

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MARCH 22, 2022

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Preparing for the promotional process for Sergeant.

Preparing to fill Community Services Officer vacancy.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The **Public Works Department** welcomed a new employee on March 9th, **Benjamin Becerrril** was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.

The **Police Department** welcomed a new employee on March 15th. **Jennipher Larino** was hired for the position of Part Time Telecommunicator. On March 19th, Part Time Telecommunicator **Bridgette Chihuahua-Franco** promoted to the full time Telecommunicator position.

The **Planning Department** welcomed a new employee on March 21st. Part Time Student Clerical Assistant **Raelin Fiscus** promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant.

The City is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Parks Light Equipment Operator

Part Time Telecommunicator

Part Time Student Clerical Assistant

The **American Legion's National Veterans Employment and Education Commission** thanked the City for participating in the American Legion and Texas Veterans/Workforce Commission Career Fair.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A patient's daughter called to thank **Anthony Combs, Corey David, John Fussell, Jason Moore, Cody Newman and David Ayer** for taking care of her mother on a call. She said they were all very helpful and she really appreciates each and every one of them.

LIBRARY:

We had a huge "**Something Scienc-y**" **Spring Break** at the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library. Hundreds of families enjoyed a week filled with stories, songs, and SCIENCE! From the Parks and Recreation Outdoor and Science Expo, the Lego Robotics, to Solar Robot Workshop, to sewing and crafts for adults, the Library offered an array of science and technology related programs. There was a little something for everyone! Mad Science from Austin presented a big science experiment show. Families with babies enjoyed a come and go baby play and interaction program. Now that Spring Break has come to a close, the Library is already planning for Summer Reading Club. Watch our website at [City of Harker Heights - Library](http://www.cityofharkerheights.com/library) and our Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary> for upcoming programs.

The **Activities Center and the Library** are happy to open its **Maker Space** every Tuesday and Thursday in March from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Be inspired. Be bold. Be creative. Drop by to see what you can make and do with a variety of objects! From robots to sewing machines to craft supplies, you never know what you'll find!

The Library is happy to announce its new **Press Reader virtual service**. Press Reader allows Library patrons access to over 7000 newspapers and magazines from around the world. Many of these resources are in Spanish, English, German, Korean, and other languages. There are no limits on downloads. They are yours to keep forever. **To access PressReader**, download the app on your device or visit <http://www.pressreader.com/catalog>. 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.

March is National Women's History Month. The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library Celebrates with in-person Storytime, virtual Family Nights, booklists, displays, and more! Our Library joins the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Memorial Museum in commemorating and encouraging study, observance, and celebration of the vital role that women play in American history.

Do you love to work in the garden? Do you have a green thumb, or would you like to learn more about gardening in Texas? Here is your chance to learn by doing! Volunteer to help with the Library's back garden and/or with one of our Harker Heights Community Gardens! Call 254-953-5492 or e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov for more information!

National Library Week is April 3rd - 9th! This is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and observed in libraries across the country each April. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate. In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life." National Library week was one of this organizations' goals. Connect with our Library during this week and throughout the year!

PARKS AND RECREATION:

ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Activities Center is extending the **"We Love Our Schools" Donation Drive** that will benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). Items will be collected until March 28th and can be dropped off at the Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail or the Recreation Center on 307 Miller's Crossing. Non-perishable food items needed (please no expired foods): Chili, cereal, ravioli, dry milk, pasta sauce, peanut butter, can openers. Additional items needed (sizes accepted youth XS – Adult 3XL): New socks, new underwear, new bras. For more information, call 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.

The **Spring Community Garage Sale** was held on Saturday, March 19th from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with participant homes spread throughout the City of Harker Heights. Thanks to all who participated!

AQUATICS

The next **Walk-in Interview Week** at the Rec Center for **all Aquatic positions** will be March 28th thru April 1st.

PARKS

Visit the **Urban Forestry** page on the Parks and Rec website for info on the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Harker Heights.

ATHLETICS

The **Winter Youth Soccer** league is ongoing with nearly 500 participants!

Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball registration has been extended and is open through April 1st!

Registration for the first ever **Adult Soccer League** hosted by Harker Heights Parks and Recreation is open now until April 15th.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Paws in the Park is Saturday, March 26th from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Purser Family Park. This free, dog friendly event for all ages will include activities such as an agility course, pet adoptions, contests, pet services and products, and more! Dog friendly vendors with items available for purchase will be in attendance. Please have dogs on a leash outside the dog park fence area.

SENIOR RECREATION/RECREATION CENTER

Join us as we watch a video series on the Topic: The Aging Brain during **Lifelong Learning** every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at the Harker Heights Recreation Center.

The Senior Recreation program is offering **Senior Ladies Volleyball** every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. at the Harker Heights Recreation Center. The first 30 minutes is a warm up to follow up with game play.

Last Saturday the Granny Basketball team hosted their charitable event **Battle of the Courts: Granny Basketball Benefit Game**. The Old Glories played against the Harker Heights City Staff. The public was invited and admission was to bring a non-perishable food item for the food drive. Donated items will benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). **The final score** was Old Glories 30 & HH City Staff 17.

Staff is planning exciting events for **Older American Month** for the month of May.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Assistance is available at the Killeen Senior Center at the Lions Club Park, 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop, Killeen from February 4th – April 11th on Mondays and Fridays. The AARP Tax-Aide is by appointment only. Sign-up sheet is located at the front desk of the Killeen Senior Center to make the appointment. Online tax services and information is available online at www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or by calling AARP Tax-Aide information at 888-227-7669. Additional tax assistance information is available online at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers> and <https://www.irs.gov/forms-instructions>.

The Recreation Center offers monthly recreation classes which include **Tae Kwon Do – Beginner and Advance and Swordplay: Recreational Fencing** offered for youth. Adults can join in on Fencing or Hapkido.

We welcome **Recreation and Fitness instructors** to be part of the Parks & Recreation team. Contact Nichole Broemer for more information.