo Tour. 9:00 Shotgun
8	9	10	11 MGA Day	12 WGA Day	13	14 MGA Play Day
15	16	17	18 MGA Day	19 WGA Day	20	21
22	23 Leon Invit. 9:00 Shotgun	24	25 MGA Day	26 WGA Day	27 Chasing Bucks 8:30 & 2:30	28 Chasing Bucks 8:30 & 2:30
29	30 1A District 9:00	31				



**Hilltop Lakes**  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

# EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM – 2PM**

**EGG HUNT | SCAVENGER HUNT | KIDZ ZONE | DOOR PRIZES | VENDOR BOOTHS | FOOD | CAKE WALK | KICKBALL & MORE!**

Join us for a fun-filled day at the Hilltop Lakes Egg-Stravaganza! Enjoy egg hunts, games, food, vendors, and activities for the whole family. There's something for everyone!

For more information:  
[www.hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza](http://www.hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza)



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## SPRING IN HILLTOP

Spring has almost arrived in Hilltop Lakes, bringing longer days, blooming wildflowers, and the return of warmer weather. It's a beautiful time of year to get outside & enjoy nature, while hopefully spending time with fellow Hilltoppers. As the season unfolds, keep an eye out for community events and opportunities to gather and celebrate all that makes Hilltop Lakes special.

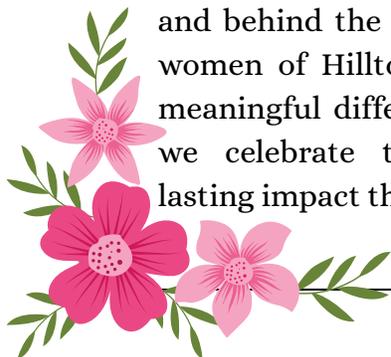


Photograph By: Don Bolton

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the women who have shaped our communities, our history, and our future. Here in Hilltop Lakes, so many women have played an important role in making our community the special place it is today - through leadership, volunteerism, creativity, and simply showing up for their neighbors.

From organizing events and supporting local programs to serving on committees, boards, and behind the scenes in countless ways, the women of Hilltop Lakes continue to make a meaningful difference every day. This month, we celebrate their contributions and the lasting impact they have on our community.



## St. Thomas More Catholic Church



Saturday, March 21, 2026  
11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

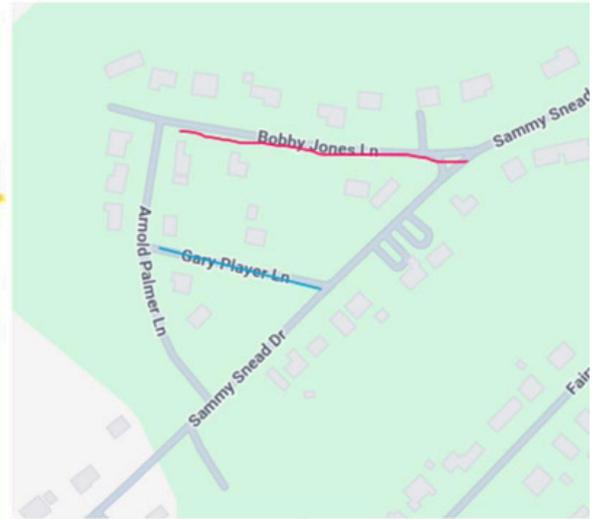
\$16 for Adults and \$5 for  
Children 10 & Under  
Fish and all the fixings, Dessert,  
Tea and Water

1 Ranch Road, Hilltop Lakes





	Golfview Drive
	Tin Cup Lane
	Bunker Hill
	Sand Drive
	Putter Circle
	Fairway Drive
	Divot Point
	Casper Loop
	Greenview Avenue



	Eagle Trail
	Nicklaus Crossing



	Masters Place
	Patio Loop
	Courtyard Point

COMMUNITY  
NEWS/UPDATES  
FROM PAGE 1  
CONT'D



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Hilltop Lakes Chapel  
Proclaiming Christ and His Word

Fuel up with prayer and a hearty breakfast  
Devotional from Robert Read

**Friday, March 20th  
8:30am**

## VISIT THE MINI-GOLF COURSE THIS SPRING!

Looking for a fun way to enjoy the beautiful spring weather? Stop by the Hilltop Lakes mini-golf course! It's a great activity for families, friends, and neighbors of all ages.

Clubs and golf balls can be borrowed from the Welcome Center during operating hours, but you can visit the mini-golf course at any time!

## IMPORTANT LINKS FOR ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

**Egg-Stravaganza updates** - <https://hilltoplakes.com/easter-eggstravaganza>

**Community Garage Sale Information** - <https://hilltoplakes.com/community-garage-sale>

**Upcoming Events** - <https://hilltoplakes.com/upcoming-events>

**Annual Events** - <https://hilltoplakes.com/hilltop-lakes-annual-events>

# DONATIONS NEEDED



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

WE NEED CAKES AND/OR OTHER DESSERTS FOR THE EGG-STRAVAGANZA CAKE WALK!

contact Joyce Perkins at:  
979-820-3200

## BLOODY MARY & MARGARITA CONTEST

MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> - EGG-STRAVAGANZA



For more info, contact Amber at  
[Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com](mailto:Amber.Neel@hilltoplakes.com)  
OR call/text 903-512-0358

Register as an individual or a team to show off your drink-making skills! Prizes for 1st/2nd/3<sup>rd</sup> place, and "People's Choice"

We also need votes from attendees, so if you are 21+, stop by the Community Center during the Egg-Stravaganza to taste and cast your vote!!!

*Thank you for reading!*

(936) 855-2222

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

3 Hilltop Drive, Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871