

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

## February 23, 2021

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department's first **"I Love My Parks Day"** of 2021 will be rescheduled to a date in March (originally scheduled for this Saturday) due to staff being redirected to repair efforts. More info on a new date to come! Volunteers will assist with the beautification of the new **Kern Park Community Garden** before the facility opens to the public in March!

**Youth Soccer** is ongoing with over 350 participants. COVID-19 Policies and Procedures from the Fall Season will apply.

**Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** registration is open now.

Applications are currently being taking for the **2021 Pool Season. Pool Managers, Water Safety Instructors, Lifeguards, and Cashiers** are all needed.

Visit our **Virtual Recreation Center** for tips on getting outdoors while social distancing, at-home sports drills, ways to stay active, craft projects, virtual tours of parks and museums, and MUCH MORE.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Officer Fernandes** was thanked by a citizen who was very appreciative of the service he received. Officer Fernandes had allowed him to warm up in his patrol car while he assisted him. He said "Hats-off to Officer Fernandes for his service and care!"

### LIBRARY

The **Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library** has been privileged to bring to our patrons a **robust virtual programming series**, timely updates, tips regarding safety, and trustworthy information regarding the severe weather in Texas and the services that are available to our citizens. Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary> for both entertainment, wellbeing, and safety updates.

The Library facility is currently open for **walk-in service, contactless curbside service, and appointment only computer use**. Please call 254-953-5491 to reserve a time to use our computers, to ask us to pull items to be held for you, to ask questions about your account, or to receive reference assistance.

**FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency**, has now opened up assistance programs to individuals who have suffered losses due to the severe weather crisis in Bell County and other counties in Texas. Visit <http://DisasterAssistance.gov> or call 1-800-621-3362 (711 or Video Relay Service available) or TTY:1-800-462-7585. The phone service is available 7am to 11pm ET.

**February is African American History Month**, and the Library has been celebrating all month long with booklists, informational posts, activities, and more! Join us on our Facebook page on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. for a story-time filled with **African American Authors** and at 6:00 p.m. for a **Family Time** highlighting **Anansi, the Ashanti trickster spider**.

During February, the Library encourages everyone to love yourself! Show some love by practicing healthy eating and activity habits. Check out our displays of **health-related books** in the Library, and our Facebook posts all month long. Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 a.m. was a **We Love Babies Virtual Babytime** filled with music and rhymes. Join us on Facebook on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. for a **Healthy You Storytime**. Wednesday is also **Wellness Wednesday!** Our Facebook will be filled with booklists, informational videos, and more!

Due to issues regarding internet and power access, the **Virtual Book Discussion Club** for February has been moved to Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to discuss **“News of the World” by Paulette Jiles**. E-mail [lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov](mailto:lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov) to receive an invitation to join this online discussion. This unusual western combines and aged printer with a rescued child on their way to her family.

The Library is part of the **annual Read Across Central Texas event**. This year the event will encourage patrons and children to visit libraries and museums through a virtual tour to be made available throughout March. Tourists can complete a scavenger hunt for a certificate, a change to win a prize basket comprised of items from participating institutions, and glory! The Library will kick off the event with a virtual **“Seussday Tuesday”** on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> on Facebook and a **“Read Across Central Texas”** Celebration on our Facebook page on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

## ACTIVITY CENTER

We still have a few **February craft kits** available for our members of the Harker Heights Senior Recreation Program. The members can register for the kit and create their own **Fleece Heart Tied Pillow**. Please call Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493 to reserve yours.

We love our schools! The Activities Center is hosting a **donation drive** that will benefit the **Killeen Independent School District H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program)**. From now through March 1<sup>st</sup>, donations can be dropped off at the Harker Heights Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail and at the Harker Heights Recreation Center on 307 Miller’s Crossing. Non-perishable food items needed are canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, canned meat, peanut butter, chili, canned ravioli, canned beans, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Ramen noodles, boxed macaroni and cheese, sleeved saltine crackers, stuffing, rice. Please no expired foods. Additional items needed are new or gently used coats, new socks, and new underwear. Sizes accepted are youth, teen, and adult. For more information on the donation drive, call Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493.

The Activities Center challenges families to partake in the **Harker Heights Loves to Dance Challenge!** Post a video of you and your family dancing on social media and include the hashtag **#HHLoves2Dance**. Family friendly videos please.

We love **BINGO!** has been rescheduled for **Lucky BINGO** on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Members of the **Senior Recreation Program** can participate in their vehicles for a socially distance game of Bingo on that Thursday from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Harker Heights Community Park parking lot, 1501 East FM 2410. Pre-registration required. Call 254-953-5493 to register.

**GO Heights** is your FREE adventure club! Join us for our upcoming hike on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The hikes are open to all levels of hikers and we love newcomers! Your trusty guide, Adam Trujillo, can be reached at [atrujillo@harkerheights.gov](mailto:atrujillo@harkerheights.gov) or 254.953.5466 if you have any questions or concerns. The hikes will all take place at Dana Peak Park and registration is required through our **ActiveNet Portal** at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/HarkerHeightsPR>. Bring water bottles, masks, and appropriate clothes for the weather.

**Paws in the Park** will be later in the month of March this year. Bring your furry friends to the event on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Purser Family Park, 100 W. Mountain Lion. This free, fun, and dog-friendly event for all ages will include activities such as agility course, pet adoptions, contests, pet services/products, and more. Precautionary measures will need to be followed (face mask required and social distancing). For more information, visit <https://harkerheights.gov/index.php/programs-events/special-events> or call 254-953-5493.

The City of Harker Heights appreciate their many volunteers. Join us as we celebrate our volunteers during **Volunteer Appreciation Week** March 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Follow us on Facebook for further information.

Due to an abundance of caution, the **AARP Foundation will not** be offering in person **tax aide**. For further information or updates, visit [www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide).

## HUMAN RESOURCES:

The Public Works Department welcomed two new employees. Neil Jordan San Juan was hired for the position of Senior Equipment Operator on January 28<sup>th</sup> and Samuel Banks was hired for the position of Maintenance Technician on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Fire Battalion Chief Richard Whalen retired on February 1<sup>st</sup> after serving 22 years with the City.

The City is currently accepting applications for summer aquatics positions, Light Equipment Operator positions, a Utilities Superintendent position, and a Police Telecommunicator position.