

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

APRIL 13, 2021

LIBRARY

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library has received its **18th Excellence in Library Services Award** from the **Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA)**. TMLDA is an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League. Each year it looks at ten areas of distinction and determines libraries that show excellence in all ten areas. This honor is due in large part to the support provided by the City of Harker Heights administration, departments, City Council, and citizenry. It is as a whole unit that these standards can be met. The Library would like to specifically mention that much of the services provided, **new virtual programming, and innovative ideas have come with collaborations with the Harker Heights Activities Center and the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department**. The Library is fortunate to have such willing and pioneering partners.

The Library celebrated **National Library Week April 4th – 10th**. With Facebook initiatives, virtual programs, booklists, and posts, the Library joins with libraries around the world in welcoming our patrons both inside the Library and to our electronic resources and social media offerings.

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child: April 10th – 16th – with the Library! Join us for a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. Celebrate on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary all week with booklists, links, stories, and more!

Week of the Young Child Virtual Programs:

Wednesday, April 14th is Work Together Wednesday!

Enjoy stories and songs at **Storytime** at 10:15 a.m.

It is a “**Wednesday Surprise**” story share at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 15th is Artsy Thursday!

Have fun with **I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! Storytime** at 10:15 a.m.

Gather everyone for arts and crafts fun for **Family Night** at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 16th is Family Friday!

Get ready for a **special guest reader** at 10:15 a.m.

The Library has begun to offer small group, in-person programs for various age groups. Due to precautionary considerations, all in-person programs have limited availability and will require registration. Face coverings are required for all individuals over the age of 10 at in-person programs. For the latest information on programs, visit the Library's Facebook at www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary. Be on the lookout for special **baby rhyme times, garden story-times, Jedi training, and more!**

ACTIVITY CENTER

Paws in the Park was a big success with many people throughout the event. There were several pet adoptions and contest participants this year.

The **Spring Egg Kit Drive Thru** had over 100 cars stop by the Harker Heights Public Library and Activities Center to pick up free pre-packaged egg kits. About 400 kits were handed out. Families were invited to pick up the kits and enjoy the **Easter Egg Hunt in their own home**. A few cars even received extra prizes for dressing up! Thank you to all who attended. **Senior Recreation members** were invited to participate, and some members did participate in the **Spring Egg Kit Drive Thru**.

The total number of eggs in the **Spring Tree** at the Library and Activities Center Lobby was 191 eggs! **Kellie Eaton** received first place with the guess of 202 eggs. **Hayley van de Plas** received second place for the guess of 174 eggs. **Christine Daniels** received third place for the guess of 167 eggs. Thank you to everyone who participated!

The **Harker Heights Senior Recreation Members** can register to play **Parking Lot Bingo** on Thursday, April 15th. Located at the **Harker Heights Community Park** on 1501 East FM 2410 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., players will be socially distance by playing from their vehicles. Pre-registration is required. Call Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493 to register.

Harker Heights Senior Recreation Members can register for a **Stained Window Art Kit!** This free kit includes a paint brush, paint, and a stained window art. Members can pick up their kit through our contactless curbside drive thru or can paint their kit at the Activities Center on April 19th in Room A starting at 10:00 a.m. Face coverings and social distancing will be required. Pre-registration is required, and limited supply is available. Call Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493 to register yours.

Do you or someone you know sell produce or eggs? The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** is an excellent opportunity for farmers and ranchers! Apply to be a vendor at the market. The **2021 season will begin on May 8th** and will be every Saturday through October 30th at our **new location, Harker Heights City Hall Parking Lot at 305 Miller's Crossing** from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Call Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov for an application.

The **Spring Fun Day in the Park** will be held on April 24th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Located at **Carl Levin Park at 400 Miller's Crossing** in Harker Heights, this fun day invites families to check out art vendors, a pop-up activity trailer, art activities, and more! For information about the event or becoming a vendor, please contact Sara at sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5493.

Harker Heights **Senior Recreation** in person/in building classes will be gradually returning with precautionary measures and limit class sizes. **Stretchercise** will start on April 20th and other classes starting in May. **Stretchercise** will be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Follow us to find out more information on upcoming classes.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The **Parks and Recreation Department** welcomed a new employee on March 29th. **Nathan Kime** was hired for the position of Light Equipment Operator.

The **Police Department** welcomed a new employee on April 5th. **Sara Clark** was hired for the position of Telecommunicator.

The City is currently accepting applications for two vacant **Light Equipment Operator** positions in the Parks and Recreation Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A citizen who recently lost her daughter to suicide recognized **Lieutenant Jay Leach** and **Officer Michael O'Hala** for assisting her on the night of the incident and for continuing to check on her since the incident. The citizen is also very grateful for Officer O'Hala giving her a ride to the hospital on the night of the incident.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department (HHPRD) started its first-ever **Disc Golf League** at Purser Family Park on April 5th.

Visit the Recreation Center for one of our **Open Gym** times including Basketball, Wheelchair Basketball, Kid Gym, or Pickleball. Details for open gym can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department webpage.

All **Youth Soccer** teams from the HHPRD U10, U12, and U15 divisions will compete in the **Central Texas Youth Sports League Tournaments** this week against Killeen Parks and Rec teams.

Youth Volleyball registration opens April 15th. Registration can be found online or in person at the Recreation Center.

The Recreation Center will host in-person **Learn-to-Swim Registration** on Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 a.m. Space is limited!