

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 25, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Congratulations to **Richard Fierro** on his promotion to Assistant Chief Plant Operator on January 8th.

Congratulations to **Aaron Carroll** on his promotion to Maintenance Technician II on January 8th.

Congratulations to **Joshua Ramirez-Figueroa** on his promotion to Human Resources Clerk on January 10th.

Congratulations to **Jaden Seals** on his promotion to Part Time Athletics Aide on January 22nd.

The Municipal Court welcomed back **Andrea Contreras** to the position of Deputy Court Clerk on January 10th.

The **Public Works Department** welcomed a new employee on January 18th. **Antavious Collins** was hired for the position of Light Equipment Operator in the Street Department.

The **Activities Center Department** welcomed a new employee on January 24th. **Kailie Gomez** was hired for the position of Outdoor Programs Coordinator.

The **Police Department** will be welcoming new employees in February. **Alexandra Gloria** will begin field training as a Police Officer Trainee on February 1st. **Pablo Virgen, Jalon Johnson and Matthew Enos** were hired on February 9th as Police Officer Trainees and will begin the Police Academy on February 14th.

The City is currently taking applications for the position of **Certified Police Officer Trainee**.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to Officer Crystal Thomas who was selected as the **2021 Police Officer of the Year!** Officer Thomas has been with the Police Department since January of 2015 and has served in the Community Services Division for the past several years. Officer Thomas is one of the main faces of the department and has played a key role in the Community Services Division's success and growth.

LIBRARY

The **Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library** looks forward to 2022 with a new inventory of our materials. The Library will be closed on Saturday, January 29th, and it will reopen on Monday, January 31st, at 9:00 a.m. to resume normal operating hours. The **Library's Wi-Fi** access will shut down at 6:00p.m. on Friday, January 28th and resume at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 31st.

The Library is holding an **AMNESTY** for fines on books that are returned between now and Sunday, January 30th. There's still a few days left to return your overdue Library materials without paying fines. Return your Library materials no matter how overdue they are and any overdue fines accrued on those returned items will be forgiven! Costs for lost or damaged materials will still be charged. This does not apply to any fines already on the account.

“**The Brand New Kid**” is the theme for Friday’s **VIRTUAL** story-time on Friday, January 28th, at 10:00 a.m. **The Military Child Education Coalition** brings a parent and child program. This feel good story allows families to bond even in trying times. Children ages 6 and younger and their families Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yxqyzkd2> before or during the event. **Pre-registration** by Wednesday, January 26th, qualifies you for a **craft kit** to be picked up at the Library on Thursday, January 27th!

How is your reading and listening going for a **Book Challenge for 2022**? Thanks to the “**Goodwill Librarian**,” the Library has a pretty impressive adventure for all of our intrepid readers and audiobook listeners! Join us for this “**just for fun**” challenge. You will read fifty books (at least) of your choice that will fall into specific categories. What is the prize? Glory – of course – and a full year of fun and intriguing reading experiences. Get a copy of the challenge at the Library or take a look at <https://www.harkerheights.gov/adult-programs>! Let us know when you have finished by e-mailing lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov, and we will make a **BIG DEAL** about it on our Facebook page. Remember, audiobooks count!

We are celebrating **Weather Wonders** this week at the Library! Join us for our popular virtual programs on the Library’s Facebook page.

Join us on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary> for **Story-time** on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., **Science time** on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., **Family Night** on Thursdays at 6:00p.m., and **Guest Readers** on Friday at 10:15 a.m. We will also continue to post additional special events, story-times, and more! These programs can be viewed when it is convenient for you and your family.

Make this the year of service! If you are looking to give back to your community, investigate volunteering at the Library! From assisting with programs, to preparing for large events, to organizing materials, the Library has a project for everyone. Do you have a group that would like to work on a special project? Do you need to volunteer time to fulfill service requirements for school or clubs? Just call 254-953-5492 or e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov for more information.

PARKS AND RECREATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

Attention all dads, uncles, and grandpas. **The King & Princess Dance** will be on February 11th at the Activities Center from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration opens on January 31st. Be sure to get your FREE ticket at <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/catalog>. Enjoy crafts, DJ, and dancing with your princess.

Members of the **Senior Recreation Program** are invited to the **Seniors Sweethearts Dance**! Dance with other members of the program or bring a friend or date. The dance will be held Saturday, February 12th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Ages 50 and up. Registration opens on January 31st at <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/catalog>. This event is free. For more information, call 254-953-5493.

Dance the night away at the **Valentines Family Dance**! Bring your friends and family to the Harker Heights Activities Center to enjoy a night of dancing, crafts, and more! The dance will be held Saturday, February 12th from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. All ages are welcome. Registration opens on January 31st at <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/catalog>. For more information, call 254-953-5493.

ATHLETICS

The **Winter Youth Soccer** teams are formed, and practices begin on January 25th with nearly 500 participants!

Fall Youth Basketball finished on January 11th. Thank you to all of the coaches, officials, players, and parents for a great season!

Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball registration opens on January 31st and runs through March 23rd.

ACTIVITIES CENTER

The **Activities Center** is partnering with the **Stewart C. Meyer Public Library** to open up a **Makerspace** at the Activities Center. This is a collaborative work-space for the public to learn, explore, and find like-minded people. Resources open to the public and staff includes; specialty craft tools, sewing machines, robotics kits, electric keyboard, learning kits, craft supplies, and more. Stay tuned for new STEM-based programs. Donations are being accepted for craft supplies and specialty tools. Contact Activities staff at 254-953-5466 to arrange donation drop-offs.

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.

SENIOR RECREATION/RECREATION CENTER

Staff is currently renewing members of the **Senior Recreation Program** for 2022. Seniors (50+) can renew or become a member of the Senior Recreation program in person or by going online through our new Civic Rec portal. Once registration is completed the participant will receive a Senior Rec check in card.

With the **Recreation Center's new Civic Rec** registration program, the staff is issuing open gym and senior recreation **Check In Cards**. The participant will visit the front desk to scan their check in card for the program in which they are participating for that day and pay appropriate fees if applicable.

January and February's **Senior Day Trip** is to the **Bell County Museum in Belton**. The trip will be on January 28th and February 25th from 8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Preregistration is required by visiting or calling the Recreation Center. The Seniors will enjoy many exhibits to include a temporary exhibit – Private Charles J. Miller: WWII Paintings from the South Pacific.

Senior Lifelong Learning will be returning on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. starting January 27th. Participants will use a video series to learn a variety of topics. For more information, contact Nichole Broemer at 254-953-5683.

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>.