

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



MARCH 28, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Police Department welcomed a new Telecommunicator. Melanie Ross was hired on March 20th.

Telecommunicator Leslie Iitibus was promoted to the position of Records Clerk on March 18th.

Fire Chief Paul Sims announced his retirement from the City effective April 28th. Congratulations Paul!

The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on March 14th. Kayla Seymour was hired for the position of Vet Technician.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Fire Chief
- Inventory/Line Locator



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!

Spring is here, and the Library is filled with programs, services, and collections to get your creative juices flowing.

Drop in to take a look at our 12-ft tree decorated with silk wildflowers! This is a perfect picture spot for you and your family.

Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, March 29 at 10am – Let's Work Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!

Thursday, March 30 at 9am – Let's Work Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, March 30 at 10am – Let's Work toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Virtual Programs on the Library's Facebook:

Wednesday, March 29 at 2pm – Science Time with Ms. Heather



Thursday, March 30 at 6pm – Let's Work Virtual Family Night – Ms. Lisa believes in the power of pretend! Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little!



In-Person Maker Space:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10am – 3:00 pm – We learn best when we play! Imagine what you can create with whatever is in the room! Drop in to be a maker.

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Do you have art supplies or unusual items that you would like to donate? The Library can use them to stock our popular Maker Space. Just drop them off anytime that the Library is open.

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 – pm – Book Discussion of “Bel Canto” by Ann Patchett – When a terrorist group invades a formal dinner, the hostages and terrorists turn to each other, especially the beautiful opera singer, for solace.

Our Therapeutic Art Series continues on Thursday, April 20 at 6pm. Join volunteer art instructor Fatimah Olds for our monthly Therapeutic Art Series. No art experience is necessary. With some guidance your own spontaneous flare is welcome in this safe space for expression. Space is limited. Please call 254-953-5491 to register.

Did you know that you can view find job getting information 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 the “Learning Express” database which provides resume assistance, preparation tests for SATs, GEDs, and other entrance exams, job forecasts, and more!

Police Department

Community Services will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop event at Dunkin' Donuts on April 12th.

The 5th round of the Building a Better Youth program will begin on April 12th.

Healthy Homes will be hosting a Children's Pop-Up Clinic on April 22nd at the Harker Heights Activities Center.



Parks & Recreation Department

ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Maker Space continues it's open times into the school year. (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm.)
- Spring break was a blast. The Harker Heights Public Library filled our rooms with programs, events, and classes all week long. Stay connected with all the fun things they do at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary/>.
- Check out the Game Room every Monday and Friday from 10 am – 3 pm for fun activities such as video games, puzzles, board games, and more!

ATHLETICS

Registration for Summer Youth Flag Football is open until May 3!



Visit the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation website to see the new 2023 Youth Sports Calendar.

We're looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball season! We are excited to announce a new partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports in an effort to ensure that youth sports coaches have all the tools necessary to be successful. We will require NAYS Coach Training and membership, which will be offered free of charge to head coaches for all of our youth league teams!

Our youth sports program don't happen without dedicated umpires, referees, and scorekeepers. Contact the Recreation Center if you would like more information on becoming one!



Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION

- The Seniors that participated in the Lunch & Learn on Friday, March 17 would like to thank the Harker Heights Fire Department. We had 21 participants learning Take 10 CPR/AED.
- The Harker Heights City Staff won the Battle of the Court: Annual Granny Basketball Benefit Game on Saturday, March 18 against the Old Glories. The score was 39 City – 34 Old Glories. Admission for the game was a non-perishable food item or new package of socks or underwear (all sizes welcome). The one day food/clothing drive collected many items to benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program).
- Come to the Recreation Center every Tuesday from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm to participate in a game of Spades.
- Join us for Mini Golf Masters on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Miniature golf games will be set up from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm with light refreshments at 11:00 am.



RECREATION CENTER

- Sign up for upcoming Recreation Classes being offered at the Recreation Center. Tae Kwon Do, Swordplay: Recreational Fencing, Feel Good Yoga and Outdoor Gentle Flow Yoga is offered for children to adults. Adaptive Chair Yoga and Hapkido are offered for only adults.
- Open Gym hours and activities are offered throughout the week at the Recreation Center. Activities included Pickleball, Basketball, and Wheelchair Basketball.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Volunteer Reception Ceremony has been postponed to Thursday, April 13 from 6 pm – 8 pm at the Carl Levin Park on 400 Miller's Crossing. The ceremony is held every year to say thank you to our volunteers for all the hard work.



- Everyone who came out to Barks and Rec had a blast. Thank you for all the kind support. The Activities Center partnered with the Pet Adoption Center for this pet-friendly event, with activities including an agility course, dog contests, vendors, a bounce house, free microchips (that were purchased with donated funds). Due to the windy and chilly weather, the outdoor movie, Lady and the Tramp (2019) will be postponed to a later date this season.



- The activities and event staff hoped everyone came out to the Spring Community Garage Sale on March 18. A big thank you to Daniel Phillips with Harker Heights Planning and Development Department. Dan is always willing to work with the Activities Center and the Parks and Rec Department with all our GIS map needs. The Community Garage Sales maps would not be possible without him. Thank you!



- Enjoy a beautiful spring day at Art in the Park! Visit Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 29 from 4 pm – 8 pm for free art activities, art vendors, live music, and more! Applications to be a vendor are now being accepted. For a vendor application, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



- 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.



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- The annual Family Campout will be Saturday April 1st-Sunday April 2nd at Dana Peak Park. The campout will include scheduled activities as well as free time for families to explore the park. Registration is required. The campout is \$15.00 per person, 5 and under are free. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



- **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. Kern Community Garden rentals are free, while Carl Levin fees are \$25 for 6 months for residents or \$30 for 6 months for non-Harker Heights residents. Plot rentals for a year are \$50 for residents, or \$60 for non- Harker Heights residents. Stop by the Recreation Center on 307 Miller's Crossing or the Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail to sign up. For more information, contact Kailie Gomez at kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465.

