

Letter from the Mayor



What a successful year we had in 2015! Here are a few highlights:

1. Landscaping of Hudson Blvd. and Thomas Drive
2. Purchase of a new fire engine
3. Hiring of the City's new Deputy Police Chief
4. Bringing The Retail Coach on to assist

with retail recruitment

5. Installing FM 2410 turn lane at Highland Oaks
6. Reconstructing Pecan Drive
7. Installing sewer out FM 2410 to the east
8. Approving a city-wide sidewalk plan

The City began a number of major infrastructure projects to be completed in 2016. These include FM 3481 improvements from Prospector up to Pinewood on Verna Lee Blvd, improvements on Comanche Gap Road, Amy Lane reconstruction, and Cedar Knob realignment.

The City was successful in obtaining funding for improvements to FM 2410 from Commercial Drive to Roy Reynolds, construction of the Commercial Drive roundabout, and the widening of US 190 from the western city limits to Indian Trail. The FM 2410 and Commercial drive improvements should begin in 2016, with the US 190 improvements following in 2017. While road improvements can be painful during the time of construction, we know that once completed these roadways will serve our citizens, businesses, and visitors well for years to come.

Check out our website for the many athletic opportunities provided by Parks and Recreation!

The City of Harker Heights is here to serve you. Along with your input and volunteerism, your Mayor, Council and Staff continue to strive to make Harker Heights the best city in Texas!

Sincerely,
 Mayor Rob Robinson

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City of Harker Heights Calendar

March 2016

- 22nd City Council Meeting 5PM
- 25th City Hall, Rec Center, Library and Activities Center CLOSED
- 25th Easter Egg Hunt Community Park 5:30PM
- 29th No City Council Workshop
- 30th Planning & Zoning Meeting 6PM

April 2016

- 5th City Council Workshop 3PM
- 8th Youth Arts Fest at Library 10AM - 2PM
- 12th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 19th City Council Workshop 3PM
- 26th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 27th Planning & Zoning Meeting 6PM
- 30th Library Book Sale 8AM - 2PM

May 2016

- 3rd City Council Workshop 3PM
- 7th Election Day Recreation Center 7AM - 7PM

May 2016

- 7th Library Star Wars Party 2PM - 4PM
- 10th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 17th City Council Workshop 3PM
- 24th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 25th Planning & Zoning Meeting 6PM
- 28th Memorial Day Parade 9AM Memorial Day Service 10:30AM
- 30th City Hall, Rec Center, Library and Activities Center CLOSED
- 31st City Council Meeting 5PM

June 2016

- 7th City Council Workshop 3PM
- 8th First Day of Library's Summer Reading Club
- 14th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 21st City Council Workshop 3PM
- 28th City Council Meeting 5PM
- 29th Planning & Zoning Meeting 6PM

City of Harker Heights Mission Statement

Mission Statement: To create a positive atmosphere which encourages meaningful involvement and participation of all citizens and community groups; to demonstrate community leadership through effective and ethical local government; and to encourage high quality and cost effective services and facilities to meet the needs of our citizens.



<http://twitter.com/HarkerHeightsTX>



<https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightstx>

What's Going On At Parks and Recreation



Carl Levin Outdoor Pool opens May 28th! Splash in for Summer fun!

Hop into Spring by visiting our local parks, enrolling in one of our many camps and classes, shopping at the Farmers Market, or attending one of the many events offered through the Parks & Recreation Department.

21st ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

**Fri. March 25, 2016
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm; Hunt starts at 6:15 pm**
Harker Heights Community Park (Ball Fields 1 - 4)
1501 E FM 2410

ATHLETICS

CoRec Dodgeball League
Registration Dates: Feb. 29 - April 1, 2016
Ages: 16 & Up
Season Starts: Wed., April 6, 2016
Fee: \$ 150.00 per team
Check out one of our many athletic camps. For more info visit www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/parks

MEMORIAL PARADE & CEREMONY

Sat., May 28, 2016
Parade - 9:00 am
Along FM 2410 from HHHS to City Hall
Ceremony - 10:30 am
Recreation Center
307 Miller's Crossing

MAKE A SPLASH!

Carl Levin Outdoor Pool
400 Miller's Crossing

2016 SEASON

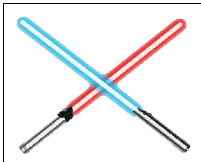
May 28 - 30, 2016
June 7 - Aug. 14, 2016
Aug. 16 - Aug. 28, 2016 (weekends only)

OPEN SWIM TIMES

Tues. - Fri. 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Sat. & Sun. 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

TEEN POOL PARTY

Fri., June 10, 2016
7:30 pm - 10:00 pm



May 2 - May 7, 2016 is Star Wars Week at the Library!

Celebrate Star Wars at the Library

Right now, in a place not so very far away, your whole family can celebrate literacy every day at the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library.

Borrowing from the incredible popularity of the Star Wars movies, television shows, toys, and (of course) books, the Library encourages the entire community to read and to enjoy getting together for fun and adventure! It is not often that a popular culture phenomena such as Star Wars comes along to capture the attention and imaginations of so many generations of readers!



Visit the Library Daily May 1-May 7, 2016 for Star Wars fun!

All week long enjoy an array of scheduled programs, come and go activities, book displays, and more!

Star Wars Week Schedule:

Monday, May 2
9AM & 10AM Space Babies
4PM Teen Space Cantina

Tuesday, May 3
9-11AM Little STEAM Activities

Wednesday, May 4
10AM Space Storytime
11AM & 4PM Star Wars Science

Thursday, May 5
9AM & 10AM Space Storytime

Saturday, May 7
2-4PM Family Star Wars Party



Practice safe driving. Watch out for kids on bikes!

Police Department Community Services

KIDDO CARDS

The Community Services Division will be doing free KIDDO Cards at the Market Heights Target or Wal-Mart from now until September. Be ready for emergencies by having KIDDO Cards for your children. Look for posters at our local stores for dates and times.

BIKE SAFETY sponsored by TARGET

On April 30th from 10 - 1PM, Community Services and TARGET will hold a Bicycle Rodeo in the TARGET parking lot. We will be doing bike safety checks and

registrations. Children can try out the bicycle course with prizes or stickers for everyone. Remember children must be accompanied by a parent. To enjoy the obstacle course, children will need their bicycle and helmet. We will also have displays from the Fire and Police Departments for the children to see and enjoy.

STAYING SAFE WHILE OUT AND ABOUT

The Harker Heights Police Department reminds all those who drive to remember nice weather brings out children who play and

ride their bikes. So please **DRIVE CAREFULLY** and be on the lookout for children playing and riding their bikes in the street.

BLUE SANTA PROGRAM

The Harker Heights Police Department is currently taking donations of new or used bikes that are in need of only slight repairs for the 2016 Blue Santa Program. Please drop off bikes or any monetary donations at the Harker Heights Police Department anytime. Let's make this upcoming Christmas special for children in families needing a little help at that time of the year.

Public Works Community Information

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impermeable surfaces (such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets) prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that can disturb drinking water sources. Polluted water can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

COOKING OIL DISPOSAL

A used cooking oil receptacle is available for residents to use at the Drop Site and Recycling Center. Residents bring a current water bill and driver's license with you.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

1. Clean up after your pet.
2. Don't litter.
3. Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Dispose of yard waste properly.

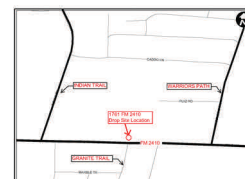
WATER CONSERVATION

1. Check faucets and toilets for leaks.
2. Take shorter showers, and turn off the faucet when brushing teeth.
3. Install water-efficient plumbing fixtures and faucet aerators.
4. Wash full loads of laundry.
5. Try a native landscapes, and water wisely. Water your yard thoroughly, but usually no more than one inch, once a week.

BRUSH AND BULKY ITEM DROP SITE AND RECYCLING

Drop off bulky items and recycling at the drop site at 1761 FM 2410 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Bulky item loads are limited to 4 cubic yards. Each household may bring 2 loads per day. The drop site is now accepting tires without rims. Overloaded pickups and trailers, dump trucks, and commercial operations will not be accepted. The drop site and recycling center is free of cost to the residents of Harker Heights. Residents simply bring a current water bill and driver's license with you to the site.



Brush and bulky item drop site and recycling location; 1761 FM 2410

**Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday, and Saturday
Gate closes at
4:30 p.m.**

Take Care of Pets During Warm Months

Pet heat exhaustion is a common occurrence in Central Texas. Some cases can be severe and even fatal. Pets do not sweat through their skin like humans. Instead, they release heat primarily by panting and sweating through the foot pads and noses. If a pet cannot effectively expel heat, the internal body temperature rises. In the case of a heat stroke, panting is not enough to cool the body down. Heat stroke is a very serious condition that requires immediate medical attention. Owners may not be aware that their pets are developing this condition.

Following these guidelines can help prevent problems.

- Keep pets with predisposing conditions like heart disease, obesity, older age, or breathing problems cool and in the shade.
- Provide constant access to water.
- Do not leave your pet in a parked car.
- Shade outside pets.
- Restrict pets' exercise.
- Do not muzzle your dog.
- Avoid concrete or asphalt areas.
- Wet your pet with cool water.
- Move your pet to a cool area of the house and provide cooling surfaces.

**Harker Heights
Pet Adoption Center
403 Indian Trail
254-953-5472**

**Jessica Giese, Pet Adoption
Manager**

Hours of operation:

Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mondays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays - Fridays

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**For animal emergencies outside of
Pet Adoption Center hours, call
the Police Department at 254-953-5400.
For all other inquiries, call 254-953-5472.**

KEEP PETS COOL

**HINT:
To provide a cooler
environment, freeze
water in soda bottles or
place ice and a small
amount of water in
several re-sealable food
storage bags. Wrap bags
in a towel or tube socks.
Place them on the floor
for the pet to lie on.**

**Like the Pet Adoption
Center on Facebook!**

Water Bill Payments Over the Phone

The Harker Heights Water Department now has a free, user-friendly interactive voice response (IVR) system for customers wishing to pay their utility bill over the telephone. This option is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and enables customers to use Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and/or electronic check to make a payment. You will need to know your account number (including where the dashes are placed) in order to access your account information. The system will take you step-by-step through entering your account and processing your payment.

Access the system by calling the Water Department at 254-953-5630 and pressing "1" when prompted. If you prefer to call the system directly, you can call 1-844-284-6194. If you use the system on or after your "cut-off" date, you will need to contact the Water Department for reconnection. The IVR system provides the most recent, up-to-date account information. If you have questions at any time during the process (and during business hours) you can press "0" to reach a Water Department representative for assistance.

Drive-Thru Changes

The City is in the process of expanding the City Hall building and the Recreation Center. The expansion of City Hall will affect the drive-thru window. In May, the drive-thru window will be closed but the drive-thru at the Library will be available for anyone wanting to pay their utility bills. More details with exact dates and times will follow on the water bills as the time gets closer.

For any questions regarding the IVR system, the drive-thru, or any other Water Department issues, please call 254-953-5630.



**Use your credit
cards and/or
electronic checks
to pay for water
bills with the new
interactive voice
response line at
254-953-5630 and
pressing "1."**

Heights Horizons Newsletter

A publication of the
City of Harker Heights, Texas
305 Miller's Crossing
Harker Heights, Texas 76548
(254) 953-5600
<http://www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us>

Rob Robinson, Mayor

Council Members:

Hal Schiffman, *Place 1*
Steve Carpenter, *Place 2*
Pat Christ, *Place 3*
John Reider, *Place 4*
Jody Nicholas *Place 5*

David Mitchell, City Manager

Patty Brunson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Collier, Fire Chief
Mike Gentry, Police Chief
Leona Clay, Human Resource Director
Joseph Molis, Planning and Development
Director
Alberta Barrett, Finance Director
Mark Hyde, Public Works Director
Jerry Bark, Parks & Recreation Director
Lisa Youngblood, Library Director
Gary Bates, Director of Information
Services

City Phone Numbers:

City Hall 953-5600
Police 953-5400
Fire/EMS 699-2688
Parks & Recreation 953-5657
Library 953-5491
Activities Center 953-5466
Pet Adoption Center 953-5472
After Hours Water Service 681-6779
For Emergencies Call 9-1-1

Spring Safety Tips from the Fire Department

As spring approaches your thoughts may be turning to that dreaded ritual of spring cleaning from the long winter, making repairs around the home and enjoying the outdoors. Keeping a few safety thoughts in mind will help you make your spring experience much more enjoyable. In an effort to make this "Spring Cleanup" a fire safe one, Harker Heights Fire & Rescue provides the following safety tips:

Inside the home:

- Check and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check your fire extinguishers.
- Check for overloaded or damaged extension cords.
- Prepare for storm related outages (make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and that other supplies, such as bottled water, are stocked and available.)
- Practice exit drills with your family so everyone knows what to do.
- Properly store household chemicals, and never mix cleaning agents.

Outside the home:

- Make sure your address numbers are up and visible from the street.
- Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses.
- Maintain a clear 'fire zone' of 10' around structures. Clean up leaves and debris and consider using stone or non-combustible mulches.
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for damage.
- Use barbecue grills outside only. Keep away from overhangs and combustibles.
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.

Inside garage or shed:

- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuel containers for leaks, and make sure they are properly stored
- Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and readied for use.

For more information, contact the Harker Heights Fire Dept. by calling (254) 699-2688.

Friends of the Library Spring Booksale



books, videos, board games, and more at low prices! All proceeds go to the Friends organization to purchase books and program supplies for the Library!

Stewart C. Meyer
Harker Heights Public
Library

Saturday, April 30th
8:00am - 2:00pm

Here's your chance to
pick up hardbacks,
paperbacks, audio-

Donate to the Pet Adoption Center

Want to help out future
pets in our area?



1. Donate needed items such as pet food, blankets, pet toys, etc.
2. Make monetary donations to the General Fund to be used for services such as ID chip scanners, larger cat cages, etc.
3. Make monetary donations to the Emergency Medical Fund to pay for medical procedures, medicines, etc.
4. Make monetary donations to the Spay and Neuter Fund.

Call 254-953-5472 or visit
www.hhpetadoption.com.