

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



**MAY 14, 2024**

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

## Human Resources Department

The Parks Department welcomed six seasonal employees and a part time employee. Grace Gower was hired for the position of Lifeguard on April 19th. Ann Lajarin Rivero was hired for the position of Aquatics Supervisor on April 30th. Vincent Palmisano and Diego Plata were hired for the position of Lifeguard on May 7th and Madelyn Dixon was hired for the position of Lifeguard on May 10th. Amy Pafford was hired for the position of Lifeguard on May 13th. Melissa Pope was hired for the position of Part Time Recreatoin Aide on May 8th.

The Public Works Department welcomed four new Wastewater Maintenance Technicians and an Inventory Line Locator. Branden Morgan was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician on April 25th, Aristotle Rhoades was hired for the position Wastewater Maintenance Technician on April 29th and Orlando Calderon De la Rosa was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenace Technician on April 30th. Jessica Plant was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician on May 13th. Trevor Jorgensen was hired for the position of Inventory Line Located on May 1st.

The Municipal Court welcomed a new employee on May 14th. Eugene Cuthbert was hired for the position of Part Time Bailiff.

The Library will be welcoming a seasonal employee on May 28th. Rachel Yancey was hired for the position of Summer Library Page.

The Fire Department promoted an employee. On April 13th, Zachary Gauthier was promoted to the position of Driver/Pump Operator. Congratulations Zachary!

The Pet Adoption Center promoted an employee on May 11th. Victoria Ellis was promoted to the position of Animal Services Officer.

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:

- Animal Services Officers
- Telecommunicator
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Student Library Page



The Library's Summer Reading Club is coming this June 2024! Everyone of all ages can join this free "Read, Renew, Repeat" summer reading club! Read on your own and/or attend one or more of our many upcoming programs! From special presenters, to 3D printing, to Bridgerton garden party, to cosplay night, the Library will have something for everyone. We will send our Summer Reading Club program booklets to elementary aged children in Harker Heights area schools. The booklets are also available at the Library and online at <https://harkerheights.gov/librarispecialevents>. Get an early start signing up for the virtual part of our club at our Readsquared website at <https://harkerheights.readsquared.com>. There you can sign up for the club, log your books and/or hours, earn virtual badges, complete missions, and see booklists!



Do you want to give back to the community? Volunteer for the Library! The Library offers an array of opportunities including virtual volunteering, volunteering on a regular schedule, volunteering for special events, and a little of all of these. Volunteering is a great way serve your town while you build your resume, experiences, and contact lists. E-mail Lisa at [lyoungblood@harkerheight.gov](mailto:lyoungblood@harkerheight.gov) for more information. In most cases Library volunteer hours count towards service time needed to fulfill class, club, and other requirements.



Our youngest patrons and their families are invited for our early literacy programs!

**Babytime Lapsit Program | Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.**

- Babies and their adults will sing songs, rhymes, and learn fingerplays! Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. For children ages 0-18 months. No older siblings, please.

**Storytime for Preschoolers | Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (through May) and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. (year-round)**

- Visit the Library each week for a variety of stories, songs and more! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. For children ages 3-6 years old and their families.

**Toddler Time Stories | Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.**

- Visit the Library each week for a variety of stories, songs and more! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. For children ages 0-3 years old and their families.

**Family Storytime | 2nd Thursday of Each Month at 6:30 p.m.**

- The entire family is invited to visit the Library for stories and songs! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis.

- Ms. Kay is back and providing school readiness programs for parents and children ages 3-6 years old **each Tuesday in June and July at 10 am**. Children ages 3-6 and their families enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and work on literacy skills, fine and gross motor skills, and social emotional learning. Registration is required for this program each week. Call 254-953-5491 to register beginning May 21st, 2024.

- **Learn Guitar Basics at the Library!**

**June 4 | June 18 | July 2 | July 16 | August 6 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Bring your guitar to the Library and learn fundamental skills with one of the instructors from Music and Arts of Harker Heights. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register for the June 4th class beginning May 20th, 2024. Subsequent sessions will open for registration two weeks prior to the meeting date. For ages 6 to 14 years old.



Seniors ages 50 and up enjoyed our “Night of a Thousand Lights” Senior Prom on Saturday, May 11 from 4-7pm! The Harker Heights Senior Recreation program, the Library, and Chaparral High School are worked together to present a night to remember! Seniors ages 50 years and up came in party wear, dressed to the nines, or just as they were. We had light snacks, music, photo ops, and more! Thank you to all of our partners and volunteers!



Star Wars May the 4th Be With You was a great day at the Library! From light saber training, to fencing, to crafts, games, and more, attendees had a great time! Thank you to our volunteers and partners: Jo Tye from Recreational Fencing, Central Texas College Epically Geeky Expo, Texas A & M University Central Texas Library, Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club Kar'ta Beskar Clan, and of course our incredible Library Volunteers!



The Library offers a variety of ebooks and electronic audiobook resources available to you 24/7. Take a look at the Library’s collections of teen and children’s materials from TumbleBooks and TumbleMath. Use your library card number to access these resources. For TumbleBook Library is a collection of over 11,000 titles for grades K-6 and includes talking picture books, chapter books, videos, graphic novels, and non-fiction. For access, go to [tumblebooklibrary.com](http://tumblebooklibrary.com). Use username: harkerheightspl and password: books. TumbleMath is a comprehensive collection of math picture books with animation and narration. For access, go to [tumblemath.com](http://tumblemath.com) and use username: harkerheightspl and password: math.





## RECREATION CENTER

- The Recreation Center will be an **Early Voting** location for the upcoming **Primary Runoff Election**. Monday, May 20 - Friday, May 24, 2024, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.
- The Recreation Center will be an **Election Day** location for the **Primary Runoff Election** on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.

## ATHLETICS

The **2024 Youth Sports Schedule** has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website.

- **Youth Soccer** registration opens June 3rd-July 17 for the Fall Season.



**Ability Bowling** registration is open. Bowling will be on Mondays from 6 pm, June 3 to July 8, at Hallmark Lanes.



**Ability Pickleball** registration begins May 15. Pickleball will be on Mondays at 6 pm, July 15 – August 19, at Heights Athletic Club.



## AQUATICS

- **Swim Lesson** registration is open and can be done in person at the Recreation Center.



# Parks & Recreation Department



## SENIOR RECREATION



- **Active Seniors (50+)** are invited to PLAY a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm at the Recreation Center. Each month will be a new activity to keep you moving and having fun. May's activity is Bocce (weather permitted) & Ping Pong.

### Older Americans Month May 2024

- ❖ **Senior (50+) Prom** was held this past Saturday at the Activities Center and was a blast. We had around 60 in attendance, including staff and volunteers. The senior citizens enjoyed music, dancing, photos, and light refreshments. The Parks & Recreation staff would like to thank the Library Director Lisa Young and her staff Hal, Angie, and Annette, and the Chaparral High School Chick-fil-A Leader Academy students for all their help with set up, serving, entertaining, and tear down. Thank you to our partners, UnitedHealthcare and Elegant Expressions by Sylvia.



- ❖ Thank you to TNC Appliance Services for being the guest speaker at Monday's **Lunch & Learn**. They discussed appliance upkeep and safety and dealing with service repair workers.

- ❖ Friday, May 24, 2024 – **Go Bananas**, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Recreation Center, 307 Miller's Crossing. Our staff is going bananas for our seniors. Seniors are invited for banana splits and ice cream sundaes. Registration is not required.



- ❖ Thursday, May 30, 2024 – **Games Galore**, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Recreation Center, 307 Miller's Crossing. Seniors are invited to come by the Recreation Center to play a variety of games and enjoy snacks. Registration is not required.



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** is back in season. Visit the Harker Heights City Hall parking lot on 305 Miller's Crossing on Saturdays in May, June, and July between the hours of 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The market offers fresh produce, meat, eggs, jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods, hand-crafted items, and other delicious treats. Vendors pick and choose the weekends they wish to be at the market so that some weekends may have different vendors from previous weekends. The market will take a break from August and September but will resume the season in October and run through December to enjoy the fall and winter months. Follow the Harker Heights Farmers Market on Facebook for updates on the 2024 season on [facebook.com/heights FM](https://facebook.com/heightsFM). For more information or vendor applications, email [sgibbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgibbs@harkerheights.gov) or visit <https://harkerheights.gov/parksandrec>



**2024 Season!**

**Harker Heights  
Farmers Market**

**SATURDAYS 9 AM - 1 PM**

**MAY - JULY | OCT - DEC**  
**305 MILLER'S CROSSING**



**254-953-5493**

## GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- The family camp-out initially scheduled for May 14-15 has been rescheduled for June 15-16.

**HARKER HEIGHTS PARKS AND RECREATION**

**STATE PARK CAMPOUT**

**June 15th-June 16th 2024**

**McKinney Falls State Park**

Enjoy an overnight camping trip to McKinney Falls State Park! Learn the basics of how to camp, explore the park, and enjoy the great outdoors with Harker Heights Parks and Recreation.

Pre-Registration Required. Scan the QR code or visit us at the HH Recreation Center (307 Millers Crossing) to register.

**FREE** Camping Supplies & Limited Transportation Provided

Hiking  
Picnic Area  
Bicycle  
Trails  
Showers

This program is in partnership with Texas Parks & Wildlife as a part of the Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant. The program is for families with youth ages 9+ and who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch.  
Contact: [kgomez@harkerheights.gov](mailto:kgomez@harkerheights.gov) or call 254-953-5465

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE  
Life's better outside.  
PROUD PARTNER

## PROGRAMS

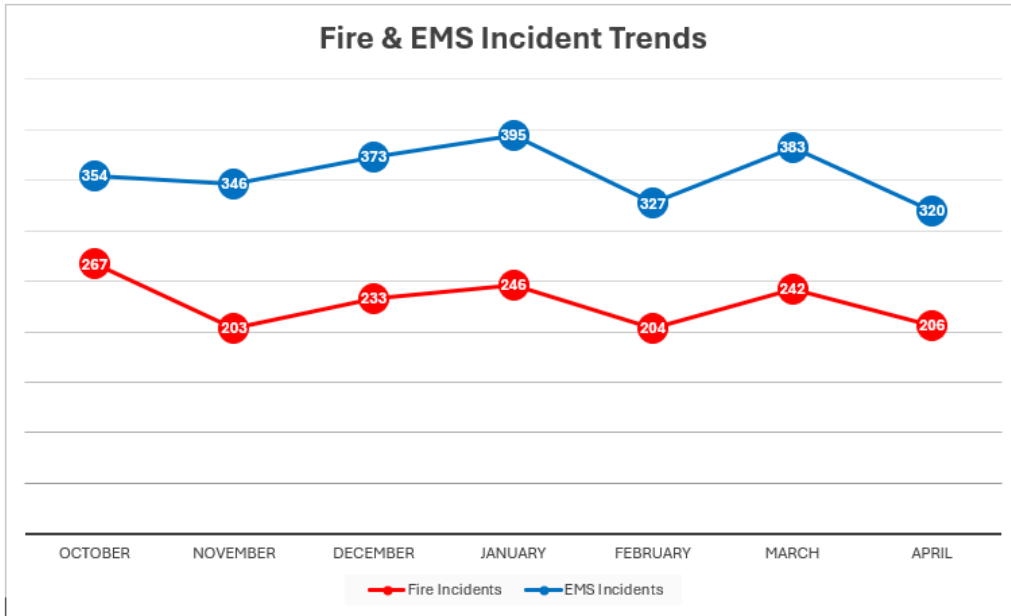
Learn to geocache in a come-and-go program at Carl Levin Park (400 Miller's Crossing) on **May 25, 2024, from 11 am to 1 pm**. Reservation is not Required. Meet near the pool.

Bell County Master Gardeners will teach a free Container Gardening class on **Monday, May 20, from 6-7:30 pm** at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail). Register online through Civic Rec <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTMwNTcwNDg> or visit the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing). Walk-ins welcome.

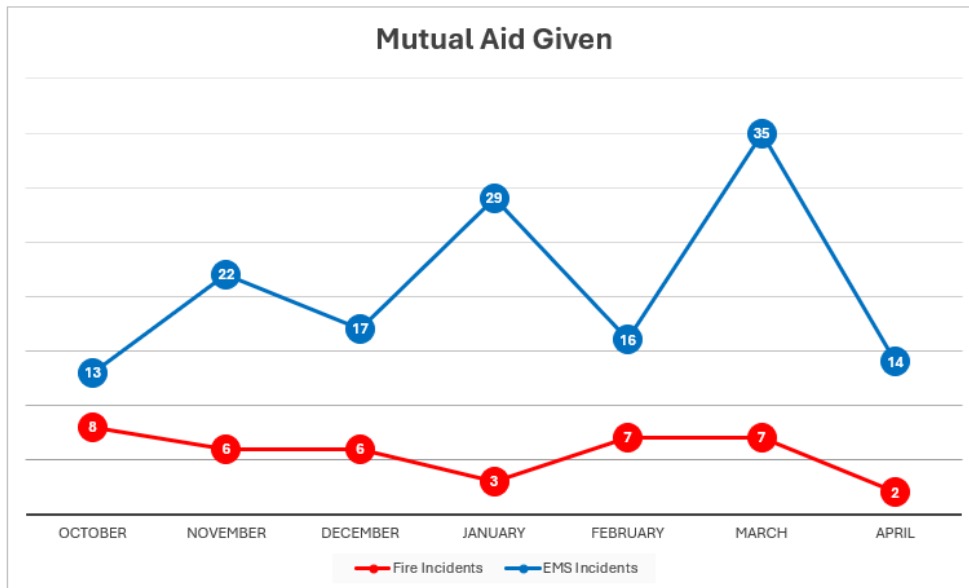
# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Due to recent weather events, the Wildland Fire Mitigation prevention work along Comanche Gap Road in Dana Peak Park has been rescheduled to June 5-0, 2024.

Harker Heights Fire Department  
Incident Trends – October 1, 2023 through April 31, 2024



Harker Heights Fire Department  
Incident Trends – October 1, 2023 through April 31, 2024







# Finance Department



## ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$458,586.58	\$425,468.44	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59
February	\$534,106.66	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74
March	\$505,890.78	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11
April	\$449,213.99	\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05
May		\$577,032.32	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28
June		\$508,923.56	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93
July		\$549,266.57	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64
August		\$700,084.97	\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99
September		\$732,809.66	\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61
October		\$640,193.47	\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72
November		\$644,238.19	\$597,938.12	\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61
December		\$560,893.99	\$529,760.67	\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34

\*As of April 26, 2021, automatic credit card drafts are now part of the online utility bill payment totals.

## AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$111,335.93	\$104,768.73	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16
February	\$122,733.86	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11
March	\$113,274.41	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41
April	\$97,246.60	\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65
May		\$128,587.47	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54
June		\$117,678.21	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21
July		\$116,990.27	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84
August		\$160,801.83	\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64
September		\$149,676.66	\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86
October		\$140,226.20	\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75
November		\$141,456.45	\$131,364.63	\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20
December		\$117,512.11	\$114,240.31	\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98



## KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	\$15,526.79	\$14,230.92	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25
February	\$14,866.27	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02
March	\$16,016.08	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01
April	\$13,150.82	\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99
May		\$16,807.66	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43
June		\$16,308.52	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19
July		\$16,201.62	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38
August		\$21,416.32	\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80
September		\$21,162.07	\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28
October		\$16,367.61	\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50
November		\$20,801.21	\$17,225.45	\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33
December		\$15,884.88	\$19,102.03	\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30

## NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
January	4,165	3,798	3,565	3,245	2,719
February	4,192	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759
March	4,222	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880
April	4,264	3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819
May		3,927	3,654	3,364	2,847
June		3,960	3,698	3,396	2,931
July		4,061	3,695	3,461	2,976
August		4,021	3,747	3,505	3,069
September		4,054	3,746	3,523	3,072
October		4,092	3,789	3,536	3,127
November		4,105	3,757	3,548	3,186
December		4,128	3,749	3,533	3,201

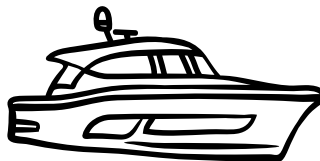
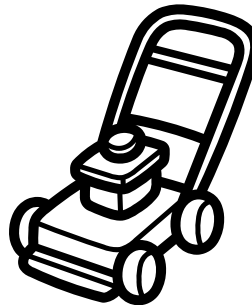
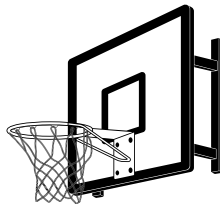
**BELL COUNTY WCID #1 OPTION/ELECTION WATER BILLING CREDIT**

<u>Total Number of Accounts</u>	<u>One-time Water Credit Amount</u>
12,000	\$332,160.00



# APRIL 2024 CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
April 1 thru April 30, 2023		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	123	52.34%
Grass Parking	31	13.19%
Outside Storage	28	11.91%
Bulk Items	15	6.38%
Trailer	13	5.53%
Other*	12	5.11%
Brush	6	2.55%
Tree limbs	4	1.70%
Building Inspection	1	0.43%
Fencing	1	0.43%
Junk Vehicle	1	0.43%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	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%
Total	235	100.00%



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	725	42.92%
Grass Parking	265	15.69%
Outside Storage	254	15.04%
Other*	139	8.23%
Bulk Items	77	4.56%
Brush	62	3.67%
Trailer	44	2.61%
Maintenance	33	1.95%
Fencing	16	0.95%
Trash	16	0.95%
Tires	12	0.71%
Basketball Goal	11	0.65%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	10	0.59%
Building Inspection	8	0.47%
Junk Vehicle	6	0.36%
Tree limbs	5	0.30%
Skirting	4	0.24%
Boat	2	0.12%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	1,689	100.00%





City of Harker Heights  
Planning & Development  
305 Miller's Crossing  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
[planning@harkerheights.gov](mailto:planning@harkerheights.gov)

## Economic Development Report

### APRIL 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **two (2)** commercial remodeling permits within the month of April.

- 600 W Central Texas Expressway, Sam's Club
  - Valued at \$5,500.00
- 201 E Central Texas Expressway Suite 2150, Dick's Sporting Goods
  - Valued at \$250,000.00

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **nine (9)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of April.

- Five on Saddlebred Loop, combined value at \$956,743.00
- Three on Paso Fino, combined valued at \$524,535.00
- One on Cedar Bluff Court, valued at \$710,100.00

The City issued a total of **three (3)** permits for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of April.

- Two on Meadow White Lane, combined valued at \$460,000.00
- One on S. Mary Jo, valued at \$220,000.00

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of seventeen (17) residential permits: twelve (12) single-family permits, five (5) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of April 30, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35, 577** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 835 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.