

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



JUNE 13, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Parks Department welcomed four (4) new seasonal employees. Madison Bratton was hired for the position of Cashier on May 9th. Olivia Kershner hired for the position of Aquatics Supervisor on May 26th.

Kasi Yonkey was hired for the position of Lifeguard on June 1st. Anna Lajarin Rivero was hired for the position of Water Safety Instructor on June 5th.

The Police Department welcomed a new employee on May 22nd. Paige Land was hired for the position of Telecommunicator.

The Public Works Department welcomed two (2) new employees on May 30th. Jamorion Stanford was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician and Isaak Llorente was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.

The Finance Department welcomed a new employee on May 30th. Nichole Ratliff was hired for the position of Utility Billing Clerk.

The Library welcomed a new employee on June 1st. Emily Weems was hired for the seasonal Library Page position.

Michael Gentry retires from the temporary position of Director of Police Services on June 9th. T

he Fire department promoted two employees on June 10th. Rene Fernandez was promoted to the position of Lieutenant and Jonathon Gutz was promoted to the position of Driver/Pump Operator.

The Code Enforcement Department welcomed a new employee on June 12th. Fabian Brooks was promoted to the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

The Pet Adoption Center promoted an employee an employee and welcomed a new employee. Victoria Ellis was promoted to the position of Kennel Technician on June 10th and Israel Acuna was hired for the position of Animal Services Officer on June 12th.

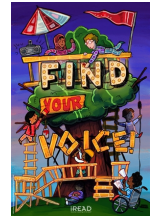
The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

Light Equipment Operator
Maintenance Technician
Mechanic
Senior Equipment Operator
Police Officer Trainee
Firefighter/EMT (paramedic preferred)



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library started the year off right with new programs and initiatives, and we are happy to keep going!

Sign up for the 2023 Find Your Voice Summer Reading Club for kids, teens, and adults! Our theme encourages patrons to find positive ways to express themselves. Sign up NOW for the reading club either at the Library or online at harkerheights.readsquared.com. Beginning in June our Library will offer an array of book discussions, performers, science times, caregiver workshops, and more! Check out our full summer program booklet at <https://harkerheights.gov/librariyspecialevents>. Copies of these booklets have gone out to students at Harker Heights, Skipcha, Nolanville, Mountain View, Cavasos, and Timber Ridge Elementary Schools.



It's Big Truck Day at the Library on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, from 9:00- 9:30 am for a gentler, lower noise time for families with special needs and from 9:30 until 11:00 am for a raucous time including honking horns! Take a look at Police, Fire, and Public Works vehicles! See the inside of new military vehicles and a helicopter! Sign up for the reading club and explore writing, arts, crafts, singing, reading and more ways to express yourself.



The Library, Activities Center, and Healthy Homes are pleased to work with Operation E.A.T. to provide free meals for kids ages 18 and younger Monday through June 30, 2023. This organization will be providing meals at the Library and Activities Center from 3:30 until 5:30 pm. This program will not be serving on Monday, June 19th.



Celebrate authors and illustrators with a new story-time series! Visit the Library Thursdays at 9:00 am for story-time for children ages 3-6 and their families or at 10:00 am for Toddler Time for ages 0-3 and their families. Each week we will enjoy books, crafts, activities and more while focusing on a particular author!

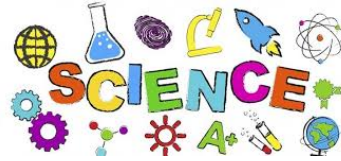
Babies, babies, babies come for Baby Time on Tuesdays at 10:00 am! Babies ages 0-18 months and their special adults come for songs, rhymes, and more! Older siblings are not allowed to attend this program.

Science rocks! School age kids and their families join us at the Library each Wednesday at 2:00 pm to explore SCIENCE! Each week will focus on a scientific concept such as



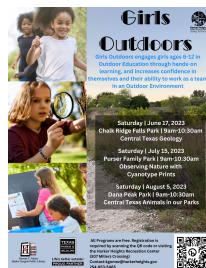
The Library continues with programs on our Library's Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary

Enjoy a Science Time with Ms. Heather on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm on Facebook!



Join Ms. Lisa for a Virtual Family Night each Thursday at 6:00 pm on Facebook!

The Library is partnering with the Activities Center to offer a Girls Outdoors program series. Join us June 17, July 15, and/or July 5 at 9:00 am for a fun time focusing on topics such as genealogy, cyanotype prints, and water quality! Girls ages 6-12 years and their families enjoy outdoor education and hands-on learning! Each program will take place at a different park and contain a separate educational component in addition to a hike! Please call the Activities Center at 254-953-5467 for details and registration.






School readiness is in demand! Caregivers and their children ages 3-6 years old are invited to join the Library for a program series aimed at school readiness! This summer series will take place Saturdays, June 10, June 24, July 8, and July 22, 2023. Registration is not required and attendees are welcome to come to as many programs as they can! Work with Ms. Kay on fine motor skills, large motor skills, and literacy skills needed for school.

Did you know that you can view historical maps through our Texas Share Databases 24/7? Just visit harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library. Click on "Find Information" in the Quick Links menu. Then click on "TexShare." You will need your library card number to access Sandborn maps and other historical information in databases!






Parks & Recreation Department

ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Maker Space continues to be open at the Activities Center with fun craft materials for all to enjoy! Visit Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm. Have any craft items that you no longer need? Feel free to donate them to the Maker Space.
- The Activities Center's Annual Flag Retirement Drive continues through Flag Day, June 14. Don't worry if you miss it. The Activities Center takes flags that need retired all year long. Please drop off your worn and torn flags to the Library and Activities Center Staff located at 400 Indian Trail. 
- Operation E.A.T. (Everybody Ate Today) is a community youth feeding initiative that will be providing free meals for all kids 18 years old or younger at the Harker Heights Public Library and Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail. To register, visit <https://monarch-education.org/operationeat> to get your free meal. Meal availability times are Monday through Friday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. 
- Join us at the Farmers Market this weekend, June 17th, for our Juneteenth Celebration. We will have our mobile maker space along with our On the Go Heights Activity Trailer. If you are interested in helping with the event or performing, please contact. 

ATHLETICS

- Ability Bowling began on Monday, June 5 at Hallmark Lanes and will continue Monday's until July 10!
 - We're still looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Flag Football and Volleyball seasons.
 - Flag Football practices begin Monday, June 12 and Volleyball will begin on Tuesday, June 20.
 - Registration for Fall Youth Soccer will open Wednesday, June 21!
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AQUATICS

- The Carl Levin Park Pool opened Friday, June 9 for Open Swim! Will operate on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until staffing allows for additional days of the week
 - Fridays from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 - Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Swim Lessons began Monday, June 5th.
 - Spots are still open, register at the Harker Heights Recreation Center. PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN PERSON.

Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION

- Senior recreation members are invited to join the Senior Garden Club. The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 am – 10:00 am at Carl Levin Park Community Garden. Interested in joining contact Jo Tye at 254-681-9009 or email Kailie Gomez at kgomez@harkerheights.gov.



- Senior Swim started June 9. Senior recreation members can swim for free every Friday (June 9 – August 11) from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm at Carl Levin Park outdoor pool. Senior swim will not be available on June 23, July 7, or on days when swim lessons has a makeup or when the pool is closed due to maintenance or weather. Members will need to have current membership check in cards with current expiration dates.



- June's BINGO will be Thursday, June 15 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, June 15 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting Little Italy in Killeen. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own supper. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.
- Join us for Crafty Connection on Monday, June 26 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Seniors can bring a craft project they are working at home to socialize and show other crafters. If participants don't have a craft project they don't have to worry a craft will be available for them at the center.

Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

- The Recreation Center & Activities Center will be closed on Monday, June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth. The centers will resume normal business hours on June 20, 2023.
- Open Gym Summer Hours will start June 20, 2023 and will be:
 - Mondays & Tuesdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Basketball
 - Wednesdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: 12U Open Gym
 - Thursdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Volleyball
 - Fridays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Wheelchair Basketball



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Activities Center is partnering with the Harker Heights Police Department Healthy Homes Division for a Food Drive. Please help us collect non-perishable foods that will be served to families in need within our community. Drop off boxes are located at the Activities Center and at the Rec Center. Items needed are rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, and cereal. The drive will continue to accept donations from now through July 17.



- The Harker Heights Farmers Market season has begun! The market will be held every Saturday from May to October from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. We are always looking for new vendors. For more information, contact Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493.

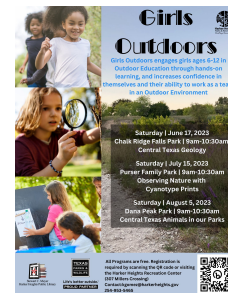


Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Girls Outdoors** is a program paid for through a grant received through Texas Parks and Wildlife that targets underserved youth in our community. These programs will engage girls ages 6-12 in Outdoor Education and hands-on learning. Each program will take place in a different park near Harker Heights and will have a separate educational component in addition to a hike.

Pre-Registration Required. bit.ly/3AdsbdI



- **Community Gardens:** Now is the time to get started with your spring gardening! Plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden & Kern Park Community Garden. Rentals are for six months or one year. To pay and register for your plot, please go to the Harker Heights Rec Center, 307 Miller's Crossing.



- **Every Monday in June** is our Play in the Dirt! program. We are excited to partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Bell County Master Gardeners and Better Living for Texans to offer hands-on learning at our Carl Levin Community Garden! This program is free and open to the public for youth ages 8-12. Pre-Registration Required. To find out more or to register: bit.ly/3BDvR1O



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The YMCA thanked B-shift: “I wanted to say thank you for the Fire Department’s visit to our 4 year old camp! The kids had a blast and it made their day. Please pass along our thank you to the firefighters that were there with them. They were so kind and patient with all the children and it made it that much more special.”

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Three cadets currently attending the Temple Police Academy are on track to graduate on June 29th and begin Field Training.

Our Healthy Homes Division partnered up with other City departments and Operation E.A.T. to provide evening meals for children 18 years old and younger on weekdays throughout the month of June.



Finance Department



ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$425,468.44	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59	\$246,908.71
February	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74	\$239,620.03
March	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11	\$267,408.59
April	\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05	\$214,513.90
May	\$577,032.32	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28	\$311,719.63
June		\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93	\$271,114.94
July		\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64	\$285,381.75
August		\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99	\$356,562.37
September		\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61	\$320,090.38
October		\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72	\$399,497.35
November		\$597,938.12	\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61	\$358,146.37
December		\$529,760.67	\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34	\$275,957.76

*As of April 26, 2021, automatic credit card drafts are now part of the online utility bill payment totals.

AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$104,768.73	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16	\$85,442.31
February	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11	\$73,765.91
March	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41	\$71,751.84
April	\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65	\$65,920.26
May	\$128,587.47	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54	\$88,378.47
June		\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21	\$74,513.43
July		\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84	\$93,483.23
August		\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64	\$107,866.92
September		\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86	\$106,122.80
October		\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75	\$120,968.81
November		\$131,364.63	\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20	\$97,515.15
December		\$114,240.31	\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98	\$99,255.97



KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$14,230.92	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25	\$16,084.10
February	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02	\$16,019.68
March	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01	\$12,078.00
April	\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99	\$11,636.59
May	\$16,807.66	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43	\$15,446.69
June		\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19	\$14,092.62
July		\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38	\$18,147.78
August		\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80	\$20,613.07
September		\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28	\$18,407.61
October		\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50	\$19,399.15
November		\$17,225.45	\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33	\$20,304.92
December		\$19,102.03	\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30	\$15,822.59

NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	3,798	3,565	3,245	2,719	2,406
February	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759	2,471
March	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880	2,519
April	3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819	2,552
May	3,927	3,654	3,364	2,847	2,533
June		3,698	3,396	2,931	2,588
July		3,695	3,461	2,976	2,582
August		3,747	3,505	3,069	2,622
September		3,746	3,523	3,072	2,669
October		3,789	3,536	3,127	2,664
November		3,757	3,548	3,186	2,695
December		3,749	3,533	3,201	2,715