

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

July 28, 2020

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works/Parks & Recreation Employee of the Month

- Congratulations to Richard Fierro with the Wastewater Department. Richard received the Public Works/Parks & Recreation employee of the month for outstanding service.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The **Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** was officially approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife grants office. The Parks and Recreation Department will roll out the plan to the public in the coming weeks. Thanks to all in the community who made this project a success!

Its National Parks and Recreation Month! This week we will be featuring our parks and programs on our Facebook page and website.

The **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** went virtual this week for the first time, discussing new and old business and receiving staff reports on what's happening within the Parks and Rec Department

Parks and Rec is hoping to return to athletics programming with the **Fall Youth Soccer** program. Like us on Facebook or visit our website for the most up-to-date information on registration dates and general information on the season.

Updated **Amenity Openings and Closures** have been posted on the Parks and Recreation website: www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/parks.

Visit our **Virtual Recreation Center** for tips on getting outdoors while social distancing, at-home sports drills, ways to stay active, craft projects, virtual tours of parks and museums, and MUCH MORE.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department will hold **Sergeant written promotion examinations** on August 6th.

Lt. Jerry Dugger will be retiring from the Harker Heights Police Department on August 14th.

The Texas Police Chief Association notified the **Harker Heights Police Department** had achieved **re-recognition status** for compliance with the Texas Law Enforcement Agency Best Practice Recognition Program.

LIBRARY

There's still time to "**Discover the Magic of Reading!**" The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is extending the **Summer Reading Club** through **Labor Day!** Just join the club at harkerheights.readsquared.com. Explore our reading club for reading logs, reading lists, challenges and more. Feel free to log any reading, writing, or listening that you have done beginning June 1st!

Check out the **NEW StoryWalk® at Harker Heights Community Park!** Enjoy a stroll around the short path circling the pavilion. Read a bit of a story at each stop along the way. Use your digital device to listen to the story read to you by **City of Harker Heights staff and volunteers!** The StoryWalk® opens with "**Little Red Running Hood – The Social Distancing Edition!**" This is a joint project from the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation, Activities Center, and Library. Take a look at the illustrations as well. All photographs were taken in the park. See if you can find the places where all the photographs were taken. We intend to change the story every few months. StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you are directed to the next page in the story. StoryWalks® have been installed in 50 states and 12 countries including, Germany, Canada, England, Bermuda, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and South Korea! They are always received with appreciation. StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and has developed with the help of Rachel Senechal from Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

The Library continues to provide a robust schedule of programs and services to its patrons through its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary/>. July 27th - August 2nd is **Wizards, Wands, and Wizards**. Visit us online for **Virtual puppet shows, dance tutorials, tours, and more!**

Special Events on the Library's Facebook Page!

Wednesday, July 29th

- 10:00 a.m. – **Magician John O'Bryant** presents an encore magic show!
- 2:00 p.m. – **Calligraphy Workshop** – Learn the basics of calligraphy handwriting.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Caldron Science** -- Miss Heather looks at the science behind dry ice.

Thursday, July 30th

- 10:15 a.m. – **Reading Is Magic LIVE Storytime** – Enjoy stories, songs, and more to make your day magical!
- 2:00 p.m. – **Magical Booklist**
- 6:00 p.m. – **Whimsical Wands Family Night LIVE** -- Learn to use a variety of techniques to make your own realistic wand. Enjoy some make-believe as we pretend to make some magic. What amazing things can you do with everyday kindness?

Harry Potter's Birthday Is July 31st! One day is just not enough to celebrate the beloved literary character. Here's an entire **Harry Potter themed weekend** of posts, booklists, links, videos, and more on Facebook!

Special Events on Friday, July 31st

- 10:15 a.m. – **Guest Reader Maureen Huston** from CTC Geek shares a magical read.
- 2:00 p.m. -- **Explore the Harry Potter books, audiobooks, and more with links** from author J.K. Rowling.

4:00 p.m. – **Harry Potter Trivia** -- How many Harry Potter book related questions can you answer correctly? E-mail your answers to our quiz to youngblood@harkerheights.gov by the end of the day. All who get 100% right get a small prize packet. We will e-mail to set up an appointment to pick up the prize the following week in the Library or in through contactless curbside service!

6:00 p.m. – **Virtual Harry Potter Cosplay!** Send pictures of you in your Harry Potter or magical themed costumes!

Saturday, August 1st

10:00 a.m. – **Cosplay Runway** – Send pictures of Harry Potter themed costumes! Can you throw one together with what you have in your call.

6:00 p.m. – **LIVE Virtual Harry Potter Trivia Challenge** – Check on our Facebook page for instructions to join our LIVE trivia challenge.

The Library continues to offer a **contactless curbside pick-up service**. Though the building itself is open for walk-ins, patrons can call 254-953-5491 or e-mail reference@harkerheights.gov to reserve materials to be picked up at the side of the Library in the drive through area. E-mail your name, card number if available, titles and authors of items that you want, and the best way for the Library to contact you when your items are ready! Curbside pick-up hours will be Monday from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The drop box for returning materials will continue to be open 24/7. Staff members will be taking additional precautionary measures which will allow for pick-up and drop off without direct contact between individuals. For additional information, please visit our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary/> or call 254-953-5491. To look at the Library's catalog online, please visit <http://67.79.126.39/opac/hhpl/index.html#menuHome>

ACTIVITY CENTER

You still have time through July to participate in the **Harker Heights Parks & Rec BINGO** for **National Park and Recreation Month**. Complete the squares to earn chances in a drawing. Activities can be done following social distancing guidelines in your neighborhood, local parks, and your own backyard. Download your BINGO card today at the Parks' website and enjoy.

We are wrapping up **National Park and Recreation Month** with a few programs and virtual events to celebrate. Activities are limited in size and we follow social distancing practices and face coverings are required. Follow us on Facebook to see what is next!

Have you checked out the many videos for Parks and Recreation Month? **Adam Trujillo**, Activities Center Specialist, has been the person behind the camera. He has been a great help assisting with many videos and virtual events for the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Library. Thank you for the hard work and wonderful job, Adam!

The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** is every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Seton Medical Center Harker Heights. Stop by and shop with our local vendors! Vendors are spaced apart and hand washing stations are available on site. Please maintain social distancing and face coverings are required. Buy local. Experience Community.

The Activities Center is assisting the Police Department with their **Blue Santa Bike Drive**. Citizens can drop off new or gently used bikes to the Harker Heights Police Station or Activities Center now through November.

Visit the Parks & Recreation website and Facebook for upcoming virtual activities and programs the community can participate from home, out in their neighborhoods, or at a park.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Virtual Public Forum for the Heavy Vehicle and Parking on the Grass ordinance can be found on the City's Webpage and on our Facebook. The purpose of the forum is to develop a plan of action for addressing concerns on commercial parking in residential zones and parking on residential lawns.

This is an extension of the original town hall meeting that was conducted on July 15th, 2019.

The last day to comment on the forum will be August 10th. After the public review and comments are closed the item will be placed on the August 18th Council Workshop.

COVID 19 Mobile Test Collection will be conducted in Harker Heights on Thursday, August 6th (walk up testing only) and Friday, August 7th (drive thru testing only) from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The location will be at the **First Baptist Church – 100 East Ruby Road**. Appointments are required and additional information will be forthcoming.