

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



## APRIL 11, 2023

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

### Human Resources Department

The Public Works Department promoted Benjamin Becerril to the position of Crew Leader on March 25th and welcomed a new employee on April 3rd. Davin Dick was hired for the position of Drainage Light Equipment Operator.

The Parks Department welcomes two seasonal employees. Douglas Sauer was hired for the position of Aquatics Supervisor on March 31st and Luz Barreto Gonzalez was hired for the position of Water Safety Instructor on April 10th.

Fire Battalion Chief Jimmy Carson announced his retirement from the City effective May 31st, after over 35 years with the City. Congratulations Jimmy!

Deputy Court Clerk Melissa Duenas Chevalier achieved Certified Court Clerk Level 1 Certification.

Human Resources staff attended the Union Grove Middle School Career Day on March 31st and the Harker Heights Elementary Career Day on April 4th.

Court and Planning staff attended the Memorial Christian Academy Career Day on April 4th.

Human Resources staff will be attending the Graduate Pathways Hiring event on April 13th at the Bell County Expo Center.

Human Resources staff will be attending the Poss"Abilities" Job Fair at UMHB on April 14th.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Fire Chief
- Inventory/Line Locator
- Utility Billing Clerk
- Collections Operator
- Light Equipment Operator
- Maintenance Technician Mechanic
- Part Time Parts Clerk
- Senior Equipment Operator
- Utilities Superintendent
- Water Service Worker
- Seasonal Aquatics
- Cashier Seasonal
- Aquatics Supervisor
- Seasonal Lifeguard
- Seasonal Water Safety Instructor



# The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library started the year off right with new programs and initiatives, and we are happy to keep going!

April is National Stress Awareness Month. The Library celebrates with a variety of materials, services, and programs designed to reduce stress and to encourage healthy lifestyles. Visit the Library for displays, programs, and more all month long. Spend time reading a book! Reading helps reduce stress, decrease blood pressure, and improve heart rate which will release tension in our muscles.



Our Library also provides a Maker Space, relaxing coloring, yoga and pilates classes, and more! For a full list of programs, visit our website at [harkerheights.gov/library](http://harkerheights.gov/library).



## Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, April 12 at 10am – Butterfly School Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!



Thursday, April 13 at 9am – Fly, Fly, Fly Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, April 13 at 10am – Fly, Fly, Fly Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Monarch Butterflies, Bees, and Pollinators abound in our Virtual programs found on our Library's Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary).

Wednesday, April 12 at 2pm – Monarch Butterfly Science Time with Ms. Heather



Thursday, April 13 at 6pm – Celebrate Nature's Pollinators Virtual Family Night – Ms. Lisa takes a look at Monarch Butterflies, Bees, and more! Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little!



**What are you going to do with those left over plastic eggs? Get ideas in the Maker Space!**

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10am – 3:00 pm – We learn best when we play! Imagine what you can create with whatever is in the room! April 11-14, 2023, will feature plastic egg projects!**



**National Library Week 2023 is April 23-29, 2023. We celebrate this year with the theme "There's More to the Story." Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. Our Library lends things such as toys, nature kits, musical instruments, and more! Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, story-times, crafting classes, and stress management programs. Libraries advances communities, providing Internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.**



**The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023, from 2-3pm for Friends members and 3-6pm for the public and on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 8am-2pm for the public! Here is your chance to pick up books, audiobooks, games, and more at low prices. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off at the Library during our open hours. If you have more than you can carry inside the Library, then please call 254-953-5491 to set up a time to come by so that we can help you bring them in the staff entrance.**



**Thursday, April 20 at 6:30pm -- Book Discussion of “Bel Canto” by Ann Patchett – When a terrorist group invades a formal dinner, the hostages and terrorists turn to each other, especially the beautiful opera singer, for solace.**



**Our Therapeutic Art Series continues on Thursday, April 27 at 6pm. Join volunteer art instructor Fatimah Olds for our monthly Therapeutic Art Series. No art experience is necessary. With some guidance your own spontaneous flare is welcome in this safe space for expression. Space is limited. Please call 254-953-5491 to register.**

**Did you know that you can view find college admission and other test preparation assistance through our Texas Share Databases 24/7? Just visit [harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library](http://harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library). Click on “Find Information” in the Quick Links menu. Then click on “TexShare.” You will need your library card number to access the “Learning Express” database which provides resume assistance, preparation tests for SATs, GEDs, and other entrance exams, job forecasts, and more!**

# Parks & Recreation Department

## ACTIVITIES CENTER

- **The Maker Space continues to be open at the Activities Center with fun craft materials for all to enjoy! Visit Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm. Have any craft items that you no longer need? Feel free to donate them to the Maker Space.**
- **Check out the Game Room every Monday and Friday from 10 am – 3 pm for fun activities such as video games, puzzles, board games, and more!**



## ATHLETICS

**Registration for Summer Youth Flag Football is open until May 3!**



**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

- Some Seniors and staff had a blast playing on the new mini golf games during the Mini Golf Masters this last Wednesday at the Recreation Center.



- Come to the Recreation Center every Tuesday for a game of Spades from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm and from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm to participate in Senior Ping Pong: Table Tennis.



- Seniors are invited to learn more about the Senior Garden Club for an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 12 from 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm at the Recreation Center.



- Active Seniors (50+) are invited to PLAY a variety of old and new recreational activities at Senior P.E. every Thursday from 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm. Come learn and have fun with others.

- April's BINGO will be Thursday, April 20 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 pm. They will be eating at Acropolis in Harker Heights. 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.

- Join us for Crafty Connection on Monday, April 24 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Seniors can bring a craft project they are working at home to socialize and show other crafters. If participants don't have a craft project they don't have to worry a craft will be available for them at the center.



## RECREATION CENTER

- **Swordplay: Recreational Fencing** will be hosting a tournament on Saturday, April 15 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Recreation Center. The tournament will have students from both the Harker Heights and Belton locations.



- The Recreation Center will be an Early Voting location for the local elections April 24 – 28 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, May 1 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and May 2 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. With Election Day on Saturday, May 6 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.



- The Folklorico Dance class will be wrapping up the Spring session on Wednesday, April 26 with a recital. The recital will be held at the Carl Levin Park Amphitheater at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and watch the talented participants. Bring a chair.



# Parks & Recreation Department

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Volunteer Reception Ceremony will be held this Thursday, April 13 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. Don't forget to RSVP if you are a volunteer. RSVP through here: <https://bit.ly/volunteerpicnic>.



- Visit Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 4 pm – 8 pm for a fun day of Art in the Park! Free art activities, art vendors, food, live music, and more! Applications to be a vendor continue to be accepted. For a vendor application, email [sgibbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgibbs@harkerheights.gov).



- The Activities Center is partnering with the Harker Heights Police Department Healthy Homes Division for a Food Drive. Please help us collect non-perishable foods that will be served to families in need within our community. Drop off boxes are located at the Activities Center and at the Rec Center. Items needed are rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, and cereal. The drive will continue to accept donations from now through July 17.



- The Harker Heights Farmers Market start date is coming up! This season the market will be held every Saturday from May to October from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The application can be found through the webpage here <https://bit.ly/HHFMKT>. For more information, contact Sara Gibbs at [sgbbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgbbs@harkerheights.gov).



# Parks & Recreation Department

## GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- A BIG thank you to the families who participated in the Family Campout.



- **I Love My Parks Day: Help us celebrate Earth Day by giving back to your parks! Volunteer Saturday, April 15 from 9 am – 2 pm and help beautify Purser Family Park. Volunteers will be painting, picking up trash, and planting native plants. Volunteers who assist with the beautification will receive a free I Love My Parks Day shirt (while supplies last). No sign up is required. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact [kgomez@harkerheights.gov](mailto:kgomez@harkerheights.gov).**



- **Community Gardens: Now is the time to get started with your spring gardening! Plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden & Kern Park Community Garden. Rentals are for six months or one year. Kern Community Garden rentals are free, while Carl Levin fees are \$25 for 6 months for residents or \$30 for 6 months for non-Harker Heights residents. Plot rentals for a year are \$50 for residents, or \$60 for non-Harker Heights residents. Stop by the Recreation Center on 307 Miller's Crossing or the Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail to sign up. For more information, contact Kailie Gomez at [kgomez@harkerheights.gov](mailto:kgomez@harkerheights.gov) or call 254-953-5465.**





## Finance Department



### ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$425,468.44	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59	\$246,908.71
February	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74	\$239,620.03
March	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11	\$267,408.59
April		\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05	\$214,513.90
May		\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28	\$311,719.63
June		\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93	\$271,114.94
July		\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64	\$285,381.75
August		\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99	\$356,562.37
September		\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61	\$320,090.38
October		\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72	\$399,497.35
November		\$597,938.12	\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61	\$358,146.37
December		\$529,760.67	\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34	\$275,957.76

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

### AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$104,768.73	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16	\$85,442.31
February	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11	\$73,765.91
March	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41	\$71,751.84
April		\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65	\$65,920.26
May		\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54	\$88,378.47
June		\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21	\$74,513.43
July		\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84	\$93,483.23
August		\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64	\$107,866.92
September		\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86	\$106,122.80
October		\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75	\$120,968.81
November		\$131,364.63	\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20	\$97,515.15
December		\$114,240.31	\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98	\$99,255.97



## KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$14,230.92	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25	\$16,084.10
February	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02	\$16,019.68
March	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01	\$12,078.00
April		\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99	\$11,636.59
May		\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43	\$15,446.69
June		\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19	\$14,092.62
July		\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38	\$18,147.78
August		\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80	\$20,613.07
September		\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28	\$18,407.61
October		\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50	\$19,399.15
November		\$17,225.45	\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33	\$20,304.92
December		\$19,102.03	\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30	\$15,822.59

## NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	3,798	3,565	3,245	2,719	2,406
February	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759	2,471
March	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880	2,519
April		3,603	3,321	2,819	2,552
May		3,654	3,364	2,847	2,533
June		3,698	3,396	2,931	2,588
July		3,695	3,461	2,976	2,582
August		3,747	3,505	3,069	2,622
September		3,746	3,523	3,072	2,669
October		3,789	3,536	3,127	2,664
November		3,757	3,548	3,186	2,695
December		3,749	3,533	3,201	2,715



**ASSESSMENT BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31, 2023**

**PAVING ASSESSMENT:**

**Balance**

Polk, Billy (deceased)/Phillip Sueoka 242 E Cardinal \$19,807.88

*No payments were made for the Paving Assessments.*

**WILDEWOOD ASSESSMENT:**

**Balance**

Rickets, Tommie 936/940 Lemonwood \$11,876.32

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Total Wildewood: \$11,876.32

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*921 Ashwood was paid off in March 2023.*