

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

AUGUST 23, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The **Parks and Recreation Department** welcomed a new employee on August 10th. **Tyrik Alderson** was hired for the position of Part Time Recreation Aide.

The **Code Enforcement Department** welcomed a new employee on August 23rd. **Wilson Owens** was hired for the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A **citizen** came by and brought **C-Shift** some pizza, goodies and bottled water along with a card that read "Please accept this as a small token of my appreciation for all of your hard work". Kudos to C-Shift!

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A **promotion ceremony** for four department members will be this Friday, August 26th at 3:00 p.m. at the Police Department. The members being promoted are as follows:

- Betiale Hawkins II will be promoted from Interim Chief of Police to Chief of Police
- Sonja Clay will be promoted from Commander to Deputy Chief of Police
- Benjamin Duiker will be promoted from Lieutenant to Commander
- Michael O'Hala will be promoted from Officer to Sergeant

The **Community Services Division** will be hosting a CRASE (Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events) class this Saturday, August 27th at the Activities Center. Contact the Harker Heights Police Department for more information.

National Night Out will be on Tuesday, October 4th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Ellison High School will be hosting a **9/11 Remembrance Walk** on September 9th at 8:30 a.m.

LIBRARY

The **Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library** supports our families of all types regardless of how they choose to educate their children, their teens, and themselves. Check out our virtual library at www.harkerheights.gov/library_for_24/7 access to electronic books, electronic audiobooks, online and updated encyclopedias, reliable research resources, test preparation resources, and more!

Check out **PressReader**, our virtual resource for thousands of magazines and newspapers in English, Spanish, German, Korean, and other languages. The Library has 24/7 access to e-magazines through PressReader. Get access to more than 7,000 of the world's top newspapers and magazines as soon as they're available on shelves. There are no limits on downloads. They are yours to keep forever. To access PressReader, download the app or visit www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/find-more-books/online-magazines. Select "Library or Group" and then search for Harker Heights Public Library. Use your library card number and pin (your last name + the last 4 digits of your library card number) to log in. You can then set up a personalized account with your email and create a password.

Celebrate Stories all week long at the Library! Enjoy these age appropriate programs. Space is limited. Seating is on a first come/first served basis.

Wednesday, August 24th – **I Love BOOKS! Storytime** for ages 3-6 years and their families. Drop by for music, stories, and more!

Thursday, August 25th at 9:00 a.m. – **We Have the Best Books!** for ages 3-6 years and their families! Drop by for a lively morning of songs, stories, and rhymes.

Thursday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m. – **We Have the Best Books Toddler Time** for ages 0-3 years and their families. Drop by for a lively morning of songs, stories, and rhymes!

Thursday, August 25th from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – **Make Your Own Books family Maker Space** – See what you can make with what is in the room!

Saturday, August 27th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. -- **Make Your Own Books family Maker Space** – What wonders can you create?

If you can't make our in-person programs, you are welcome to join our Celebrate Boks program series by enjoying our weekly virtual program series on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary> for **Storytime** on Wednesday, August 24th at 10:15 a.m., **"Celebrate Books" Family Night** on Thursday, August 25th, at 6:00 p.m., and a **guest reader** on Friday, August 26th at 10:15 a.m.

Babies ages 0-18 months and their special adults enjoy a weekly **Baby Time** on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Work with your baby on rhymes, songs, age-appropriate movements, and more! This lap sit program is perfect for early literacy skills, social/emotional learning, and bonding. Space is limited. Seating is on a first come/first served basis.

Join the Library at the **Parks and Recreation Back to School Bash** at Kern Park on Friday, August 26th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.! Thanks to the **Friends of the Library**, we will be giving away a FREE BOOK to each teen or child who attends. Enjoy inflatables, outdoor Maker Space, and more!

September is Library Card month! This is a great time to get a library card for you and/or your children! What do you need to bring to get a library card? Just drop in with your valid picture ID and something that has your name and address on it. That could be your picture ID if the correct address is listed. Have you just moved? That's OK! Just find something like a bill, a rental contract, your bank statement – anything on paper or that you can bring up on your phone to show us where you live now. Anyone living in Bell or Coryell Counties can get a card. People age 17 or under will need a parent or legal guardian to get a card.

The **Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library** has been providing Trauma-Informed services to our community thanks to funds provided through a Community Advancement Packages (CAPS) program grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. As part of the Library's "Heights Heals" program, the Library has made some spaces in the Library more comfortable for those patrons suffering from trauma and anxiety. Included is seating with partial sound dampening, lower lights, relaxation activities, meditation kits for circulation, information about trauma, and more. The Library also offered parent and caregiver workshops focusing on stress relief for children and caregivers, art kits containing supplies to help encourage imagination and creativity, and calming kits filled with items and ideas for relaxation and mindfulness. Coming soon will be yoga classes, mediation bottle programs, and related circulating items. The Library was awarded grants in two categories: Trauma-Informed Libraries and Analog Outreach. As part of the Analog outreach program, the Library purchased equipment that allows for easier and more attractive transportation and presentation of in-person programs in appropriate spaces outside of the Library building. Already our Library and Activities Center have reached families at local

parks, at the Farmers Market, and at large events such as Parks and Recreation Fest and Bell County ComicCon. This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Grant #LS-250239-OLS-21* to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. (2021.)

PARKS AND RECREATION

*Visit the **City Hall Farmers Market** every Saturday from 9a-1p!*

ACTIVITIES CENTER

The **Maker Space** continues it's open times into the school year. (Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Stop by anytime and see the amazing community project the public is building called Cardboard City (located in the hall). This entire city is built from cardboard has so many little surprises in it. The public is encouraged to add their artistic abilities to this ever growing and changing project.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

- The Tonkawa Chapter of the Native Plant Society Will be planting native plants in the back gardens of the Library and Activities Center building during the week of August 22nd. This is part of a joint effort to support the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Community Gardens

- A workday at Kern Park Community Garden on August 20th prepped the garden for our new and future gardeners. Don't forget that the Kern Park Community Garden is a **FREE** garden open to the public. Rentals are for six months or one year. 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.
- This past week the **Garden Education Series** invited the Bell County Master Gardeners for a presentation about the Eastern Monarch butterfly that was free and open to the public at the Activities Center on August 16th. We had about 30 citizens in attendance learning about the monarch butterfly's lifecycle and their preferred host and plants. A big thank you to the Bell County Master Gardeners for the presentation and the citizens that came out!

ATHLETICS

2022 Summer Adult Softball wrapped up the end of season tournaments on August 16th. Space is limited so sign up soon!

Registration for **2022 Ability Soccer** which is for children ages 5-22 with special needs hosted at Summit Soccer Complex opened on August 15th closes on September 27th.

AQUATICS

The 2022 Pool season has officially concluded! Thank you to our staff for their hard work in keeping aquatic opportunities open and available to our citizens throughout the summer!

- Total attendance was **6,794 visitors**. Thank you to all of our visitors this summer!
- **208** swim lesson participants.
- Total staff hours spent in operation of the pool was **2,672 hours**. Thank you to our amazing Aquatics Staff for making this year's pool season happen!

SENIOR RECREATION

NEW!!! Are you an active senior adult? Join us every Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. for **Senior P.E.** Each week learn a variety of low to high active activities.

Celebrate National Grandparents Day by bringing your grandchild, great grandchild, and/or V.I.P. to **Grand Day @ Rec Center** on September 10th from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Participate together in a variety of games, crafts, and activities. Call 254-953-5683 or sign up at the Rec Center by the RSVP deadline September 2nd. Let us know how many will attend and age of child.

RECREATION CENTER

Adaptive Chair Yoga is on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga centers around using a chair, wheelchair, or other mobility device and is one of the gentlest forms of yoga. The class is offered to ages 18 years old and up with a fee of \$12 per class (\$10 per class - -55+ Senior). The class will not meet on July 4th, July 11th and Sept. 5th.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Parks and Rec Department will be hosting **Back to School Bash** on Friday, August 26th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Kern Park (400 S Ann Blvd)! This FREE event will include inflatables, the Rec pop-up activity trailer, and more for families to enjoy.