

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



JUNE 11, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Special Hours

CLOSING EARLY

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

City Offices will be closing early!

Special Hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
The City Council Workshop is also canceled.



Wednesday, June 19, 2024

City Offices will be closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Human Resources Department

The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on June 4th. Timonthy Wilson was hired for the position of Animal Services Officer.

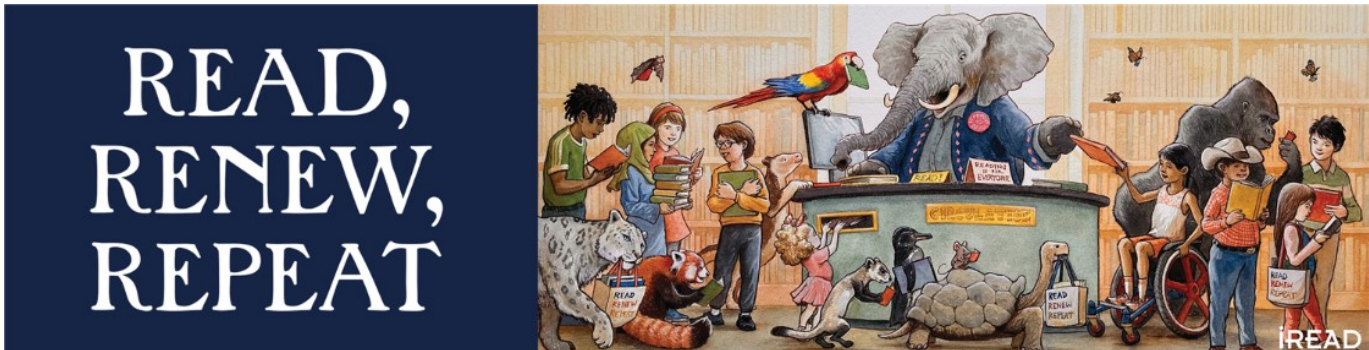
The Police Department welcomed four more new police officer trainees to begin the police academy on June 17th. Luis Zelaya, Wesley Hicks, Joseph Varley and Patrick Mays III were hired on June 10th. The department will have six employees attending the upcoming Temple Police Academy.

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:

- Recreation Superintendent
- Planner
- Certified Police Officer Trainees
- BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution System Flushing Technician
- Collections Operator
- FOG Collections/Field Supervisor
- Water Maintenance Technician
- Senior Equipment Operator
- Telecommunicator



The Library's free "Read, Renew, Repeat" Summer Reading Club and Program Series for all ages is off to a great start! Thanks to our Harker Heights Fire Department, Police Department, Activities Center, Parks and Recreation Department, Code Enforcement, Municipal Courts, MCEC, Waste Management, Bill's Towing, Region 12, and Lone Star Circle of Care, our patrons were treated to a fantastic morning of Big Truck Day! You can still read on your own and/or attend one or more of our many upcoming programs! From special presenters, to 3D printing, to Bridgerton garden party, to cosplay night, the Library will have something for everyone. We will send our Summer Reading Club program booklets to elementary aged children in Harker Heights area schools. The booklets are also available at the Library and online at <https://harkerheights.gov/libraryspecialevents>. Visit website at <https://harkerheights.readsquared.com>. There you can sign up for the club, log your books and/or hours, earn virtual badges, complete missions, and see booklists!

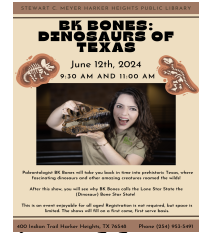


We have plenty of exciting programs coming this summer! Wednesdays in June, July, and the first part of August is the day for our special guests, science programs and more! Join us each Wednesday morning for performances, exhibitions, crafts, and more! Times change depending on the program or performer. Join us each afternoon at 2:00 pm for some ecology science. Registration is not required for these programs, though seating is on a first come basis.

BK Bones: Paleontology Fun for Everyone!

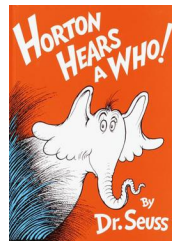
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

BK bones is bringing a bit of the prehistoric to you and the Library! A big proponent of STEAM education, this paleontology presenter makes questioning, exploration, and creativity the heart of her approach. Expect eye-catching images, fossils (and fossil replicas) and lots of high-energy interaction! Registration is not required. The program will fill on a first come, first serve basis.



Actor, scriptwriter, and filmmaker Duffy Hudson visits the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library to delight children and adults of all ages with his “The Magic of Dr. Seuss” one-man show on **Friday, June 21, 2024, at 2:00 pm!** This fast-paced romp through Dr. Seuss’ most famous works will entertain and inform. Enjoy “Horton Hears a Who,” “The Sneetches,” and more!

Registration is not required for this free event. Care centers and groups are welcome. Please call 254-953-5491 for more information.



Junior Science Heroes: Adventure of the Lost Treasure

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Join us on a fun and interactive learning adventure that introduces attendees to the wonders of science! With the help of audience volunteers, we’ll demonstrate several exciting experiments and learn to ask questions, make predictions, and draw conclusions based on our observations!



Our early literacy programs for our younger patrons this summer are all about taking care of our Earth, our community, our families, and ourselves! Each week we explore a new way to make the world a better place! Babies ages 0-18 months and their families come for BabyTime on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Children ages 3-6 years and their families come for Storytime on Thursdays at 9 a.m. Toddlers ages 0-3 and their families come on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Registration is not required for these programs.

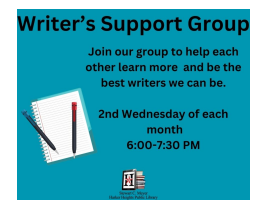
School readiness is so important for our young patrons. Children ages 3-6 and their families are welcome to join volunteer early childhood specialist Kay Townsend on Tuesdays from 10 – 11:30 a.m. for stories, activities, and more designed specifically to work on fine motor skills, large motor skills, early literacy, and social-emotional learning. Registration is required! Please call 254-953-5491 to sign up for this program!

The Library won't leave out teens and adults during its summer programs! Take a look at some of these upcoming programs designed for them!

Writers' Support Group for Adults

Wednesdays | June 12 | July 10 | August 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Get writing ideas and tips on your own work. Discuss plot twists, cliffhangers, and more! This program is for patrons ages 18 and up. Registration is not required.



Crochet for Adult and Teens ages 14 and up Beginners

Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Learn the basic stitches of crochet and how to get started on a project. No experience is necessary, and materials will be provided. This class is for teens and adults, ages 14 and up. Space is limited. Please register by calling 254-953-5491



Bridgerton Regency Tea Party

Saturday, June 15 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the return of the popular "Bridgerton" television series! Dress in your best cosplay, your favorite frock or suit, or just come as you are. Enjoy sipping high tea, playing dice and card games such as "hazard" and "whist," learning a few dances, and more! This is a family-friendly event.



Teen Advisory Board

First Meeting Saturday, June 15 at 11:00 a.m.

Teens ages 14-18 are invited to join the **Library's Teen Advisory Board!** Teens make suggestions for teen programs and give feedback for services for young adults in our community. Teenagers from any Bell County or Coryell County public or private high school or homeschool are invited. Drop in to see if this is for you! Even if you can't make this meeting, you can join later! Volunteering is a great way serve your town while you build your resume, experiences, and contact lists. E-mail Lisa at lyoungblood@harkerheight.gov for more information. In most cases Library volunteer hours count towards service time needed to fulfill class, club, and other requirements.

Skygazing Party

Saturday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. for science and 8:00 p.m. for a look at the sky

The whole family will enjoy the Library's Skygazing Party! Celebrate the worldwide On the Moon Again! initiative by getting out your telescope June 14-16, 2024, or by visiting us and using ours! Come to the Library on Saturday, June 15 at 7:00 pm for stargazing science and at 8:00 pm for a star watch on our back patio.

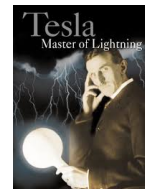


Nikola Tesla: The Master of Lightening!

Friday, June 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library presents “Nikola Tesla: The Master of Lightening,” a one-man dramatic presentation from actor and scriptwriter Duffy Hudson. Learn about the life of the man who brought electricity to the world. Revel in his triumphs and witness his tribulations. Registration is not required for this free event.

Though this is a performance aimed at adults and older teens, all ages are welcome. Please call 254-953-5491 for more information.



Are you interested in tracing your ancestry? The Library offers the online database HeritageQuest and other historical records available to you 24/7. The Library has 24/7 access to e-magazines through our Tex Share Databases. Visit the Library's website at <https://harkerheights.gov/library>. Choose Find Information in the right-hand column and click on TexShare databases. Choose “Harker Heights Public Library,” and use TX76548 as your password. Take a look at HeritageQuest and other historical databases.

RECREATION CENTER

The Recreation Center & Activities Center will be closing from 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 for the biannual **Employee Recognition Ceremony**.

The Recreation Center & Activities Center will be **CLOSED** on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 in observance of **Juneteenth**.



ATHLETICS



Youth Baseball and Softball games are complete! Check out our newsletter to see the 2024 Tournament winners!

Youth Soccer registration is now open until 7/17.



Ability Pickleball registration is still open and will begin in July at the Heights Athletic Club.



AQUATICS

Open Swim Hours:

- ❖ Wednesday-Friday: 1:30pm-7:00pm
- ❖ Saturday & Sunday: 11:00am-7:00pm

Swim Lessons still have room later in the summer.

Senior Swim will be on Fridays from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Might be cancelled due to make ups for swim lessons.



SENIOR RECREATION

- **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. June's activity is **Ping Pong**.



- ❖ **Senior Swim** is offered free for Seniors (50+) every **Friday** from **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm** (except on days swim lesson has a makeup or pool closed). Participants would need to have a current senior program membership check in card to enter. Visit the **Harker Heights Recreation Center** to receive your free senior program membership check in card. There will be no Senior Swim on **June 21 & July 5**.



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



- ❖ **Ladies Night Out** is on **Thursday, June 20** at **5:00 pm**. The restaurant will be **Five Guys** 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, June 24** from **2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**. Seniors can bring a craft project they are working on 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 **Recreation Center**.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Visit the **Harker Heights Farmers Market** every Saturday in May, June, and July! Between the hours of 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, the market offers a variety of treats such as fresh produce, meat, eggs, jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods, hand crafted items, and more. Vendors pick and choose the weekends that they wish to be at the market, so some weekends may have different vendors than previous weekends. Follow the Harker Heights Farmers Market on Facebook for updates of the 2024 season on <https://facebook.com/heightsFM>. For more information or vendor applications, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or visit <https://harkerheights.gov/parksandrec>.



Celebrate Juneteenth at the Farmers Market! The Harker Heights Farmers Market will be giving away free Juneteenth-themed crafts, bracelets, and stickers on Saturday, June 15 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on 305 Miller's Crossing. Visit the market for fun activities, shopping, and to support local businesses!



Join the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department as we kick off Parks and Recreation Month during the month of July! **Parks Bash** will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Kern Park on 400 S Ann Blvd in Harker Heights. Bring your friends and family for a fun, free event that will include inflatables, yard games, and free hot dogs!

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- The first weekend in June families enjoyed “Fish with a First Responder” at Carl Levin Park. The police department and fire department both had staff available to share their knowledge and love for fishing with the community.
- This past Saturday families went on a day trip to Mother Neff State Park. Participants enjoyed a 2-mile hike while stopping at several points of interest along the way including a rock tower and cave. Afterwards families enjoyed a picnic and had a hands-on introduction to geocaching.

Flag Drive

- The Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting worn American flags for the **Flag Retirement Drop Off** to be properly retired with honor and respect. Please fold flags neatly and place into a plastic bag. Flags can be dropped off at the Harker Heights Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail and the Harker Heights Recreation Center on 307 Miller’s Crossing. The last day to drop off is June 14, 2024. For more information, contact Sara at 254-953-5493

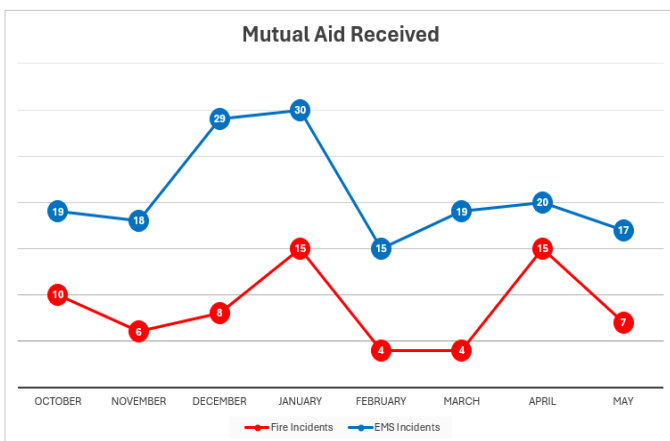
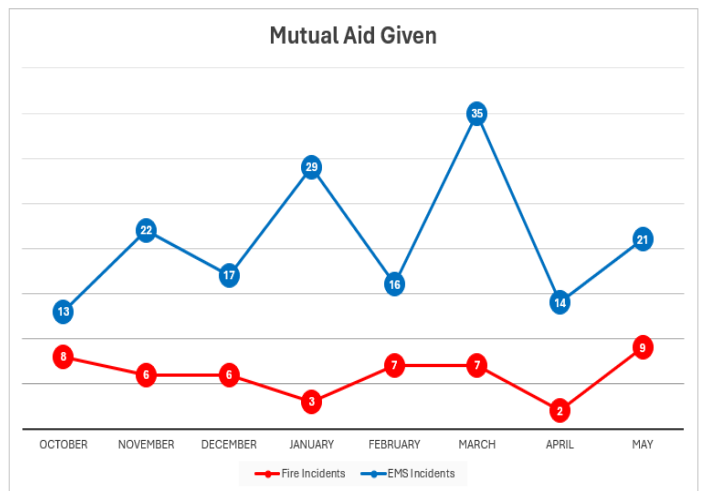
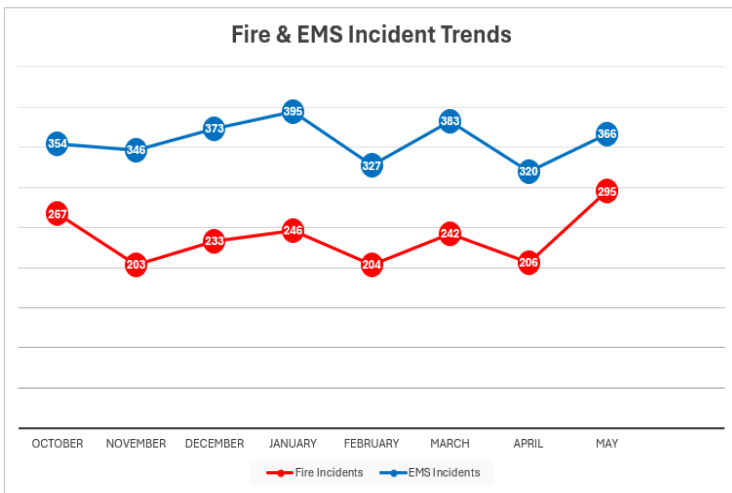


Activities Center Maker Space

- Explore your creative side at the Harker Heights Activities Center, where innovation meets community. Whether you're into arts, crafts, technology, or DIY projects, we have the resources and programs to help you bring your ideas to life. Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am – 3pm and Saturdays 10am – 1pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Promotions: HHFD is pleased to announce Anthony Combs's promotion upon his selection as our new Battalion Chief. Chief Combs has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in his previous roles, which has led to this well-deserved promotion. We are confident he will continue to excel in his new position, and look forward to working with him in his new leadership role.
- May Incident Information:



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Marshal's Office – May 2024

Inspections	121
Plan Reviews	15
Investigations	1
Department/Agency Assists	30



FIRE AND ICE

CREAM SOCIAL

Come meet the
Harker Heights
Fire Department,
June 21 at
Sprinkles on Top
Ice Cream Shop!

Friday, June 21, 2024
5:00 PM



on top
Sprinkles
302 Millers Crossing, Suite 1



Healthy Homes is currently accepting donations for their annual back to school drive. Donations will be accepted until July 26th.



**Healthy Homes
Back to School
Donation Drive**

**The Following
Items Are
Appreciated:**

- Backpacks
- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Pens
- Scissors
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Composition Notebooks
- Folders with brads
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Pouches
- Erasers

**Accepting
Donations
Now Thru
July 26th**

Donations can be dropped off at the
Harker Heights Police Department
402 Indian Trail Drive
Harker Heights, TX 76548

Questions?
Please contact the Healthy
Homes Office at
254-953-5439/29

Community Services will be hosting a 2-day Youth Police Academy on June 20th and 21st for children ages 10-13. They will be accepting applications until June 14th.

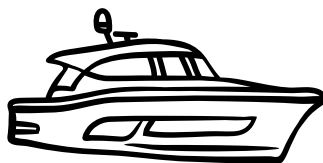
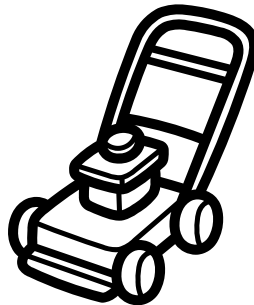
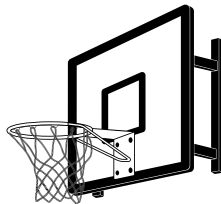


Community Services will be hosting their annual Cops & Kids Day in the Park on June 13th at Kern Park from 11am-2pm.



MAY 2024 CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
May 1 thru May 30, 2024		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	163	51.58
Grass Parking	47	14.87
Outside Storage	38	12.03
Other*	27	8.54
Bulk Items	12	3.80
Brush	8	2.53
Maintenance	7	2.22
Trailer	4	1.27
Basketball Goal	2	0.63
Boat	2	0.63
Fencing	2	0.63
Junk Vehicle	2	0.63
Trash	1	0.32
Tree limbs	1	0.32
Building Inspection	0	0.00
Heavy Vehicle Parking	0	0.00
Rubbish & Containers	0	0.00
Skirting	0	0.00
Tires	0	0.00
Total	316	100.00



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	888	44.29
Grass Parking	312	15.56
Outside Storage	292	14.56
Other*	166	8.28
Bulk Items	89	4.44
Brush	70	3.49
Trailer	48	2.39
Maintenance	40	2.00
Fencing	18	0.90
Trash	17	0.85
Basketball Goal	13	0.65
Tires	12	0.60
Heavy Vehicle Parking	10	0.50
Building Inspection	8	0.40
Junk Vehicle	8	0.40
Tree limbs	6	0.30
Boat	4	0.20
Skirting	4	0.20
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00
Total	2,005	100.00





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

Economic Development Report

MAY 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **three (3)** commercial remodeling permits within the month of May.

- 630 Indian Trail, McDonalds
 - Valued at \$35,000.00
- 920 E. Knight's Way, McDonalds
 - Valued at \$35,000.00
- 800 W. Central Texas Expressway (Medical Office Building)
 - Valued at \$39,500.00

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

The City issued a total of **five (5)** permits for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of May.

- Five on Meadow White Lane, combined valued at \$230,000.00 each

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of twenty-two (22) residential permits: twelve (12) single-family permits, ten (10) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of May 31, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,610** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 846 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.



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	\$505,890.78	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11
April	\$449,213.99	\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05
May	\$470,065.16	\$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	\$113,274.41	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41
April	\$97,246.60	\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65
May	\$109,383.84	\$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	\$16,016.08	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01
April	\$13,150.82	\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99
May	\$11,855.53	\$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	4,222	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880
April	4,264	3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819
May	4,256	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