

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



DECEMBER 10, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ❖ Jack Wallace will be retiring from the City on January 3rd, with 19 years of service.



The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- ❖ Firefighter/Paramedics
- ❖ Light Equipment Operators
- ❖ BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution Flushing Technician
- ❖ Heavy Equipment Operator
- ❖ Water Service Worker
- ❖ Maintenance Technicians
- ❖ Senior Equipment Operator

THE STEWART C. MEYERS HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY



Happy Holidays! The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is excited to usher in festivities with a full slate of program, services, displays, and more. For a full list of programs, please take a look at our website at <https://harkerheights.gov/library>. The schedule and the programming events are listed in several sections. The Library also posts additional fliers on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary>.

Drop in the Library on **Thursday, December 12** and **Friday, December 13** for **FREE HOT CHOCOLATE!** Celebrate Hot Chocolate Day!

Join us in discussing “The Bees: A Novel” by Laline Paull on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion.



But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive’s survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. If you would like to join us virtually, just e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov for an invitation.

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is excited to announce the **return of Inter Library Loan services** available to individuals with our Library card. If you are looking for an item that our Library does not own, we may be able to borrow it for you from another Library! Call 254-953-5491 for details!

The **Library’s Maker Space** will be OPEN much of the holiday season! Other than the days on which we close for all or part of the day, the room for creativity and fun will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am – 3pm and on Saturdays from 10am – 1pm. Just drop in to see what you can make with whatever we have in the room! Thanks to our generous community, new items come in all the time!

The Library has **24/7 access to Tumblebooks and TumbleMath**. These resources for children and teens offer a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction resources free of charge. Check out these and other ebook and eaudiobook resources at <https://harkerheights.gov/index.php/find-books-more/e-books>. You just need your library card for access!



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

We look forward to our December and Winter Break Programs in 2024, and we provide a variety of programs for all ages.

1. **Pokemon and Yugioh! Card Games** -- Every Saturday from 1-3 pm! Bring your own cards or play with ours!
2. **Frosted Fairytales Storytime** -- Wednesday, December 11 at 10am and Thursday, December 12 at 9am – Children ages 3-6 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Wear your pajamas and decorate your own cookies!
3. **Frosted Fairytales Toddler Time** – Thursday, December 12 at 10 am – Toddlers ages 0-3 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Wear your pajamas and decorate your own cookies!
4. **Holiday Family Storytime** – Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm – Bring the whole family for an evening of fun!
5. **Holiday Music Time** – Monday, December 16 at 9am for babies ages 0-18 months and their families and at 10am for children ages 18 months to 6 years and their families – Come on, ring those bells! Enjoy discovering the magic of music!
6. **Babytime** – Every Tuesday at 10am – Children ages 0-18 months and their families come for a lap-sit program filled with finger rhymes and music.
7. **Holiday Hooplah Storytime** -- Wednesday, December 18 at 10am and Thursday, December 19 at 9am – Children ages 3-6 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Enjoy stories about Christmas, Hanukkah, and more!
8. Wednesday, December 18 at 2pm – **Cupcake Decorating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)** afternoon for ages 7- 12 years – Come to the Library to assemble STEAM kits with Ms. Heather. All supplies are included. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register.
9. **Teen Game Time** -- Wednesday, December 18 from 1-3pm – Teens ages 12-17 years drop by the Library for board games, card games, and more!
10. **Homeschool Holiday Meet-Up In the Maker Space** – Wednesday, December 18 from 1-3pm – Bring the whole family for science exploration, art creation, and more!
11. **Holiday Hooplah Toddler Time** – Thursday, December 19 at 10am – Toddlers ages 0-3 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Learn about Christmas, Hanukkah, and more!
12. **Book Discussion Club for Adults** – Thursday, December 19 at 6:30pm – Drop in for a lively discussion of “The Bees: A Novel” by Laline Paull. Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive’s survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. If you would like to join us virtually, just e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov for an invitation.
13. **Baby Play** – Friday, December 20 from 10am– 2 pm – Babies ages 0-18 months and their families come and go for free play with our baby toys!
14. **Kwanzaa Storytime** – Thursday, December 26 at 9am – Children ages 3-6 years and their families learn a little about family and fun with stories and songs about Kwanzaa!
15. **Kwanzaa Toddler Time** – Thursday, December 26 at 10 am – Children ages 0-3 years and their families learn a little about family and fun with stories and songs about Kwanzaa!
16. **Music Exploration for All Ages** – Monday, December 30 from 10am-12pm – Bring the whole family to play with our large and small instruments. Come and go to try a floor piano, bells, boom sticks, and more!
17. **New Years Eve Party for Kids** – Tuesday, December 31 from 10am–12pm – Let’s count down to the new year! Enjoy games, crafts, funny hats, snacks and more! We’ll practice out countdowns to 11am and to 12 NOON!
18. **Happy New Years Storytime** -- Thursday, January 2 at 9am – It’s a new year! Children ages 3-6 years old and their families celebrate 2025 with stories, crafts, and songs!
19. **Happy New Years Storytime** -- Thursday, January 2 at 10am -- It’s a new year! Children ages 0-3 years old and their families celebrate 2025 with stories, crafts, and songs!

Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

The Recreation Center will have reduced hours on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, in observance of our Employee Recognition Ceremony. The center will be CLOSED from 2:30 pm – 5 pm and will reopen from 5 pm – 9 pm.

The Recreation Center hours of operation for the **Christmas/New Year holidays** will be:

- ❖ Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; Closed the remainder of the day. Closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024.
- ❖ Thursday, December 26, 2024. Normal business hours
- ❖ Tuesday, December 31, 2024, Open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; Closed the remainder of the day
- ❖ Wednesday, January 1, 2025, Closed
- ❖ Thursday, January 2, 2025. Normal business hours



ABILITY SPORTS

Ability Basketball registration opens on January 7. The league will run from February 10- March 12.



SPORTS

The fall/winter basketball season games began Saturday, December 7. There are 21 teams and over 200 participants.

The Summitt and Community Park athletic fields closed on November 18 for maintenance in preparation for the spring sports seasons.

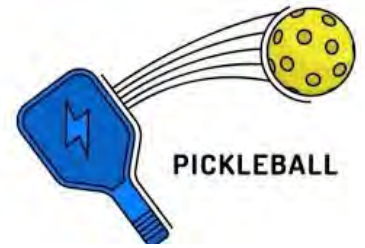
The 2025 Youth Sports Schedule has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website.

Youth Softball/Baseball/T-ball and volleyball registrations opened December 9th.



SENIOR RECREATION

Active Seniors (50+) are invited to **PLAY** a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 11:00 am – 12:45 pm at the Recreation Center. Each month there is a new activity to keep participants moving and having fun. December's activity is Pickleball.



Join us for **Crafty Connection** on Monday, December 16, 2024, 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. This month's craft is DIY Christmas ornaments.



December's **BINGO** will be on Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



Ladies Night Out will be on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm. The restaurant will be Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen in Harker Heights. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own meal. Registration is preferred and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Join the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department at **Frost Fest**. This magical event will bring holiday cheer to our community with festive lights, winter activities, delicious treats, and more. Whether you are ready to meet Santa Claus, enjoy a cozy cup of hot chocolate, or explore holiday themed vendors, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Visit the Harker Heights Community Park on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm for all the festivities. Gather your family and friends to celebrate the season at Frost Fest.

Vendors Needed for Frost Fest: Applications to be a vendor for Frost Fest are open. The application is located on the online and can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3NVIrQd>. For more information, contact sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



The Harker Heights Farmers Market will run every Saturday through December 21 at 305 Miller's Crossing. For more information, call 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov. Be sure to follow the Harker Heights Farmers Market Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/heightsFM> for further updates on the 2024 season.



GO Heights!

Go Heights team hosted a **I Love My Parks Day** Wednesday November 20th for Homeschoolers at Carl Levin Park. Participants helped plant trees, lay mulch, and more.



Saturday, November 23rd ten youth with The Youth Volunteers Corps planted Native Pollinator plants at the Kern Park Community Garden. The youth volunteer organization will be working with staff once a month to continue making improvements and engage the community in the community garden.



The Police Department has 5 cadets graduating from Temple Police Academy on Thursday, December 12th.

The Police Department welcomes you to visit our Command Center stationed at Market Heights every day from now until December 26th.



Our officers partnered with Target to participate in Shop With A Cop. This is a community outreach program where police officers accompany children as they shop for holiday gifts.





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

Economic Development Report

OCTOBER 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **one (1) new commercial** permit within the month of October

- 913 E. Knight's Way/E. FM 2410
 - Valued at \$822,472.00

The City issued **one (0) commercial remodeling** permits within the month of October.

- 139 W. Veterans Memorial Boulevard (Ma's Place)
 - Valued at \$10,000.00

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **ten (10)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of October.

- 1 new permit issued for Evergreen Estates
 - Valued at \$800,000.00
- 1 new permit for Withers Addition
 - Valued at \$720,000.00
- 4 re-issued expired permits for The Village at Nolan Heights
 - Cumulative value of 744,635.00
- 4 re-issued expired permits for Cedar Trails Subdivision
 - Cumulative value of 572,111.00

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

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of fifty-seven (57) residential permits: nineteen (19) new single-family permits, re-issued twenty-five (25) expired single-family permits, twenty (20) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of October 31, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,889** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 940 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

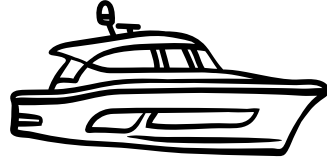
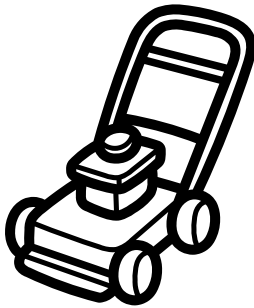
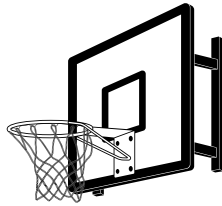
OCTOBER 2024



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
October 1 thru October 31, 2024		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	33	34.02%
Outside Storage	17	17.53%
Grass Parking	15	15.46%
Other*	13	13.40%
Brush	10	10.31%
Bulk Items	5	5.15%
Maintenance	2	2.06%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	1.03%
Tires	1	1.03%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Fencing	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Trailer	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	97	100.00%



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
October 1, 2024 thru September 30, 2025		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	33	34.02%
Outside Storage	17	17.53%
Grass Parking	15	15.46%
Other*	13	13.40%
Brush	10	10.31%
Bulk Items	5	5.15%
Maintenance	2	2.06%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	1.03%
Tires	1	1.03%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Fencing	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Trailer	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	97	100.00%





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

Economic Development Report

NOVEMBER 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **one (1)** new commercial permit within the month of November.

- 640 E. Knight's Way/E. FM 2410
 - Valued at \$1,500,000.00

The City issued **one (1)** commercial remodeling permit within the month of November.

- 201 W. Central Texas Expressway (Target parking lot re-striping)
 - Valued at \$30,000.00

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- 2107 Wildewood Drive
 - Valued at \$220,000.00

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of fifty-seven (57) residential permits: nineteen (19) new single-family permits, re-issued twenty-five (25) expired single-family permits, twenty-one (21) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of November 30, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,913** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 948 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

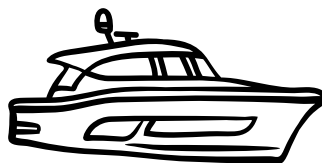
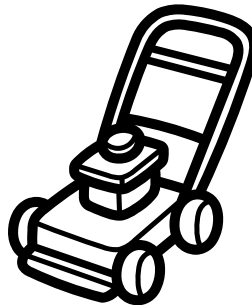
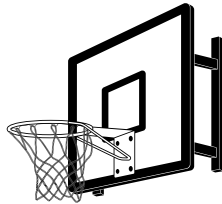
NOVEMBER 2024

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

November 1 thru
November 30, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	41	41.41%
Outside Storage	17	17.17%
Other*	14	14.14%
Grass Parking	11	11.11%
Bulk Items	6	6.06%
Brush	5	5.05%
Fencing	3	3.03%
Basketball Goal	2	2.02%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Maintenance	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Tires	0	0.00%
Trailer	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	99	100.00%



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

November 1, 2024 thru
September 30, 2025

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	74	37.76%
Outside Storage	34	17.35%
Other*	27	13.78%
Grass Parking	26	13.27%
Brush	15	7.65%
Bulk Items	11	5.61%
Fencing	3	1.53%
Basketball Goal	2	1.02%
Maintenance	2	1.02%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.51%
Tires	1	0.51%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Trailer	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	196	100.00%





Finance Department



ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$458,586.58	\$425,468.44	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59
February	\$534,106.66	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74
March	\$505,890.78	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11
April	\$449,213.99	\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05
May	\$470,065.16	\$577,032.32	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28
June	\$455,755.87	\$508,923.56	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93
July	\$632,588.50	\$549,266.57	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64
August	\$648,863.93	\$700,084.97	\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99
September	\$623,481.36	\$732,809.66	\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61
October	\$741,027.48	\$640,193.47	\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72
November	\$698,851.87	\$644,238.19	\$597,938.12	\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61
December		\$560,893.99	\$529,760.67	\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34

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

AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$111,335.93	\$104,768.73	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16
February	\$122,733.86	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11
March	\$113,274.41	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41
April	\$97,246.60	\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65
May	\$109,383.84	\$128,587.47	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54
June	\$103,002.72	\$117,678.21	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21
July	\$128,211.92	\$116,990.27	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84
August	\$140,993.30	\$160,801.83	\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64
September	\$133,158.99	\$149,676.66	\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86
October	\$163,763.26	\$140,226.20	\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75
November	\$133,455.63	\$141,456.45	\$131,364.63	\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20
December		\$117,512.11	\$114,240.31	\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98



KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$15,526.79	\$14,230.92	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25
February	\$14,866.27	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02
March	\$16,016.08	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01
April	\$13,150.82	\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99
May	\$11,855.53	\$16,807.66	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43
June	\$16,060.62	\$16,308.52	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19
July	\$16,487.65	\$16,201.62	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38
August	\$19,529.80	\$21,416.32	\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80
September	\$15,348.97	\$21,162.07	\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28
October	\$22,682.46	\$16,367.61	\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50
November	\$18,150.19	\$20,801.21	\$17,225.45	\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33
December		\$15,884.88	\$19,102.03	\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30

NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	4,165	3,798	3,565	3,245	2,719
February	4,192	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759
March	4,222	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880
April	4,264	3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819
May	4,256	3,927	3,654	3,364	2,847
June	4,307	3,960	3,698	3,396	2,931
July	4,318	4,061	3,695	3,461	2,976
August	4,369	4,021	3,747	3,505	3,069
September	4,372	4,054	3,746	3,523	3,072
October	4,382	4,092	3,789	3,536	3,127
November	4,404	4,105	3,757	3,548	3,186
December		4,128	3,749	3,533	3,201