

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



MARCH 12, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Fire Department welcomed a new employee on March 4th. Joshua Brown was hired for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic.

The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on March 11th. Jonathan Hicks was hired for the position of Wastewater Superintendent.

Fire Department Driver/Pump Operator Walter Elvidge announced his retirement to be effective March 28th, after 18 years of service to the City.

The Human Resources Department attended the UT College of Liberal Arts Spring 2024 Career and Internship Fair on February 28th.

The Human Resources Department attended the TWC Spring Forward Event on March 5th.

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:

- Police Officer Trainee
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution System Flushing Technician
- Inventory/Line Locator
- Wastewater Maintenance Technician
- Streets Senior Equipment
- Wastewater Collections/Operator
- Water Service Worker
- Aquatics and Other Summer Job Opportunities!



Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library has received the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association 2023 Award for Excellence in Library Services. The Library exhibited excellence in ten service areas. The Library would like to thank the City Council, City Administration, and other City Departments. All of their support and assistance makes this award truly a City award.

Spring Break is this week, and the Library has plenty to do for all ages! We have plenty left to do! Our theme this year is Out of This World! Take a look at the complete list of events on our website at harkerheights.gov/library.

Spring Break Events

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Stars and Science Austin Planetarium Show 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM | 2:00 PM | For all ages. Go inside a mobile planetarium to learn about the sun, moon, and the upcoming Total Eclipse! Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Preschool Storytime 9:00 AM | For children 3-6 years old and their families. Children 3-6 years old and their families will read stories, sing songs, and more!
Toddler Time 10:00 AM | For children 0-3 years old and their families. Children 0-3 years old and their families will read stories, sing songs, and more!)

Family Night: Let's Build Sun and Moon Solar Eclipse Models 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | All ages welcome. Families may choose to build a solar eclipse demonstration model together or create a sun dial craft, perfect for younger participants!

Friday, March 15, 2024

Game Room 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | For all ages. Play board games, card games, and video games!

Read to Monty the Therapy Dog beginning at 2:00 PM | For children ages 6 years old and up. Children ages 6 and up can pick out a Library book to read to Monty! **Registration required.** Please call (254) 953-5491 beginning March 4th, 2024.

More Spring Break Events!

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Pokémon and Yi-Gi-Oh! Card Games 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | For all ages.

**Teen and Adult Dungeons and Dragons 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | For ages 14 and up.
Registration required.** Please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov

Spring Break Makerspace open Monday -Friday from 10am – 5pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm! Maker Space hours will return to normal Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am – 5pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm when Spring Break is over on March 16.

The Library is celebrating Women's History Month throughout March! Drop by the Library and check our Facebook page for booklists, displays, and more!

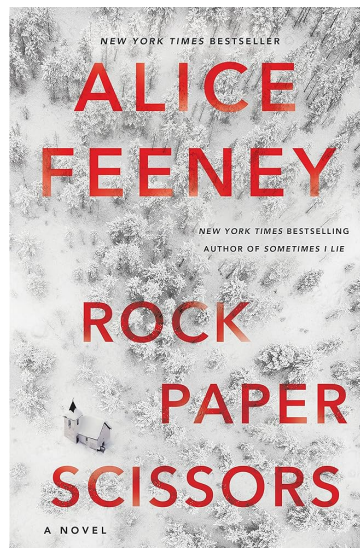
Preschool programs don't stop when Spring Break Ends! The Library staff firmly believe in the importance of early literacy for our children. Visit up for one or more of our preschool programs.

Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

- **Wednesday, March 20 at 10am – Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!**
- **Thursday, March 21 at 9am – Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!**
- **Thursday, March 21 at 10am – Very Hungry Caterpillar 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

Join the Library's Book Discussion Club for Adults! We meet each third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. This month's book is "Rock, Paper, Scissors" by Alice Feeney. Trying to regain spark in their failing marriage, a couple decides to accept a mysterious gift of a weekend away. What awaits them they could never have expected.



Are you hungry and looking for something different to prepare? Do you want to explore world cultures through recipes? Take a look at the Library's NEW A to Z Food America database at <https://www.atozfoodamerica.com/home.html> and the NEW A to Z World Food database at <https://www.atozworldfood.com/home.html>! Take this chance to explore culinary delights!



www.AtoZWorldFood.com

RECREATION CENTER & ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Recreation Center will be hosting a three-day **archery camp** from March 11 – 13, 2024. Normal daytime activities in the gym for those days have been cancelled and resume back to normal schedule on March 14, 2024.
- The Recreation Center will be **CLOSED** on Friday, March 29, 2024, and Saturday, March 30, 2024 in observance of **Good Friday and Easter**.

ATHLETICS

- The **2024 Youth Sports Schedule** has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website!
 - **Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** practices have begun for all age groups.
 - **Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** opening weekend is on April 13th.
 - **Youth Volleyball** registration will open March 25th until May 8th, if does not fill up before that date.



SENIOR RECREATION

The Old Glories: Granny Basketball challenged Harker Heights City Staff to a game of basketball this past Saturday at the Battle of the Court: Annual Granny Basketball Benefit Game. Admission to the game was a non-perishable food item or new package of socks or underwear (all sizes welcome). This year's game raised lots of food and items to benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). The Old Glories won with the score of 65-47; which makes the standings for the three years Old Glories 2 wins and City Staff 1 win.

Thank you to all the City Staff Members on the City Team for supporting the community on this great cause.

- Alex Beaver – Parks & Recreation
- John LeiVan and his son, John LeiVan – Parks & Recreation
- Tyrik Alderson (Captain) – Parks & Recreation
- Adam Trujillo – Parks & Recreation
- Maurice Henderson – Maintenance
- Sharronda Caston-Hill – Building Official Secretary
- Fabian Brooks – Code Enforcement

- Seniors (50+) will celebrate **National Pi Day** on March 14, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Recreation Center.



- **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. March's activity will be basketball to celebrate March Madness.

- Our **Lunch & Learn** on Friday, March 15, 2024 is full and will have guest speakers Fire Chief Shannon Stephens and Library Director Lisa Youngblood. They will be discussing the upcoming Solar Eclipse.

- March's **BINGO** will be Thursday, March 21 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- **Ladies Night Out** is on Thursday, March 21 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting Hallmark in Killeen. 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.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Have any artwork that you would like to display and sell? Sign up to be a vendor at the **Harker Heights Arts Festival** at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 4 pm – 8 pm and Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 12 pm – 4 pm. Free art activities, art vendors, food, live music, and more! For vendor application information, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Family Hike at Mother Neff State Park** will be on March 16, 2024. The Family Hike will include an opportunity for you and your family to explore Mother Neff State Park! The day will consist of a leisurely 2-mile hike, with stops at several points of interest along the way including a rock tower and a cave. After the hike, participants will eat lunch at the picnic area, and have a hands-on introduction to Geocaching. The afternoon will conclude with a trip to the Visitor Center. The timeframe at the State Park is 10am-1:30pm. This program is in partnership with Texas Parks & Wildlife as a part of the Community Outdoor Outreach Program grant. **Pre-Registration is Required. Register through Civic Rec or by visiting the Recreation Center (307 Millers Crossing).**



**FAMILY HIKE AT
MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK
3.16.2024**

Families will explore Mother Neff State Park with a 2-mile hike while stopping to climb a rock tower, see a cave, and try geocaching! Transportation will be provided for the first 12 participants that register. Space is limited, Pre-Registration Required
Ages 10+

To register scan the QR code or stop at the HH Recreation Center
Contact: kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Life's better outside.
PROUD PARTNER

Harker Heights
Parks & Recreation
Building Community

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Citizens Police Academy will begin on April 15th and the B.A.B.Y program will begin on April 9th. .

Healthy Homes will be hosting a Free Children's Pop-Up Clinic on April 27th at 9am - 12 pm at the Harker Heights Activities Center.



A poster for a "Coffee With a Cop" event. The background is white with several coffee cups containing different types of coffee and coffee beans. The text is centered and reads: "Join The Harker Heights Police Department For Coffee With a C P". Below this, it lists the location as "Bite The Bagel" at "480 E FM 2410 RD. STE 300" and the date and time as "March 21st, 2024" from "8:30am to 10:30am". Logos for "BITE THE BAGEL Deli Cafe" and "Harker Heights" are at the bottom.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service – February 2024

Incident Type	Incident Number	Δ Last Month	Mutual Aid Received	Δ Last Month
Fire	204	17% Decrease	5	69% Decrease
Medical	327	17% Decrease	20	50% Decrease
Total Calls for Service	531	17% Decrease	25	54% Decrease

Fire Marshal's Office – February 2024

Inspections	107
Plan Reviews	8
Investigations	0

- HHFD would like to recognize Driver/Operator Walter Elvidge on his retirement effective March 31st. Walt's last day will be 3/28. HHFD Administration Staff highly recommends we all spend as much time with Walt on his last remaining tours to tap into his wisdom and to let him know how much of a cherished asset he has been to HHFD. HHFD will miss you Walt and you will always have a home here.
- Battalion Chief Cardona received a letter of appreciation from HHPD for assisting PD with SCBA this past week required for a crime scene investigation. Chief Cardona's assistance permitted our PD to canvas their scene appropriately without incurring any environmental hazards and could not have done it without him.

Betty DeLong and Eunice Myers hosted the first quarterly Fire Department Executive Assistants Meeting on March 8th. This is a collaborative effort initiated by Betty DeLong to communicate industry best practices and promote healthy professional relationships across our mutual aid partners. This is the first in Central Texas and HHFD is leading through new horizons.

The return of warm weather is kicking off FD outdoor training.





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		\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11
April		\$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		\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41
April		\$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		\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01
April		\$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		3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880
April		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



City of Harker Heights
Planning & Development
305 Miller's Crossing
Harker Heights, TX 76548
planning@harkerheights.gov

Economic Development Report

FEBRUARY 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued zero (0) commercial construction permits within the month of February.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **one (1)** permit for single-family residential construction within the month of February.

- 4712 High Oak Drive, valued at \$150,000.00.

The City issued a total of **zero (0)** permits for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of February.

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City issued a total of two (2) residential permits: one (1) single-family permit, one (1) two-family permit, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of February 29, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,574** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 834 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

February 1 thru February 28, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	55	24.89%
Outside Storage	52	23.53%
Grass Parking	34	15.38%
Other*	25	11.31%
Maintenance	16	7.24%
Brush	13	5.88%
Bulk Items	11	4.98%
Tires	4	1.81%
Junk Vehicle	2	0.90%
Trailer	2	0.90%
Trash	2	0.90%
Basketball Goal	1	0.45%
Boat	1	0.45%
Fencing	1	0.45%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.45%
Skirting	1	0.45%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	221	100.00%

*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following: Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	484	38.14%
Grass Parking	215	16.94%
Outside Storage	211	16.63%
Other*	112	8.83%
Bulk Items	56	4.41%
Brush	54	4.26%
Maintenance	28	2.21%
Trailer	28	2.21%
Trash	16	1.26%
Fencing	15	1.18%
Tires	12	0.95%
Basketball Goal	11	0.87%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	9	0.71%
Building Inspection	7	0.55%
Junk Vehicle	5	0.39%
Skirting	4	0.32%
Boat	2	0.16%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	1,269	100.00%

*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of
Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.