

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



OCTOBER 24, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

Congratulations to Aaron Dunnam on his promotion to Assistant Fire Chief – Operations and John Fussell on his promotion to Driver/Pump Operator on October 14th.

The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on October 16th. Michael Moreno was hired for the position of Maintenance Technician in the Water Department.

The Parks and Recreation Department welcomed a new employee on October 18th. Ryan Gawryszewski was hired for the position of Part Time Recreation Aide.

The Police Department welcomed a new employee on October 18th. Madison Covington was hired for the position of Telecommunicator.

Police Sergeant Sara Brockman will be promoting to the position of Lieutenant on November 11th. Congratulations Sara!

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Building Official's Secretary
- Animal Services Officer
- Senior Equipment Operator
- BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution System Flushing Technician
- Chief Plant Operator
- Collections Operator
- Inventory/Line Locator
- Light Equipment Operator
- Maintenance Technician II
- Maintenance Technician
- Mechanic



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!

Fall is a great time to learn about our world! Get back in the swing of school with a variety of resources from the Library!

Celebrate Dia De Los Muertos with the Library and Activities Center! Visit our building for displays, booklists, and more! We are getting prepared for the Activities Center Dia De Los Muertos themed Haunted Heights event at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 9am-1pm. Enjoy cultural performances, La Loteria, sugar skull decorating, and more!



Big Trucks are coming to Haunted Heights at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 9am-1pm. Bring your children to see City of Harker Heights vehicles, military vehicles, and other big trucks and cars from our community! Trick-or-treat while you take a look at these transportation and work machines!



We are ready for Not So Spooky Storytimes for the week of October 23 – 28, 2023, in our preschool programs! We celebrate the color black with some slightly spooky stories, songs, and more! Adults and their little ones enjoy books, crafts, activities and more while focusing on a particular color! Join us each week through October for a focus on a different color. Join us for one or more of these early literacy programs for your children. No registration is necessary for these regular programs, but space is limited. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

- Tuesdays at 10am – Babytime just for babies ages 0-18 months and their special adult – Learn rhymes, songs, and signs with this lap-sit program. Older siblings may not attend this program.
- Wednesdays at 10am – Storytime for children ages 3-6 years and their families – Enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more!
- Thursdays at 9am – Storytime for children ages 3-6 years and their families – Enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more!
- Thursdays at 10am – Toddler Time for children ages 0-3 years and their families – These stories, songs, activities, and more are just right for our little learners!

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Fall Music Time returns in November 2023. Work with your children on rhyme, rhythm, and more! Babies ages 0-18 months and their special adults come at 9:00 am each Monday morning in November. Children ages 19 months through 6 years come at 10:00 am each Monday morning in November. Space is limited. Seating is on a first come-first served basis.

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, the Library and Activities Center celebrated the Annular Eclipse with a morning of science investigation, arts exploration, and more! Thank you AA5MY Ham Radio Club and MECA for bringing science related activities. Thank you to our Library Board and our fantastic volunteers for providing a variety of eclipse related science experiences. On that day alone the City gave away approximately 1150 eclipse glasses. Before the Annular Eclipse the Library and Activities Center visited schools and community events such as EcoHarvest and Harker Heights National Night Out to provide science information and glasses. Approximately 400 people came to the Annular Eclipse to enjoy the activities and/or view the event. We look forward to our upcoming Total Eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. Since Harker Heights will experience totality, we expect many visitors to our City on that day.



Check out the City of Harker Heights' Eclipse website at <https://www.harkerheights.gov/eclipse>. Here you will find educational resources, tips for residents and businesses, and updates on upcoming programs regarding the two eclipse events! The annular eclipse will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, and the total eclipse will be on Monday, April 8, 2024. Our City looks forward to this community experience and encourages everyone to be prepared! Check the website often for updates!

The Library is expanding its Dungeons and Dragons offerings to provide a homeschool group for ages 14 through 17 years.. If you are interested in playing D&D, then e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov to find out more information. Registration is required. The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 2-5pm.



The Library has recently added SimplyE to its Virtual Library options! Download the Library's free SimplyE E-reader App and get access to thousands of titles in e-book and electronic audiobook formats in world languages. All you need is your Library card to access these new resources made possible for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Library has a wealth of information, books, and more at our Virtual Library at <https://harkerheights.gov/library>! Visit for education, information, entertainment, and more! Take a look at our World Book Online, research from the TexShare Databases, magazines and newspapers from PressReader, Overdrive and SimplyE e-books and e-audiobooks, Tumblebooks for kids and teens, and more!

All you need is your Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library Card!



**Citywide Trick-or-Treating hours will be
Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.!**

ACTVITIES CENTER

- The Activities Center is looking to expand its offerings and needs your help! **Volunteers** are needed for all programs and event. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Sara Gibbs at sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or 254.953.5493.

ATHLETICS

- **Ability Sports for Children with Special Needs**
 - **Ability Soccer** for children with special needs has over 30 participants! Thank you to Lonestar Soccer Club for once again partnering with the City to offer this program!



- **Youth Basketball** registration opened on October 4th and will be open until November 15th.
 - **Basketball** season will run December 2023 to February 2024. Assessments will be on November 18th and we have partnered with the HHHS Basketball team to send players that will help run assessments.



SENIOR RECREATION

- Travel with us as we watch videos of many destinations around the world from the comfort of your chair at the Recreation Center. Join us on Tuesdays from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm for **Armchair Travelers**. Don't worry about the long waits at airports or the many miles in a car.



- **Active Seniors** (50+) are invited to PLAY a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm at the Recreation Center. Each month will be a new activity to keep you moving and having fun. This is a great opportunity to exercise and socialize with friends. October's activity will be Pickleball and November's activity will be Indoor Baseball.



- Join us for **Crafty Connection** on Monday, October 30 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Seniors can bring a craft project they are working on at home to socialize and show other crafters. If participants don't have a craft project they don't have to worry a craft will be available for them at the Recreation Center.



Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

- **Open Gym Fall Hours are:**

- Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Basketball



- Thursdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: 12U Open Gym

- Fridays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Wheelchair Basketball



- To participate in open gym you must obtain a Civic Rec check in card; which is free to open an account and get a card. If you are a resident of Harker Heights there is no fee and you would need to bring proof of residency. Non-resident do have to pay a fee and they are 17 yrs. old & Under: \$3, 18-49 yrs. old: \$5, and Seniors (50+): \$3.

- The Recreation Center will be an **Early Voting** location:

- Monday – Friday, October 23 – 27 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday, October 28 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- Sunday, October 29 from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Monday – Friday, October 30 – November 3 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- The Recreation Center will be an **Election Day** location on Tuesday, November 7 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Harker Heights **Farmers Market** season continues through October every Saturday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at City Hall (305 Miller's Crossing). For more information, contact Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493.



- Harker Heights: **Día de Los Muertos Festival** will be held at Carl Levin Park on October 28, 2023 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. There will be candy, music, dance groups, cultural activities, crafts, vendors, and more. If you are interested in performing or volunteering for this event please reach out to Sara Gibbs at



GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Community Gardens:** Did you know you can grow food through winter? Fight the heat by planting in the Fall. Plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden & Kern Park (Free) Community Garden. Rentals are for six months or one year. To pay and register for your plot, please go to the Harker Heights Rec Center, 307 Miller's Crossing.



- Bell County Master Gardener's will be teaching about **Drought Tolerant Native Plants** on Thursday September 28th from 6pm-7:30pm at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail). Preregistration is encouraged, walk-ins are welcome.

bit.ly/43wOEIc



POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **The Community Services Division is collecting new children's bicycles for our Blue Santa program from now until December 10th.**

