

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ❖ The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on February 12th. Harry Sheppard was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.
- ❖ The Police Department welcomed two new employees on February 18th. Alexis Fujikawa and Samirah Williams were hired for the positions of Telecommunicator.
- ❖ Congratulations to Cesar Valdez on his retirement on February 14th, after serving 16 years with the City.
- ❖ City staff attended the Spring Semester Transition Fair at Copperas Cove High School on February 11th.
- ❖ City staff attended the Resource/Job Fair – Planning for the Future at Shoemaker High School on February 12th.
- ❖ City staff attended the Spring Forward Hiring Event at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center on February 13th.
- ❖ City staff attended the Mini Career Fair at the Phantom Warrior Center on Fort Cavazos on February 19th.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- ❖ Telecommunicator
- ❖ Heavy Equipment Operators
- ❖ Water Service Worker
- ❖ Maintenance Technicians
- ❖ Light Equipment Operator
- ❖ Firefighter/EMT (Paramedic Preferred)
- ❖ Summer Student Library Page
- ❖ Seasonal Lifeguards
- ❖ Seasonal Water Safety Instructor
- ❖ Seasonal Aquatics Cashiers
- ❖ Seasonal Aquatics Supervisors



THE STEWART C. MEYERS HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY

“Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.” The Library continues to celebrate a month of kindness! Filled with displays, Facebook posts, programs, and more, the Library's offerings encourage others to commit Random Acts of Kindness. The Library has offered patrons options for spreading kindness to others through reminders for small acts of kindness, calendars, videos regarding the science of kindness, and more. We even have a Kindness BINGO!



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library has received the 2024 Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA,) an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League. To successfully receive the Achievement of Library Excellence Award, the Library exhibited excellence by providing services to underserved and special populations, marketing in innovative ways, pursuing collaborative efforts, offering enhanced services through unique or expanded programming, providing literacy support, providing for digital inclusion, supporting workforce development, promoting cultural, topical, and educational programming, comprehensively training staff, and offering other unique services to their community. Of the 542 public libraries in Texas, only 102 received this award in 2024.

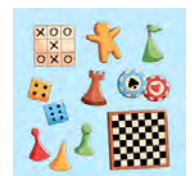


This is the 21st year that the Library has received this award!

Homeschoolers, get together for games, science exploration and more at **Homeschool Meet-Up** in the Maker Space on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 1-3 pm. Make your own masks, create noisemakers and more!



Teens ages 12 – 17: Join us for **board games, card games, and more** on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 1-3 pm. Come to match wits with others!



Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

- ❖ **Wednesday, February 26 at 10am – Here's the Mail Story-time** (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!
- ❖ **Thursday, February 27 at 9am – Here's the Mail Story-time** (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!
- ❖ **Thursday, February 27 at 10am – Here's the Mail Story-time Toddler Time** (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Virtual Programs on the Library's Facebook:

- ❖ **Wednesday, February 26 at 2pm – Feelings Science Time** with Ms. Heather
- ❖ **Thursday, February 27 at 6pm – I'll Send You A Message Family Night** – Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little about a variety of ways to send messages.

The Library provided a space and anime themed maker space at the local **Anime Sunika** Convention in Belton, TX February 15 and 16, 2025. The Library's volunteers came to help patrons of all ages with creative play and arts and crafts!



Are you doing some spring cleaning? Do you have art supplies or unusual items that you would like to donate? The Library can use them to stock our popular Maker Space. Just drop them off anytime that the Library is open. The Friends of the Library is also accepting donations for the annual booksale. Bring in books, audiobooks, music, and more anytime that the Library is open.



Volunteer Kay Townsend returns in a School Readiness program Tuesdays March 4 – May 6, 2025, from 10:00am – 11:30am. Call 254-953-5491 to register your child age 3-5 years old for the first March 4 class! Explore ways to develop early literacy, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, direction following, and more!

Did you know that you can view find job getting information through our **Texas Share Databases 24/7**? Just visit harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library. Click on "Find Information" in the Quick Links menu. Then click on "TexShare." You will need your library card number to access the "Learning Express" database which provides resume assistance, preparation tests for SATs, GEDs, and other entrance exams, job forecasts, and more!



RECREATION CENTER

The Recreation Center is back to normal operation. We appreciate the patrons' patience as we completed the building maintenance needed. All activities and programs have resumed as scheduled.



ABILITY SPORTS

Ability basketball began on February 24 with twenty-five participants

SPORTS

The **Baseball and Softball** season is about to begin. Assessments will be February 24-26.



- ❖ Due to low registration numbers (10) 15U spring softball league was cancelled.

- ❖ **Youth Volleyball Camp** (Spring Break) registration is open and filling fast.



- ❖ **Youth Basketball Camp** (June 9-11, June 16-18, July 7-9, July 14-16) registration is open with limit availability.



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 will be a new activity to keep participants moving and having fun.

February's activity is cornhole.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the **“We Love Our Schools Food Drive”** to benefit the Killeen ISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program) from now to the end of March 2025. Donation boxes are located at the Activity Center lobby on 400 Indian Trail, at the Recreation Center lobby on 307 Miller’s Crossing, and at City Hall on 305 Miller’s Crossing. Items that are needed include: Pasta, rice, mac and cheese, starches, non-perishable snacks, ramen noodles, can openers, and canned veggies. High needed items are peanut butter, chili, soup, pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned meat, and beans. For questions regarding the food drive, please contact Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.

We Love Our Schools
FOOD DRIVE

Donate items to benefit the Killeen ISD H.A.R.P.
(Homeless Awareness Response Program)

ITEMS NEEDED:

Peanut Butter*	Chili*
Pasta	Soup*
Rice	Pasta Sauce*
Macaroni & Cheese	Fruit (canned)*
Starches	Meat (canned)*
Non-Perishable Snacks	Beans*
Ramen Noodles	Veggies (canned)
Can Openers	<small>*Indicates High Need</small>

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:
Accepting donations until March 31, 2025
Activities Center - 400 Indian Trail
Recreation Center - 307 Miller's Crossing

254-953-5493 sgibbs@harkerheights.gov

Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Harker Heights Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Carl Levin Park. Vendor applications for local artists will be opening soon.

Follow the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspr/> for upcoming vendor opportunities.



It's time for spring cleaning. **The Spring Community Garage Sale** will be on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm throughout the Harker Heights City Limits. Residents are invited to participate and host a garage sale at their own home on this day. Residents and non-residents are also welcome to shop around the city and try their luck at finding unique items. Residents have the option to register their sale on the **Community Garage Sale City Map**, however registration is not required. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/harkerheightsevents>. Please note: A CivicRec account is required to register. Registrations are not submitted until after a participant has received a receipt. For questions, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The City is excited to announce the **First Fridays Music Series** running April-June AND September -November. The series will be hosted at Carl Levin Park Amphitheater from 7:00pm- 9:00pm. There is a great line up of musicians. Residents are encouraged to bring their lounge chairs or blankets and enjoy a picnic on the amphitheater lawn.

- Friday April 4- G. Samuels
- Friday, May 2- Glen Meloy
- Friday, June 6- First Calvary Division Pop Band from Fort Cavazos
- Friday, September 5- Harker Heights High School
- Friday, October 3- Lucas Miller
- Friday, November 7- Purple Hull



GO Heights!

There are volunteer opportunities available with the Get Outside Program. Make new friends while sharing your passion with others. Volunteer with our hiking programs, nature education, or teach outdoor skills to those in your community. We welcome both individuals and groups. For more information contact kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465.

Garden plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden. Winter is a great time to grow carrots, cruciferous vegetables, greens, and more. Each raised bed is 4 ft. x 8 ft. The garden provides access to water with hoses and a shed for storage of personal gardening tools. For more information visit us at the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing) or call 254-953-5465.



In partnership with HEB, Hot Cocoa with a Cop will take place on February 27th from 4pm – 6pm at HEB in Harker Heights.



- ❖ In partnership with KISD, the Healthy Homes Division participated in a parent panel held by Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC), which had almost 100 people in attendance. Agencies from around our area like KPD, Children Advocacy Center, Family Advocacy Ft. Cavazos, and Harker Heights Healthy Homes Division, successfully discussed topics that impact children and parents in our community like teen dating violence, family violence, and human trafficking. These collaborations strengthen resources, expand outreach, and create a unified voice to address issues.



- ❖ March 13th 10:30am Heights Cares Committee at the Harker Heights Library.



- ❖ May 17th Health Fair 11am-2pm

DECEMBER 2024



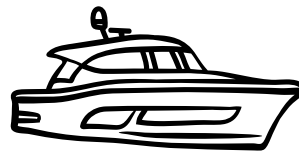
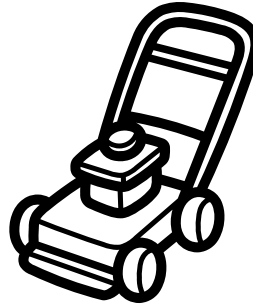
CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY



Monthly Summary

December 1, 2024 thru
December 31, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	36	35.29%
Outside Storage	20	19.61%
Grass Parking	18	17.65%
Other*	14	13.73%
Trailer	6	5.88%
Brush	5	4.90%
Bulk Items	2	1.96%
Basketball Goal	1	0.98%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Fencing	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%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	102	100.00%



Fiscal Year Summary

October 1, 2024 thru
September 30, 2025

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	110	36.91%
Outside Storage	54	18.12%
Grass Parking	44	14.77%
Other*	41	13.76%
Brush	20	6.71%
Bulk Items	13	4.36%
Trailer	6	2.01%
Basketball Goal	3	1.01%
Fencing	3	1.01%
Maintenance	2	0.67%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.34%
Tires	1	0.34%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	298	100.00%

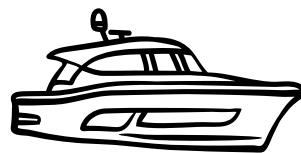
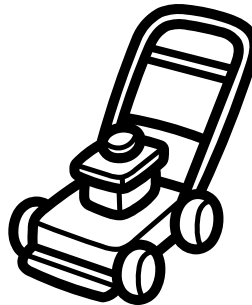
JANUARY 2025

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Monthly Summary

**January 1, 2025 thru
January 31, 2025**

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass Parking	50	34.25%
Outside Storage	24	16.44%
Other*	23	15.75%
Bulk Items	19	13.01%
Grass	6	4.11%
Basketball Goal	4	2.74%
Brush	4	2.74%
Trailer	4	2.74%
Tree limbs	4	2.74%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	3	2.05%
Maintenance	2	1.37%
Skirting	2	1.37%
Tires	1	0.68%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Fencing	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Total	146	100.00%



Fiscal Year Summary

**October 1, 2024 thru
September 30, 2025**

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	116	26.13%
Grass Parking	94	21.17%
Outside Storage	78	17.57%
Other*	64	14.41%
Bulk Items	32	7.21%
Brush	24	5.41%
Trailer	10	2.25%
Basketball Goal	7	1.58%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	4	0.90%
Maintenance	4	0.90%
Tree limbs	4	0.90%
Fencing	3	0.68%
Skirting	2	0.45%
Tires	2	0.45%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Total	444	100.00%