

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



MARCH 14, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The City received the “We Hire Vets” award from the Texas Workforce Commission. Congratulations!

The Court received the “2023 MTSI Traffic Safety” award. The award is for promoting traffic safety in the community. Congratulations!

The Parks Department welcomed a new employee on March 1st. Troy McGinn was hired for the position of Light Equipment Operator.

The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on March 14th. Kayla Seymour was hired for the position of Vet Technician.

The Police Department will be promoting Telecommunicator Leslie Itibus to the position of Records Clerk.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Mechanic
- Telecommunicator



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!

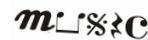
The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library was happy to Spring Forward this weekend!

It's Spring Break for many of our families in Central Texas! The Library is celebrating this year's "Let's Play!" theme each day with a variety of programs, displays, crafts, and more! We have something for everyone. Though we started on Saturday, March 11, we still have plenty fun left to go!



In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, March 15 at 10am - Let's Play Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) - Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!



Thursday, March 16 at 9am - Let's Play Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) - Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!



Thursday, March 16 at 10am - Let's Play toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) - Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Friday, March 17 from 10am-12pm - Baby Play - Babies 18 months and younger explore and play with their special grown-ups in this coming and go, free play session. This program is not appropriate for older siblings.

Virtual Spring Break Programs on the Library's Facebook:



Wednesday, March 15 at 2pm - Science Time with Ms. Heather



Thursday, March 16 at 6pm - Let's Play Virtual Family Night - Ms. Lisa believes in the power of play! Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little!



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Preschool Readiness Skills Craft Series – Wednesday and Thursday, March 15 and 16, 2023, from 10am-12noon – Ms. Kay works with parents and children ages 2-8 on cute craft projects that encourage children to practice small motor skills through cutting, tearing, and placement. Work on skills such as hand-eye coordination and following directions while you create cute critters! Come and go each day for new projects.

In-Person School Age Programs for Spring Break:

Jeff the Bubble Magician will help us celebrate Spring Break on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 10am and 6pm! Families will enjoy magic and bubble art performed by Jeff Hapke! Drop in for the FREE family fun!



Thursday, March 16 from 10:30am – 12:30pm – 3-D Printing Workshop -- Attendees ages 10 years old and up will learn the basics of 3-D Printing, the parts of the machine, and programming on Tinkercad. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register.



Thursday, March 16 from 5-7pm -- Family Night: Let's Build Lego Play -- Imagine and build with Legos!



Friday, March 17 from 9am – 6pm – Come and Go Game Room!

Saturday, March 18 from 1-3pm – Pokemon Card Games for all ages!



Saturday, March 18 from 1-3pm -- 3-D Printing Workshop -- Attendees ages 10 years old and up will learn the basics of 3-D Printing, the parts of the machine, and programming on Tinkercad. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register.

In-Person Spring Break Maker Space:

Wednesday and Thursday, March 15 and 16, from 10am – 3:00 pm – We learn best when we play! Imagine what you can create with whatever is in the room!

In-Person Programs for Teens and Adults:

Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 pm – Book Discussion of “Hellfire Club” by Jack Tapper – A new politician finds himself embroiled in Washington D.C. intrigue. Join us for a lively discussion.



Thursday, March 16 at 3pm – Teen Spring Break Crochet Class – Teens can get into the spirit of Spring by learning how to crochet a cute flower! No experience is necessary. All supplies will be provided. Teens ages 12 and up register by calling 254-953-5491.



Tuesday, March 21 at 6pm – Punch Needle Creative Hobby Challenge – Patrons ages 14 and up enjoy this fun, decorative fiber arts called punch needle. Come learn this craft with us. All supplies are provided. No experience is necessary. Call 254-953-5491 to register!



Our Therapeutic Art Series continues with “Life Art Map Collage” on Thursday, March 30 at 6pm. Join volunteer art instructor Fatimah Olds for our monthly Therapeutic Art Series. No art experience is necessary. With some guidance your own spontaneous flare is welcome in this safe space for expression. Space is limited. Please call 254-953-5491 to register.

Did you know that you can view the magazines, journals, and newspapers 24/7 from your phone or computer? Use our PressReader service! Just visit harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library. Click on “Find Books & More” in the Quick Links menu. Then click on “Online Magazines & Newspapers.” You will need your library card number to access these updated sources from around the world. Some can even be read in the works’ original languages!

Police Department

A Promotion Ceremony will be held on March 31, 2023, for the following officers:

- Sergeant Dennis McAfee will be promoted to Lieutenant
- Officer Russell Dunagan will be promoted to Sergeant
- Officer Kelly Metress will be promoted to Sergeant



ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Maker Space continues it's open times into the school year. (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm.)
- Extended Hours for the Maker Space for Spring Break! Come check out all the amazing resources you have available for free.
- 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 our first Summer Youth Flag Football in over 10 years starts tomorrow, Wednesday, March 15!



Visit the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation website to see the new 2023 Youth Sports Calendar.

We're looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball season! 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!



Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION



- Today our Seniors celebrated National Pi Day from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Recreation Center. They had fun with ping pong and pie.
- March's BINGO will be this week Thursday, March 16 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, March 16 at 5:00 pm. They will be eating at McAlister's Deli in Killeen. 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.
- Seniors are invited to participate in Lunch & Learn on Friday, March 17 from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Our guest speakers will be the Harker Heights Fire Department teaching our Seniors Take 10 CPR/AED. The maximum number of participants is 20. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.
- Come check out to watch the Old Glories versus Harker Heights City Staff at the Battle of the Court: Annual Granny Basketball Benefit Game on Saturday, March 18 at 1:00 pm. The game will be held at the Recreation Center and admission is a non-perishable food item or new package of Socks or Underwear (all sizes welcome). Donated admission items to benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). This will be the second year and staff is excited to play the Seniors.
- Come to the Recreation Center every Tuesday from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm to participate in Senior Ping Pong: Table Tennis.



RECREATION CENTER

This past weekend the Harker Heights Hustlers Wheelchair Basketball team hosted the Harker Heights Hustlers Spring Break 2023 Showdown tournament at the Recreation Center. The one and half day tournament had four wheelchair basketball teams participating from Austin, Corpus Christi, Harker Heights, and even an out of state team from Arkansas.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Volunteer Reception Ceremony has been postponed to Thursday, April 13 from 6 pm – 8 pm at the Carl Levin Park on 400 Miller's Crossing. The ceremony is held every year to say thank you to our volunteers for all the hard work.



- Bring your fur babies and visit Barks and Rec! The Activities Center is partnering with the Pet Adoption Center for this pet-friendly event that will be held next Friday, March 17 from 6 pm – 9 pm. Activities include an agility course, dog contests, vendors, a bounce house, free microchips (that have been purchased with donated funds and are for Harker Heights residents) and a showing of the movie, Lady and the Tramp (2019)! Visit the Pet Adoption Center (403 Indian Trail) from 6 pm – 8 pm for the fun activities, then be sure to stick around for the movie at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail).



- Save the date for spring cleaning! The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held throughout the City of Harker Heights on Saturday, March 18 from 7 am – 5 pm. Residents are invited to host a garage sale at their homes or are welcome to shop around the city. A map of those who registered their garage sales will be available on Tuesday, March 14 at <https://bit.ly/harkerheightsevents>. Print out copies will also be available for free pick up at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail) and at the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing). Stay up to date with updates by following the event page on <https://bit.ly/3Kod3cx>.



- Enjoy a beautiful spring day at Art in the Park! Visit Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 29 from 4 pm – 8 pm for free art activities, art vendors, live music, and more! Applications to be a vendor are now being accepted. For a vendor application, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- Join us for a Hike at Dana Peak Park (3800 Comanche Gap Rd) Wednesday, March 15 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. The distance will depend on the group. All ages & fitness levels are welcome! *Please register each participant* We will meet at the 90-degree turn, just before the Dana Peak Park gate, and will leave for the hike shortly after 6pm. Bring tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, and plenty of water. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



- Outdoor yoga will take place Saturday March 18th at Carl Levin Park (400 Millers Crossing) from 10:30am-11:30am at the amphitheater. The class is for ages 8 and up and is \$12 per participant, ages 50 and older is \$10. Registration is required for the class. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



- 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 6months 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 or call 254-953-5465.





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		\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11	\$267,408.59
April		\$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		\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41	\$71,751.84
April		\$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		\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01	\$12,078.00
April		\$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		3,555	3,293	2,880	2,519
April		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



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

Economic Development Report

FEBRUARY 2023 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued one (1) commercial construction permit within the month of February.

- 401 Cheetah Trail, Lone Star Circle of Care
 - Valued at \$4,150,00.00

To date (February 28, 2023) the City has issued a total of two (2) commercial permits totaling \$5,140,000.00 in project valuation for calendar year 2023.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **fourteen (14)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of February.

- 1 Single Family permit in Evergreen Estates
- 13 Single Family permits in Cedarbrook Ridge

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

To date (February 28, 2023) the City has issued a total of zero (14) residential permits, zero (14) single-family permits, zero (0) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits in calendar year 2023.

As of February 28, 2023, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **34,855** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020 was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 592 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

February 1 thru February 28, 2023

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass Parking	68	30.63%
Outside Storage	62	27.93%
Brush	20	9.01%
Bulk Items	19	8.56%
Tires	17	7.66%
Trailer	13	5.86%
Trash	11	4.95%
Skirting	4	1.80%
Maintenance	3	1.35%
Fencing	2	0.90%
Junk Vehicle	2	0.90%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.45%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Grass	0	0.00%
Other*	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	222	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	365	36.43%
Outside Storage	199	19.86%
Bulk Items	108	10.78%
Grass	101	10.08%
Brush	61	6.09%
Tires	51	5.09%
Trailer	37	3.69%
Basketball Goal	13	1.30%
Trash	12	1.20%
Junk Vehicle	11	1.10%
Maintenance	10	1.00%
Fencing	9	0.90%
Skirting	7	0.70%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	5	0.50%
Boat	4	0.40%
Other*	4	0.40%
Tree limbs	3	0.30%
Building Inspection	2	0.20%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	1,002	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.