

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



February 28, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

- The Public Works Department promoted an employee on February 18th. Patrick Wilson was promoted to the position of FOG/Collections Operator.
- The Fire Department will be promoting two employees on March 4th. Justin Elliott will be promoted to the position of Lieutenant and Justin Read will be promoted to the position of Driver/Pump Operator.
- The Police Department will be promoting three employees on April 1st. Dennis McAfee will be promoted to the position of Lieutenant and Kelly Metress and Russell Dunagan will be promoted to the position of Sergeant.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

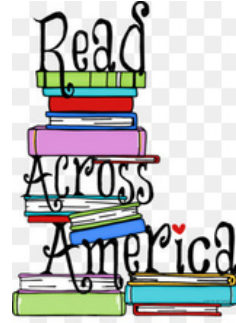
- Animal Services Officers
- Utilities Superintendent
- Light Equipment Operators
- Police Officer Trainees
- Firefighter/EMT (paramedic preferred)
- Maintenance Technicians



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is ready for spring! From re-decorating the huge tree in the lobby, to beautifying the Library's main areas, to setting up displays, to providing new and inviting programs, the Library staff prepares to offer fun and inspiring Library experiences!

Annual Read Across America Week officially is Thursday, March 2 - 6, 2023, but the Library just can't wait! We have already started celebrating with displays, virtual booklists, educational handouts, and more! The Library will provide an array of in-person and virtual programs celebrating Read Across America Week!



In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, March 1 at 10am - Let's Go Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) - Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!

Thursday, March 2 at 9am - Read Across America Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) - Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, March 2 at 10am - Read Across America Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) - Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Virtual Read Across America Programs on the Library's Facebook:

Wednesday, March 1 at 2pm - Whisper-Ma-Phone Science with Ms. Heather

Thursday, March 2 at 6pm - Let's Be Kind Virtual Family Night - Fill up your kindness jar with stories and an artistic craft which you can easily make from home.

Friday, March 3 at 10:15am - Guest Reader - Local Author and Illustrator William Gribble shares "The Four Bears and the Wizard." Are you ready for an exciting adventure? Follow four brave bear siblings as they house hunt with a wizard! The wizard has his sights set on their beloved home, except it's not for sale. When the reality of this sets in, the wizard becomes frustrated and takes out his temper by destroying their home. It's a difficult situation but through it all the bears show each other unwavering support and come out victorious.

In-Person Read Across America Maker Space:

Wednesday, March 1, and Thursday, March 2 from 10am - 3:00 pm - Drop in at the Library to create your own inspiring works encouraging you and others to READ-READ-READ!

Are you interested in learning the art and science of 3D printing? Register for the Library's FREE class on Thursday, March 16 from 10:30am - 12:30pm OR Saturday, March 18 from 1-3pm. Call 254-953-5491 to sign up participants ages 10 and up. These classes are excellent for children, teens, and adults.

Spring Break is coming March 11 - 18, 2023, and the Library is offering a large array of programs, Maker Space specials, booklists, and more. Check out the Library's website and Facebook page beginning March 1 for a complete list of programs for all ages!

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Did you know that you can view the World Book Encyclopedia 24/7 from your phone or computer? Just visit harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library. Click on "Find Information" in the Quick Links menu. Then click on "World Book." You will need your library card number to access this updated information, e-books, timelines, and more!

Planning and Development

Congrats to Yvonne Spell and the Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership on their recognition as Phantom Warrior awardee for the Community Support to Fort Hood Award! Ms. Spell is currently the Chairperson of the Cen-Tex staff committee.



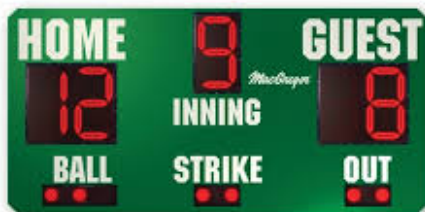
Parks & Recreation Department

ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Maker Space continues it's open times into the school year. (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am - 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm - 5 pm.)
- Extended Hours for the Maker Space for Spring Break! Come check out all the amazing resources you have available for free.
- Check out the Game Room every Monday and Friday from 10 am - 3 pm

ATHLETICS

- Visit the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation website to see the new 2023 Youth Sports Calendar.
- We're looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball season! We are excited to announce a new partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports in an effort to ensure that youth sports coaches have all the tools necessary to be successful. We will require NAYS Coach Training and membership, which will be offered free of charge to head coaches for all of our youth league teams!
- Our youth sports program don't happen without dedicated umpires, referees, and scorekeepers. Contact the Recreation Center if you would like more information on becoming one!



Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION

- Join us as we celebrate National Pi Day on Tuesday, March 14 from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Feel free to join the fun with ping pong and pie. Seniors are welcome to bring a favorite pie to share.
- March's BINGO will be on Thursday, March 16 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- Ladies Night Out is scheduled for Thursday, March 16 at 5:00 pm. The restaurant is to be determined. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own supper. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.
- Seniors are invited to participate in Lunch & Learn on Friday, March 17 from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Staff is confirming the details with guest speaker. The topic will to be determined once the details are finalized. The maximum number of participants is 20. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.
- Come check out the Old Glories versus Harker Heights City Staff at the Battle of the Court: Annual Granny Basketball Benefit Game on Saturday, March 18 at 1:00 pm. The game will be held at the Recreation Center and admission is a non-perishable food item or new package of Socks or Underwear (all sizes welcome). Donated admission items to benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). This will be the second year and staff is excited to play the Seniors.
- Senior Ping Pong: Table Tennis started February 7 and was a big hit. Come to the Recreation Center every Tuesday from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm to participate in Senior Ping Pong.



- Recreation Center and Senior Program Manager, Nichole Broemer, recently reached out to the active senior living communities, retirement communities, and assisted living centers in the area to start fostering a relationship among our department and their residents.

Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

- The first session of Folklorico will be offered on Monday evenings from February 6 - April 26. Ages 6 - Adults are invited to learn about the Mexican culture through a creative way to exercise. The session includes twelve classes and a recital and cost \$40 per session. Space is limited to 15 participants per age class per session.



- We have new changes to our Yoga classes. Adaptive Chair Yoga which meets on Mondays from 10 am - 11 am for ages 18 and up has lowered the price to \$8/\$5 (ages 50+) per class rate. Feel Good Yoga offered on Tuesdays for ages 10 and up with a monthly charge of \$48/\$40 (ages 50+); has a drop in rate \$14/\$12 (ages 50+) per class.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Volunteer Reception Ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 9 from 6 pm - 8 pm at the Carl Levin Park on 400 Miller's Crossing. The ceremony is held every year to say thank you to our volunteers for all the hard work.
- Bring your fur babies and visit Barks and Rec! This event will be held on Friday, March 17 from 6 pm - 9 pm. Activities include activities, dog contests, food trucks, and a showing of the movie, Lady and the Tramp! Visit the Pet Adoption Center (403 Indian Trail) from 6 pm - 8 pm for the fun activities, then be sure to stick around for the movie at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail).



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- **Save the date for spring cleaning! The Spring Community Garage Sale will be held throughout the City of Harker Heights on Saturday, March 18 from 7 am - 5 pm. Residents are invited to host a garage sale at their homes or are welcome to shop around the city. Residents are welcome to sign up their garage sale and have it listed on the Community Garage Sale Map by visiting <http://bit.ly/3IICjJ6>. The last day to register is March 7. Stay up to date with updates by following the event page on <https://bit.ly/3Kod3cx>.**



- **Art in the Park is on April 29, 2023 from 4 pm - 8 pm in Carl Levin Park. Check out art vendors, participate in art projects, enjoy games, and live music.**

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Join us for a Hike at Dana Peak Park (3800 Comanche Gap Rd) Wednesday, March 1 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. The distance will depend on the group. All ages & fitness levels are welcome! *Registration is encouraged* We will meet at the 90-degree turn, just before the Dana Peak Park gate, and will leave for the hike shortly after 6pm. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, and plenty of water. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.**



- **Tree Planting & Care with Texas A&M Forest Service-Learn how to properly plant trees and care for them with Texas A&M Forest Service Thursday March 9th from 6pm-7:30pm at the Activities Center 400 Indian Trail. Reservation is required. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.**



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- Join us for a Hike at Dana Peak Park (3800 Comanche Gap Rd) Wednesday, March 15 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. The distance will depend on the group. All ages & fitness levels are welcome! *Registration is encouraged* We will meet at the 90-degree turn, just before the Dana Peak Park gate, and will leave for the hike shortly after 6pm. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, and plenty of water. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



- The annual Family Campout will be Saturday April 1st-Sunday April 2nd at Dana Peak Park. The campout will include scheduled activities as well as free time for families to explore the park. Registration is required. The campout is \$15.00 per person, 5 and under are free. Please register each participant by visiting Civic Rec or the Recreation Center.



URBAN FORESTRY

Living Legacy Day took place on February 18, 2023. The City planted three trees in Carl Levin Park that were donated through the Living Legacy Program. Thank you to the families for their donations.