

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



MARCH 25, 2025

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

HUMAN RESOURCES

Congratulations to Betiale Hawkins and Richelle Otero!

- ❖ **Betiale Hawkins** has been promoted to the position of **Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police**.
- ❖ **Richelle Otero** has been promoted to the position of **City Planner**.

The Planning Department is also excited to welcome a new team member:

- ❖ **Michelle Smart** will be transitioning from the Finance Department to the role of **Planning Administrative Assistant** starting on March 31st.

Finally, the Public Works Department welcomed a new employee:

- ❖ **Lafayette Gardner** began working in the **Wastewater Department as a Maintenance Technician** on March 17th.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

Assistant Finance Director
Police Officer Trainee
Telecommunicator
Heavy Equipment Operator
Water Service Worker
Maintenance Technicians
Light Equipment Operator
Firefighter/EMT (Paramedic Preferred)
Summer Student Library Page
Seasonal Lifeguards
Seasonal Water Safety Instructor
Seasonal Aquatics Cashiers
Seasonal Aquatics Supervisors



THE STEWART C. MEYERS HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY

Happy Spring! The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is ready to “spring” into action with a full slate of program, services, displays, and more. Drop by the Library to take a photo in front of our **beautiful, 12-foot “Spring Wildflowers” Tree!** For a full list of programs, please take a look at our website at <https://harkerheights.gov/library>. The schedule and the programming events are listed in several sections. The Library also posts additional fliers on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary>.



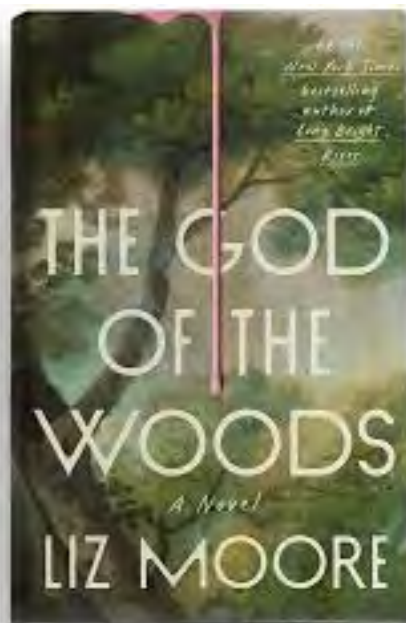
Get ready for some of our upcoming programs!

1. **Pokemon and Yugioh! Card Games** -- Every Saturday from 1-3 pm! Bring your own cards or play with ours!
2. **Teen Game Time** -- Wednesday, March 26 from 1-3pm – Teens ages 12-17 years drop by the Library for board games, card games, and more!
3. **Homeschool Meet-Up in the Maker Space** – Wednesday, March 26 from 1-3pm – Bring the whole family for science exploration, art creation, and more!
4. **Bug Out Storytime** -- Wednesday, March 26 at 10am and Thursday, March 27 at 9am – Children ages 3-6 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Let's celebrate bugs, bugs, bugs!
5. **Bug Out Toddler Time** – Thursday, March 27 at 10 am – Toddlers ages 0-3 years old and their families enjoy stories, songs, and more! Let's celebrate bugs, bugs, bugs!
6. **Babytime** – Every Tuesday at 10am – Children ages 0-18 months and their families come for a lap-sit program filled with finger rhymes and music.

The Library now offers a variety of educational kits for circulation! Check out early literacy kits, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) kits, and memory kits. Each include a variety of activities, educational toys, and more!

Join us for the Book Discussion Club for Adults each third Thursday at 6:30 pm – Get started reading for our April meeting! Drop in for a lively discussion of “The God of the Woods” by Liz Moore. Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn’t just any thirteen-year-old: she’s the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region’s residents. This isn’t the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara’s older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.

If you would like to join us virtually, just e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov for an invitation.



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is excited to announce the Inter Library Loan services available to individuals with our Library card. If you are looking for an item that our Library does not own, we may be able to borrow it for you from another Library! Call 254-953-5491 for details!

The Library's Maker Space will be OPEN much of the holiday season! Other than the days on which we close for all or part of the day, the room for creativity and fun will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am – 3pm and on Saturdays from 10am – 1pm. Just drop in to see what you can make with whatever we have in the room! Thanks to our generous community, new items come in all the time! If you have any art supplies that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Library during any of our open hours.



The Library has 24/7 access to Tumblebooks and TumbleMath. These resources for children and teens offer a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction resources free of charge. Check out these and other ebook and eaudiobook resources at <https://harkerheights.gov/index.php/find-books-more/e-books>. You just need your library card for access!



Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

The Harker Heights Recreation Center hosted an Ability Tennis Fun Day this past Wednesday. Equipment and supplies for the fun day was purchased with the USTA Texas Grow the Game Grant (GTG). The grant is designed to help boost new and existing tennis programs in communities throughout Texas. Fourteen participants had a great time learning the game of tennis. Thank you to the USTA Texas representatives and volunteers for providing an engaging fun day to the community.



Join us for an evening of pickleball, info booths, snacks, and more on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the Harker Heights Recreation Center, 307 Miller's Crossing. This free Community Night event honors the amazing contributions of women veterans and other inspiring women in our community. Grand Canyon University partnered with the Parks & Recreation Department and other community leaders as part of the Military Education Appreciation Nights (MEANs) Project. The MEANs Project offers monthly military-focused events designed to connect local businesses with a broad and engaged audience.

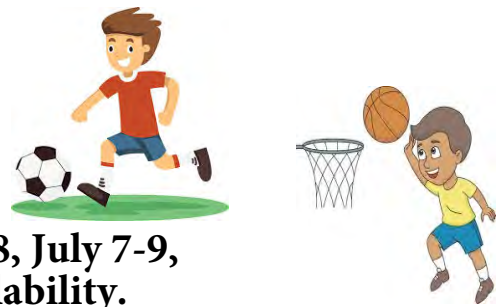


ABILITY SPORTS

Ability basketball began on February 24th with twenty-six participants. The season concludes on March 31st .

SPORTS

- ❖ Youth soccer registration will start May 27th .
- ❖ Youth Basketball Camp (June 9-11, June 16-18, July 7-9, July 14-16) registration is open with limit availability.
- ❖ The t-ball season will begin on April 12th with baseball, softball, beginning play on April 21st.



AQUATICS

- ❖ Staff are busy hiring part-time Lifeguards, Aquatics Cashiers, Aquatics Supervisors, and Water Safety Instructors (WSI)
- ❖ Swim Lessons sign-up will begin May 17th in conjunction with the Dive into Summer Safety event being held at Carl Levin park.



SENIOR RECREATION

The "Old Glories" Granny Basketball team won this year's Battle of the Court against the Harker Heights City Staff with the score 43 to 35. The series standing is now Old Glories 3 and City Staff 1. All the non-perishable food items collected for the game will benefit the KISD Homeless Awareness Response Program (H.A.R.P.). The City Staff team had representatives from Code Enforcement, Finance, Maintenance, Parks & Recreation, and employees' family members. The Harker Heights Jr. Knights Cheer team pumped the crowd up from the sidelines and during half time. Coach Henderson Sports Photography donated the City Staff jerseys and took pictures at the game. A big thank you to all the players, refs, announcers, scorekeepers, Harker Heights Jr. Knights Cheer, Coach Henderson, and the fans for making the event a success this year.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the 2025 Season of the Harker Heights Farmers Market. The market will be held on Saturdays, May 3 - July 26, break from August 2 - September 27, then continue to run on Saturdays from October 4 - December 6, 2025. The market will be held at the Harker Heights City Hall parking lot at 305 Miller's Crossing.

- ❖ For those interested in being a vendor at the Farmers Market, please follow the link below to the Farmers Market web page on the City of Harker Heights website.
- ❖ Link to Farmers Market Webpage: <https://www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/programs/farmers-market-2>
- ❖ For updates or more information, please visit the Harker Heights Farmers Market Facebook page or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



The Harker Heights Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Carl Levin Park. Vendor applications for local artists are open. Follow the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspr/>



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The City of Harker Heights is excited to announce the **First Fridays Music Series** a concert series that will be held on the First Friday starting on April 4 at the Carl Levin Park Amphitheater. Five additional concerts are scheduled for Friday, May 2, Friday, June 6, Friday September 5, Friday October 3 and Friday November 7.

The events will be held from 7:00pm- 9:00pm. The First Friday's series will showcase talented musical performing groups. The G-Samuels Band will be the featured act for the inaugural concert on April 4. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Families and friends are invited to the park for free music, food vendors, and more. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a picnic on the amphitheater lawn.

- ❖ Friday April 4- G. Samuels
- ❖ Friday, May 2- Glen Meloy
- ❖ Friday, June 6- First Calvary Division Pop Band from Fort Cavazos
- ❖ Friday, September 5- Purple Hull
- ❖ Friday, October 3- Lucas Miller
- ❖ Friday, November 7- Harker Heights High School



GO Heights!

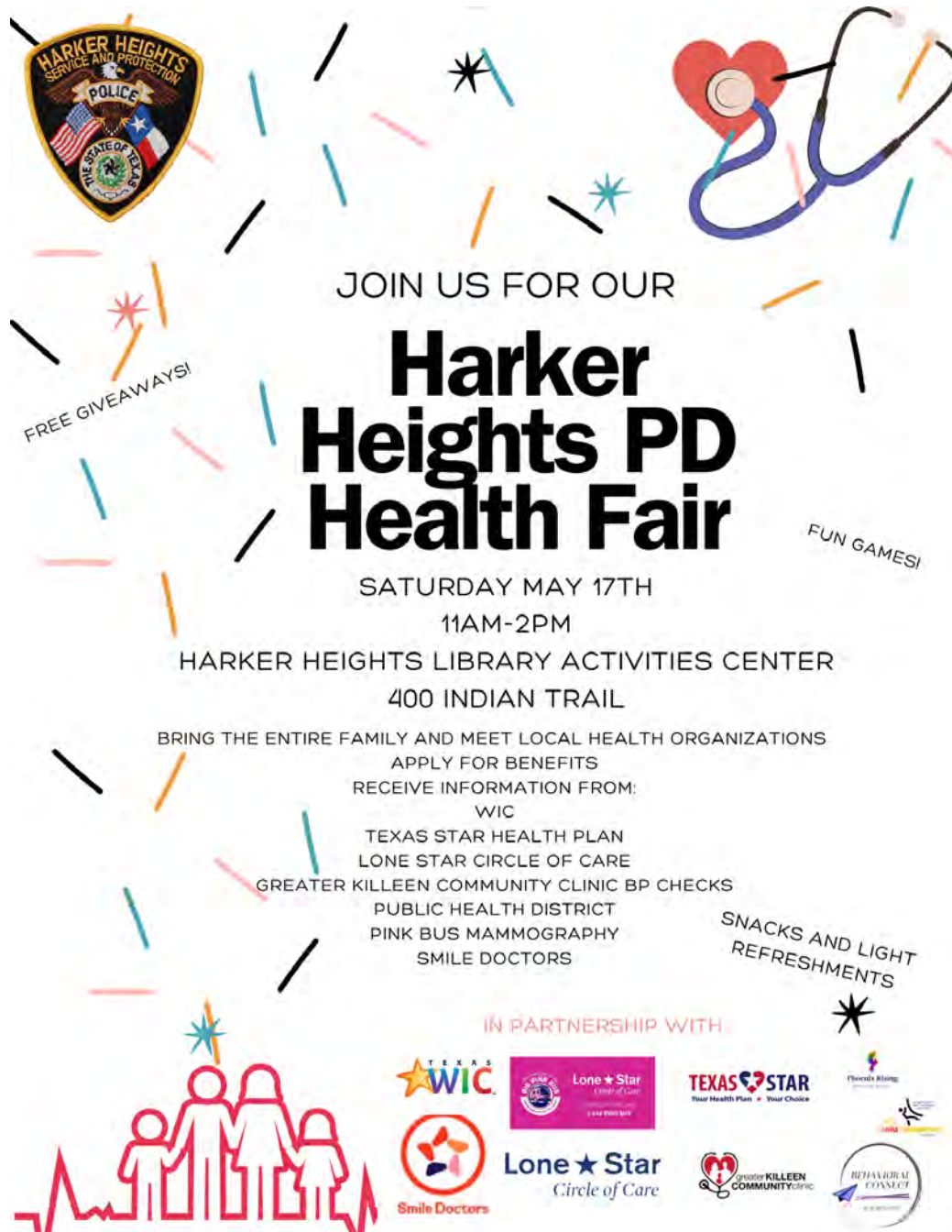
- ❖ There are volunteer opportunities available with the Get Outside Program. Make new friends while sharing your passion with others. Volunteer with our hiking programs, nature education, or teach outdoor skills to those in your community. We welcome both individuals and groups. For more information contact kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465.



- ❖ Garden plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden. Winter is a great time to grow carrots, cruciferous vegetables, greens, and more. Each raised bed is 4 ft. x 8 ft. The garden provides access to water with hoses and a shed for storage of personal gardening tools. For more information visit us at the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing) or call 254-953-5465.



❖ Harker Heights Police Department Health Fair: Saturday, May 17th from 11am to 2pm at the Activities Center.



The poster features a central title 'Harker Heights PD Health Fair' in large, bold, black font. Above the title is the Harker Heights Police Department badge on the left and a red heart with a stethoscope on the right. The background is white with scattered colorful confetti (black, blue, orange, pink, green). Text is arranged around the central title, including event details, activities, and partner logos at the bottom. A red line-art illustration of a family (two adults and two children) is at the bottom left.

Harker Heights PD Health Fair

JOIN US FOR OUR

Harker Heights PD Health Fair

FREE GIVEAWAYS!

FUN GAMES!

JOIN US FOR OUR









Harker Heights PD Health Fair


SATURDAY MAY 17TH
11AM-2PM
HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY ACTIVITIES CENTER
400 INDIAN TRAIL

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND MEET LOCAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS
APPLY FOR BENEFITS
RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM:
WIC
TEXAS STAR HEALTH PLAN
LONE STAR CIRCLE OF CARE
GREATER KILLEEN COMMUNITY CLINIC BP CHECKS
PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
PINK BUS MAMMOGRAPHY
SMILE DOCTORS

SNACKS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ❖ **Assistant Fire Marshal Ethan Gingerich has been appointed Interim Fire Marshal.**
- ❖ **The Harker Heights Fire Department Job Task Simulation (Physical Agility Test) validation is underway with approximately 2/3 of the department having completed the testing. We should be able to begin using the test in April.**