

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT MAY 10, 2022

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

GovDelivery – New Notification System!



Friday May 6th the City has launched a new notification system. This new service will allow us to efficiently share news, action alerts, event notices, and updates in a timely fashion. They can be delivered directly to your email inbox or by text-message notifications. To sign up, simply visit the City of Harker Heights webpage: www.harkerheights.gov

The second phase of the citizen survey is open to all residents. This survey will be available from May 2nd – 16th. The survey can be completed through written form or it can be completed online by visiting <https://harkerheights.gov/opensurvey>

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The **Parks Department** welcomed three (3) new employees on May 2nd. **Billy Stevens** and **Quinton Amerson** were hired for the position of Light Equipment Operator and **James Hoffman** was hired for the position of Part Time Recreation Aide.

The **Police Department** welcomed a new employee on May 4th. **Louis Hill** was hired for the position of Part Time Telecommunicator.

The **Public Works Department** welcomed two (2) new employees. **Nathan Vilchez** was hired on May 4th for the position of Maintenance Technician in the Wastewater Department and **Dale Reeves** was hired on May 9th for the position of Light Equipment Operator in the Street Department.

Police Chief Phil Gadd announced his retirement to be effective July 15th. Congratulations Chief Gadd!

Human Resources Clerk Joshua Ramirez-Figueroa participated in the Graduate Pathways Hiring Event on May 4th at the Bell County Expo Center.

The City is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Police Officer Trainee
Telecommunicator
Assistant Chief Plant Operator
Light Equipment Operator/Drainage
Light Equipment Operator/Streets
Maintenance Technician/Wastewater
Part Time Parts Clerk
Utilities Superintendent
Water Service Worker
Part Time Recreation Aide
Seasonal Aquatics Supervisor
Seasonal Lifeguard
Seasonal Water Safety Instructor

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The written examination for Police Officer Trainee applicants will take place on Friday, May 19th.

The **Bell County Police Officer Memorial** will be at Killeen Police Department on May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

The next Temple Police Academy will begin on July 25th.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code Enforcement Officers Calvin Fleming and Gabby Guerra-Palma were thanked by citizens for their help and hard work.

An engineer working on several different permits/projects in Harker Heights called to say **Courtney Fye** is wonderful and so nice to work with.

Courtney Fye was thanked by a citizen who struggled with his permit process. He was thankful for the level of help Courtney provided him throughout the entire permitting process.

LIBRARY

The **Friends of the Library Book Sale** returned on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th! After two and a half long years, the Friends were able to invite everyone to pick up books, movies, toys, board games, and more at low prices! Thanks to dedicated volunteers who set up the sale, carried books to cars, organized, and took down the room, the Friends were able to make over \$3000.00! The Friends use those funds to purchase books to give away to children, the Library's virtual summer reading club and book review program, and other fun and educational items for our community.

Do you need help with **basic computer use, word processing, resume writing, searching on the internet, e-books, or other electronic resources**? Call 254-953-5491 or e-mail Christina Link at clink@harkerheights.gov to schedule a one-on-one training session.

Do you need to **take a test for a virtual class** or **do you need to find a proctor for an exam**? Do you need to **schedule computer use time for a job interview or exam**? Fill out a form at https://harkerheights.gov/index.php?option=com_rsform&view=rsform&formId=4. Our reference librarians are happy to help you fulfill your school's requirements!

The Library has opened its **preschool programs on a first come/first serve basis**! Families are invited to enjoy age-appropriate stories, songs, rhymes, and activities! Space is limited. Registration is NOT required.

May 2022 in-person preschool schedule:

Every Tuesday in May at 10:00 a.m. – **Baby time Lap sit Program** for ages 18 months and younger and their special adults. Older siblings are not allowed at this program.

Every Wednesday in May at 10:00 a.m. – **Storytime! for ages 3 through 6 and their families.** Older and younger siblings are welcome.

Every Thursday in May at 10:00 a.m. – **Toddler Time for ages 18 months to 3 years and their families.** Older and younger siblings are welcome!

The Library still provides **virtual programs on its Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary>. Look for **weekly Virtual Storytime** on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m., **Virtual Science Time** on Wednesday at 10:15 a.m., **Family Night** on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., and **Guest Readers** on Fridays at 10:15 a.m.! The Library also **drops special programs throughout the week**, so like and follow the Library's Facebook page for the most up to date programs and information!

May the Force Be With You! The Library celebrated **Star Wars and science fiction** fun all week Monday, May 2nd, through Saturday, May 7th both in the Library and on our Facebook page! The week culminated in **Star Wars Day** at the Library where families made practice sabers, learned saber use techniques, investigated science, used Virtual Reality technology, met costumed characters, and enjoyed more events!

Calling all local authors! Be a part of the **Library's upcoming Author Fair** on Saturday, August 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. E-mail Christina Link at clink@harkerheights.gov for more information and to register for a spot.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Harker Heights Farmers Market began with a soft opening on Saturday and officially opens this Saturday in the City Hall parking lot (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)! Come out and support your local farmers and makers!

ACTIVITIES CENTER

On May 18th **GO Heights** is partnering up with **Senior Recreation** for **Wednesday Wellness Walks** for our Active Adults (50+). These will be located at Carl Levin Park at 10:00 a.m. For more information please contact Kailie Gomez at kgomez@harkerheights.gov.

GO Heights will be having a hike at Dana Peak Park on May 19th at 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact Kailie Gomez at kgomez@harkerheights.gov.

Celebrate **Kids to Parks Day** on May 21st. Take your family and Friends out to one of our many different parks for a fun day out in the sun!

ATHLETICS

The **2022 Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball** season starts games Saturday, May 14th with over 40 teams. Thank you to our many coach and officials who are volunteering.

Registration is ongoing until May 17th for **2022 Ability Bowling**, a program designed for those aged 5-22 with special needs or disabilities.

Positions are available for **Officials and Scorekeepers** for Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball, and Volleyball. A training will be held for Softball Officials on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 10th and 11th at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and a Baseball Officials training will be held Wednesday, May 11th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Community Park.

AQUATICS

You can purchase your 2022 Carl Levin Park Outdoor **Pool Pass** now at the Harker Heights Recreation Center.

Pool Party Rentals are set to open on May 11th.

We are still hiring **Lifeguards, Water Safety Instructors, and Pool Managers** for the 2022 summer season. Apply by visiting the Harker Heights Recreation Center.

SENIOR RECREATION

Celebrate **Older Americans Month** by joining us each week in the month of May at the following event:

- Some of our Seniors celebrated **May the 4th (be with you)** with some Star Wars and McAllister's at the **Older Americans Month Kick Off Luncheon** last week. Thank you to Amy Sargent with United Healthcare for sponsoring the lunch and to Right at Home and CallCaption for setting up a booth.
- Join us on May 12th from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. for **Coffee My Way**. Treat yourself with some coffee and breakfast snacks at the Recreation Center.
- Come by the Recreation Center on May 19th starting at 9:00 a.m. to pick up your **Sweets Giveaway** while supplies last.
- On May 25th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **We Go Bananas for Our Seniors!** Join us for banana splits and ice cream sundaes at the Recreation Center.

Do you feel lucky? Join us for Senior **BINGO** on Thursday, May 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. **BINGO** is a week earlier for the month of May.

Join in some recreational **Senior Volleyball** every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. The first 30 minutes will be a warm up and then followed up with game play.

Senior citizens 50+ are invited to join our new program **Wednesday Wellness Walks** on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Carl Levin Park, 400 Miller's Crossing. Participants will meet by the pool.

Ladies are you interested in good food and conversation? Come out to **Ladies Night Out** on Thursday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m. The ladies are meeting at **Bella Sera Italian Restaurant** in Harker Heights. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own supper. Registration is required. Call 254-953-5683 or sign up in person at the Rec Center to register.

RECREATION CENTER

Early Voting and Election Day for the **Primary Runoff** will be held at the Recreation Center. **Early voting** will be May 16th – 20th (Monday-Friday) from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Election day** is Tuesday, May 24th from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Harker Heights and Veterans Council invite everyone to the **Memorial Ceremony & Remembrance Walk 2022**. The ceremony will be at Carl Levin Park Amphitheater (400 Miller's Crossing) on Saturday, May 28th at 9:00 a.m. with the walk to follow. It will feature a traditional wreath laying to honor those who gave their lives. Following the ceremony will be a Remembrance Walk around the park. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will move indoors at the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing). For more information, call 254-953-5657.

The **GO Heights Family Campout** at Dana Peak Park took place on May 6th – 8th with 70 people! Thanks to all who assisted in making this a great weekend for area families.