

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



**MAY 9, 2023**

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

## Human Resources Department

The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on May 1st. Alexander Lujan was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.

The Police Department will be welcoming a new employee on May 15th. Diana Lopez will begin her employment with the City as a Police Officer Trainee.

Human Resources staff will be participating in the College, Credentialing and Career Fair at Fort Cavazos on May 11th.

Human Resources staff will be participating in the MEGA Career Job Fair at Fort Cavazos on June 13th.

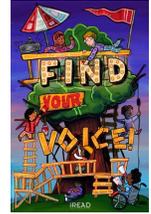
Human Resources staff will be participating in the Fort Cavazos Military Spouse Employment Partnership Career Expo and Hiring Fair on June 27th.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Animal Services Officer
- Collections/Plant Operator
- Light Equipment Operator
- Maintenance Technician
- Mechanic
- Part Time Parts Clerk
- Senior Equipment Operator
- Telecommunicator
- Fire Chief
- Firefighter/EMT (paramedic preferred)
- Seasonal Aquatics Supervisor
- Seasonal Lifeguard
- Seasonal Water Safety Officer

# 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!

Summer is coming, and the Library is ready with its 2023 Find Your Voice Summer Reading Club for kids, teens, and adults! Our theme encourages patrons to find positive ways to express themselves. Beginning May 25, 2023, you will be able to sign up for the reading club either at the Library or online at [harkerheights.readsquared.com](http://harkerheights.readsquared.com). Beginning in June our Library will offer an array of book discussions, performers, science times, caregiver workshops, and more!



The Library celebrates mothers, grandmothers, aunts, caregivers, librarians, teachers, and all women who have made a difference in children's lives. Drop by the Library for Mother's Day crafts in the Maker Space Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 9, 10, and 11 from 10 am – 3 pm for Mother's Day craft ideas!



## Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, May 10 at 10am – Preschool is Great Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!

Thursday, May 11 at 9am – Lovely Ladies Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, May 11 at 10am – Lovely Ladies Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

We highlight our Library with programs on our Library's Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary).

Wednesday, May 10 at 2 pm – Science Time with Ms. Heather



Thursday, May 11 at 6pm – Tissue Paper Flowers Virtual Family Night – Ms. Lisa takes a look at art! Learn to make tissue paper flowers!



Learn the basics of Soap Making on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 10am. Ever wonder how soap is made? Have you considered homesteading or making your own personal care items? Special guest Catrina will demonstrate how to make soap. Older teens and adults are invited to join us for the special Hobby Challenge presentation. Please call 254-953-5491 to register.



The Library Book Discussion Club meets Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:30 pm to discuss “The Spare” by Prince Harry. Meet in person or e-mail [lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov](mailto:lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov) to receive an invitation to join us online.



The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale was held on Friday, April 28, 2023, and Saturday, April 29, 2023, was a huge success – despite the tornado warning which temporarily stopped shopping on Friday! Patrons picked up books, audiobooks, games, and more at low prices. The Friends of the Library made about \$3400.00 If you would like to donate items for the next sale, please drop them off at the Library during our open hours. If you have more than you can carry inside the Library, then please call 254-953-5491 to set up a time to come by so that we can help you bring them in the staff entrance.

Adults register for the Art Play: a Therapy Series! Meet on Thursdays May 11, 18, and 25 and June 1, 2023 at the Library at 6:00 pm. Give yourself permission to play. No experience is necessary. All materials are provided. Call 254-953-5491 to sign up.

Caregivers and their children ages 3-6 years old are invited to join the Library for a program series aimed at school readiness! Registration is required and attendees must agree to attend the entire series. Work with Ms. Kay on fine motor skills, large motor skills, and literacy skills needed for school. Call 254-953-5496 to reserve your spot!

Did you know that you can view find literature and book reviews through our Texas Share Databases 24/7? Just visit [harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library](http://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 “Book Review Digest,” Twentieth Century American Poetry,” “Book Connections,” and other databases that provides information about getting started and searching for great books!

# 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.
- 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 10!



Registration for Summer Youth Volleyball is open until Wednesday, May 24!



We're looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Flag Football and Volleyball seasons! 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!



## AQUATICS

The Carl Levin Park Pool will open for Open Swim beginning Friday, June 9 and will operate on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until staffing allows for additional days of the week

- Fridays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Swim Lesson Registration will begin on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am at the Harker Heights Recreation Center. **PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN PERSON**

# Parks & Recreation Department

## SENIOR RECREATION

- **Celebrate Older Americans Month during the month of May with our Senior Recreation Program.**
  - **Lunch & Learn: Friday, May 19, 2023 / 11:30 pm – 1:00 pm / Recreation Center**
    - Learn some helpful information and enjoy lunch while listening to the guest speaker. Space is limited pre-registration required.
  - **Go Bananas: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 / 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / Recreation Center**
    - Our staff is going bananas for our seniors. Seniors are invited to enjoy banana splits and ice cream sundaes.
  - **Sweets & Selfies: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 / 9:00 am – 4:00 pm / Recreation Center**
    - Come by the Recreation Center, take a selfie, and pick up a baggie of candy (zero sugar) while supplies.



May's BINGO will be Thursday, May 18 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, May 18 at 5:00 pm. 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

- **Do you want to learn more about the Folklorico Dance class? Visit the upcoming informational meeting on Monday, May 15 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Recreation Center. The instructor will discuss the class, required items, as well as the schedule possibilities for the Fall Session.**



- **Good news! Our Tae Kwon Do/Hapkido instructor, Grand Master James McMurray, recently received honors. Grand Master McMurray was awarded Who's Who in America 2023-2024 and the Top Professionals 2023 Top Educators award from the Marquis Who's Who Publications Board. With the Who's Who in America, Grand Master has been approved as a subject of biographical record which is limited to individuals who possess professional integrity, demonstrate outstanding achievement in their respective fields and have made innumerable contributions to society as a whole. He was recognize as a Top Professional; an honor reserved for Marquis listees who have achieved career longevity and demonstrated unwavering excellence in their chosen fields. Grand Master McMurray's students presented him with a certificate, honorary black belt, and gifts during a ceremony honoring him for all his years of service and accomplishments.**

# Parks & Recreation Department

## 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



# Parks & Recreation Department

## GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **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](mailto:kgomez@harkerheights.gov) or call 254-953-5465.



## PET ADOPTION CENTER

- **The Pet Adoption Center was thanked by a citizen for working with him on TNR (trap, neuter, return) of the 3 cats that live on his property. He said "I appreciate that you offer spay and neuter to the citizens at such a low cost for wild cats. These cats keep the critters at bay and I haven't seen a snake in months, thanks to them."**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Community Services will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop event on May 19th 9AM-11AM at Starbucks.**

**Sergeant Duarte Fernandes was selected as the Sworn Employee of the Quarter for Q1 2023.**

**Ms. Karry Fow (CID Clerk) was selected as the Civilian Employee of the Quarter for Q1 2023.**

**Four Police Officer Trainees were cleared from Field Training on May 6th and have now been assigned to their respective patrol shifts.**

**Healthy Homes is currently accepting donations for their Back-to-School drive.**



City of Harker Heights  
Planning & Development  
305 Miller's Crossing  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
[planning@harkerheights.gov](mailto:planning@harkerheights.gov)

## Economic Development Report

### APRIL 2023 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

- 1212 E. Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Truck Parking
  - Valued at \$90,000.00
  
- 101 E. Central Texas Expressway, tenant finish-out
  - Valued at \$300,000.00

**To date (April 30, 2023) the City has issued a total of four (4) commercial permits totaling \$5,530,000.00 in project valuation for calendar year 2023.**

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **nine (9)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of April.

- 7 Single Family permits in Cedarbrook Ridge
- 1 Single Family permit on Del Rey
- 1 Single Family permit on Comanche Gap Rd.

The City issued a total of **zero (0)** permits for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of April.

**To date (April 30, 2023) the City has issued a total of thirty-five (35) residential permits, thirty-three (33) single-family permits, two (2) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits in calendar year 2023.**

As of April 30, 2023, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,004** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020 was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 642 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

April 1 thru April 30, 2023

| Violation Type             | Quantity | Percentage |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| Grass Parking              | 44       | 29.14%     |
| Grass                      | 41       | 27.15%     |
| Outside Storage            | 28       | 18.54%     |
| Bulk Items                 | 16       | 10.60%     |
| Brush                      | 5        | 3.31%      |
| Other*                     | 5        | 3.31%      |
| Heavy Vehicle Parking      | 3        | 1.99%      |
| Skirting                   | 3        | 1.99%      |
| Trailer                    | 3        | 1.99%      |
| Tires                      | 2        | 1.32%      |
| Junk Vehicle               | 1        | 0.66%      |
| Basketball Goal            | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Boat                       | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Building Inspection        | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Fencing                    | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Maintenance                | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Rubbish & Trash Containers | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Trash                      | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Tree limbs                 | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Total                      | 151      | 100.00%    |

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:  
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023

| Violation Type             | Quantity | Percentage |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| Grass Parking              | 494      | 34.52%     |
| Outside Storage            | 317      | 22.15%     |
| Bulk Items                 | 154      | 10.76%     |
| Grass                      | 150      | 10.48%     |
| Brush                      | 79       | 5.52%      |
| Tires                      | 68       | 4.75%      |
| Trailer                    | 50       | 3.49%      |
| Basketball Goal            | 16       | 1.12%      |
| Junk Vehicle               | 16       | 1.12%      |
| Skirting                   | 15       | 1.05%      |
| Fencing                    | 14       | 0.98%      |
| Maintenance                | 14       | 0.98%      |
| Trash                      | 13       | 0.91%      |
| Other*                     | 12       | 0.84%      |
| Heavy Vehicle Parking      | 10       | 0.70%      |
| Boat                       | 4        | 0.28%      |
| Tree limbs                 | 3        | 0.21%      |
| Building Inspection        | 2        | 0.14%      |
| Rubbish & Trash Containers | 0        | 0.00%      |
| Total                      | 1,431    | 100.00%    |

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:  
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.



## 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       |              | \$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       |              | \$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       |             | \$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       |             | 3,654       | 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       |