

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates



Congratulations Betiale Hawkins, Ursula Paddie and Catharina Hoffman for graduating from the Vision XXI Leadership Course on November 3rd. Catharina Hoffman was voted for and selected by the entire class as the "Rising Star!" and received recognition at the graduation.



Congratulations
HARKER HEIGHTS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& VISITORS CENTER

As of November 1, 2022, the City of Harker Heights has launched its new City Information Portal. This page allows our residents and visitors to review meeting agendas and minutes for the City Council and to the various Boards and Commissions.

Within the Portal, one can:

- view upcoming and past meetings using the Calendar
- review agendas and minutes within the Meetings area
- search for documents in our online library
- submit an online Public Records Request
- submit an online application to volunteer on a City Board, Commission or Committee

The City Information Portal can be found by visiting the City's webpage: <https://harkerheights.gov/>



Look for
this
button!

Human Resources Department

- The Finance Department promoted an employee on October 31st. Michelle Smart was promoted to the position of Account Clerk.
- The Fire Department promoted an employee on October 29th and will be promoting two additional employees on November 26th. Stuart Kiefer was promoted to the position of Driver/Pump Operator. Damon Sprouse will be promoting to the position of Lieutenant and Matthew Hogan will be promoting to the position of Battalion Chief

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library held a dedication ceremony on Friday, October 28, 2022 to rename the Library's garden area the Bob and Sue Dunlap Serenity Garden and to officially open the Stew and Mari Meyer Storywalk.

All honorees are examples of community servants who greatly impacted the quality of life in our city. The family members of the honorees and attendees enjoyed a short ceremony with light refreshments were followed by a 9:30 am Storytime for all ages. Though the rain made being outside difficult, attendees still enjoyed the decorated Library and Activities Center and the Storytime which was moved indoors. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Activities Center for working to get the building and grounds ready for this event highlighting these well-deserved honors.

- The Library brought pirates to Haunted Heights in Carl Levin Park on Saturday, October 29, 2022! Children brought families for games, face painting, big trucks, a treasure hunt, and more! The Friends of the Library gave away FREE books to those children who completed the treasure hunt! Thank you to Harker Heights High School Key Club and Harker Heights High School interact Club for helping out with face painting and more!
- The City of Harker Heights and Harker Heights Kiwanis Club helped out the Harker Heights High School Student Council with their Trunk-or-Treat program by providing 10 bags of candy! Knights of the Round Table members and other Harker Heights High School students decorated their cars and invited the community to attend. Thanks to Harker Heights High School Student Council for heading up this event!

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is thankful for its patrons and program attendees! The Library offers an array of weekly programs to include BabyTime for babies 0-18 months.



Tuesdays at 10am:

Storytime for children ages 3-6 and their families

Wednesdays at 10am:

Toddler Time for children ages 0-3 and their families

Thursdays at 9am:

Toddler Time for children ages 0-3 and their families



The Library compliments its weekly series with virtual programs published on the Library's Facebook page. Virtual Story Times are on Wednesdays at 10:15 am, Virtual Science Time is on Wednesdays at 2pm, Virtual Family Time is on Thursdays at 6pm, and Guest Readers are on Fridays at 10:15am. For a full list of the Library's programs for Fall, visit the website at www.harkerheights.gov/library/

Celebrate Children's Book Week with us!

Starting Monday, November 14 through Saturday, November 19, 2022

This year's theme is "Take a Look Inside a Book!" and encourages children AND ADULTS to read children's literature, to enjoy Library programs, and to see what we have available online. Visit the Library in person and online for programs, book displays, special kits, and more! All in-person programs are on a first come, first served basis.

Thursday, November 17, 2022, is Favorite Children's Book Character Day! Drop by the Library to see staff in costumes! Wear your own costume if you like!



Children's Book Week In-Person Programs:



Monday, November 14 at 10 am

Baby Play – Bring your baby ages 0-18 months for a time to interact with each other in our play area!

Tuesday, November 15 at 10 am

BabyTime (lapsit) – Bring your baby ages 0-18 for a special time filled with rhymes and songs!

Wednesday, November 16 at 10am

Children's Singer and Entertainer Joe McDermott brings music and more to the Library!

Wednesday, November 16 at 11am

School Age Songwriting with Joe McDermott – Songwriter and entertainer Joe McDermott helps our budding songwriters and poets ages 7-14.

Thursday, November 17 at 9am

My Favorite Children's Books Storytime for ages 3-6 and their families – Enjoy songs, rhymes, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, November 17 at 10am

My Favorite Toddler's Books Toddler Time for ages 0-3 and their families – Enjoy songs, rhymes, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

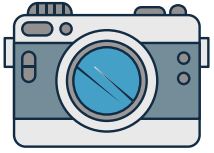
Thursday, November 17 at 6:30pm

Roar! Dino Family Storytime – Bring the whole family for prehistoric fun!

Saturday, November 19 at 10am

Roar! Dino Family Storytime – Bring the whole family for prehistoric fun!

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library



The huge tree has returned to the Library and Activities Center. Stop by the lobby to see a beautiful 12 ft. tree decorated for Fall! This is a great photo spot.

Parks and Recreation Department



The Harker Heights Veterans Day Ceremony

will take place on
Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.
at the Harker Heights Activities Center

ATHLETICS



- 2022 Ability Basketball started on Wednesday, November 2nd with 15 registered children ages 5-22 with special needs.
- Monday, November 14th at the Recreation Center kicks off 2022 Basketball Season games with our 12U division!

ACTIVITIES CENTER



- The Maker Space continues it's open times into the school year. (Wednesdays and Thursdays 3-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm.) Stop by anytime and see the amazing community project the public is building called Cardboard City (located in the hall). This entire city is built from cardboard has so many little surprises in it. The public is encouraged to add their artistic abilities to this ever growing and changing project.

Parks and Recreation Department



SENIOR RECREATION

- Join us for Wednesday Wellness Walks on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Carl Levin Park from 8 am - 9 am. The group meets by the pool. All fitness levels welcome!
- November's BINGO will be on Thursday, November 17 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.
- Ladies Night Out is scheduled for Thursday, November 17 at 5:00 pm.
 - The ladies will be visiting Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 201 E. Central Texas Expy #1000, Harker Heights. 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.



RECREATION CENTER

- The Recreation Center assisted Bell County as a voting site for Early Voting from October 24 - November 4.
 - Election Day voting on Tuesday, November 8th from 7 am - 7 pm.For additional information: <https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/election>
- Yoga for ages 10 & up will be offered at the Recreation Center every Tuesdays at 7pm starting on December 7. The monthly fee is \$48 for ages 10-54 and \$40 for ages 55+. Currently, Outdoor Yoga is offered at Carl Levin Park on Saturdays, November 19 & December 17 from 10:30 am - 11:30 am for \$12 (ages 10-54) and \$10 (ages 55+) per Saturday class.



**SORRY
WE'RE
CLOSED**

**The Recreation Center and Activities Center will be
CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**

The Recreation Center and Activities Center will be closed on:

- Friday, November 11th for Veterans Day.
- Thursday, November 24th to Sunday, November 27th for Thanksgiving.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Parks & Recreation Department and Activities Center hosted a I Love My Parks Day this past Saturday from 8 am - 11 am. Staff and volunteers planted plants and trees as well cleaned up the park and garden at Kern Park.



GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS!

- Join us for a Hike at Dana Peak Park (3800 Comanche Gap Rd) Wednesday, November 9th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. The distance will depend on the group. All ages & fitness levels are welcome! *Please register each participant* We will meet at the 90-degree turn, just before the Dana Peak Park gate, and will leave for the hike shortly after 6pm. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, and plenty of water. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



- Walk one mile around Purser Park on this Introductory Class to Birding. Participants will learn beginner skills on how to start birding, record their observations, and tools and tricks for birding. The class will be on Saturday, November 12th from 9 am - 10:30 am. The group will meet at Purser Park at the restrooms facing the parking lot. Ages 8 and up are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.

Community Gardens

Don't forget that the Kern Park Community Garden is a FREE garden open to the public. Rentals are for six months or one year. 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.



Fire Department



A citizen came in to thank Firefighter/Paramedic Licavoli and Ringo for the care they gave her husband. She brought them a thank you card and some brownies!

Police Department



- The Healthy Homes Division is currently accepting donations for their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.



- The Healthy Homes Division has reintroduced the "Take Me Home" program which is a free service available to any City of Harker Heights resident. The program allows for the identification and safe return for citizens who are unable to adequately communicate vital information- such as their name and address - to law enforcement officers and telecommunicators.



- The Community Services Division is currently accepting new bicycle and monetary donations for their Annual Blue Santa Drive.



- 15 Citizen's Policy Academy participants will be graduating from the program on November 17th.



- 4 Police Officers who are currently in field training are on track to clear from field training within the next two weeks!



Finance Department



ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59	\$246,908.71	\$218,947.04
February	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74	\$239,620.03	\$253,982.29
March	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11	\$267,408.59	\$250,722.14
April	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05	\$214,513.90	\$210,496.91
May	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28	\$311,719.63	\$281,788.14
June	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93	\$271,114.94	\$320,454.59
July	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64	\$285,381.75	\$300,335.69
August	\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99	\$356,562.37	\$394,788.59
September	\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61	\$320,090.38	\$364,257.96
October	\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72	\$399,497.35	\$306,871.13
November		\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61	\$358,146.37	\$286,085.34
December		\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34	\$275,957.76	\$249,823.02

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

AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16	\$85,442.31	\$71,651.41
February	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11	\$73,765.91	\$73,106.50
March	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41	\$71,751.84	\$70,641.47
April	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65	\$65,920.26	\$65,855.79
May	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54	\$88,378.47	\$75,977.68
June	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21	\$74,513.43	\$80,826.26
July	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84	\$93,483.23	\$88,910.75
August	\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64	\$107,866.92	\$102,878.90
September	\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86	\$106,122.80	\$92,411.37
October	\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75	\$120,968.81	\$98,509.88
November		\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20	\$97,515.15	\$84,134.74
December		\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98	\$99,255.97	\$71,988.89



KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25	\$16,084.10	\$13,632.13
February	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02	\$16,019.68	\$14,010.94
March	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01	\$12,078.00	\$15,753.68
April	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99	\$11,636.59	\$11,598.52
May	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43	\$15,446.69	\$15,516.51
June	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19	\$14,092.62	\$17,806.76
July	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38	\$18,147.78	\$20,001.21
August	\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80	\$20,613.07	\$22,002.97
September	\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28	\$18,407.61	\$20,300.64
October	\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50	\$19,399.15	\$15,677.88
November		\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33	\$20,304.92	\$15,970.14
December		\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30	\$15,822.59	\$12,904.99

NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	3,565	3,245	2,719	2,406	2,506
February	3,566	3,290	2,759	2,471	2,522
March	3,555	3,293	2,880	2,519	2,516
April	3,603	3,321	2,819	2,552	2,502
May	3,654	3,364	2,847	2,533	2,482
June	3,698	3,396	2,931	2,588	2,439
July	3,695	3,461	2,976	2,582	2,407
August	3,747	3,505	3,069	2,622	2,380
September	3,746	3,523	3,072	2,669	2,370
October	3,789	3,536	3,127	2,664	2,305
November		3,548	3,186	2,695	2,357
December		3,533	3,201	2,715	2,387

ASSESSMENT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

PAVING ASSESSMENT:

Balance

Polk, Billy (deceased)/Phillip Sueoka 242 E Cardinal \$19,029.96

No payments were made for the Paving Assessments.

WILDEWOOD ASSESSMENT:

Balance

Eaton, Donald (deceased) 921 Ashwood \$9,316.13

Rickets, Tommie 936/940 Lemonwood 11,409.89

Total Wildewood: \$20,726.02

No payments were made for the Wildewood Assessment.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1 thru October 31, 2022

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	85	31.95%
Grass Parking	77	28.95%
Bulk Items	24	9.02%
Brush	21	7.89%
Outside Storage	19	7.14%
Trailer	12	4.51%
Basketball Goal	11	4.14%
Tires	7	2.63%
Junk Vehicle	3	1.13%
Tree limbs	3	1.13%
Boat	1	0.38%
Fencing	1	0.38%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.38%
Trash	1	0.38%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Other*	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Total	266	100.00%

*For Fiscal Year 21-22 the category "Other" includes the following:
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers;
Lack of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; Heavy Vehicles;
Parking on the Grass; & Unpermitted Use of Property



City of Harker Heights
Planning & Development
305 Miller's Crossing
Harker Heights, TX 76548
planning@harkerheights.gov

Economic Development Report

OCTOBER 2022 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued two (2) commercial construction permits within the month of October.

- 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, remodel
 - Valued at \$500,000.00
- 700 W. Central Texas Expressway, new restaurant
 - Valued at \$2,300,000.00

To date (October 31, 2022) the City has issued a total of twenty (22) commercial permits totaling \$26,265,552.00 in project valuation for calendar year 2022.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of one (1) permit for single-family residential construction within the month of October.

- 1 Single Family Permit in area on Fuller Lane

The City issued a total of one (1) permit for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of October.

- 1 Duplex Permit in North Side

To date (October 31, 2022) the City has issued a total of one hundred forty-five (145) residential permits in calendar year 2022; ninety-eight (98) single-family permits, forty-seven (47) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

As of October 31, 2022, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **34,731** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020 was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 555 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.