

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



AUGUST 27, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

- ❖ Courts' Darlene Prechtel promoted to Police Department Executive Assistant on August 15th.
- ❖ Parks' Kaily Funez-Lenon promoted to Deputy Court Clerk on August 19th.
- ❖ Police Department's Jazmyne Lee promoted to the position of Juvenile Case Manager on August 19th.
- ❖ Police Department's Lawrence Stewart announced his retirement to be effective December 11th.

Congratulations to each of them!

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- ❖ **Police Officer Trainee**



September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Autobots, roll out ... to our Library! Whether you're upgrading your skills, scouting for knowledge and information, or connecting with other heroic readers, a library card is your key to an arsenal of resources. Spark your creativity as a building or programmer by tinkering in our Maker Space. Mine the Library's stacks and databases for new stories and adventures. Kickstart your critical thinking skills to defeat Decepticons of misinformation lurking online. Use your library card to fuel your mind with books, e-books, audiobooks, specialty kits, and more! If you already have a library card, then use our library often and let others know about our resources!



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is expanding our Graphic Novels and Manga section! If you love these books, then drop by the Library to take a look! We added two more shelves, and we have ordered even more selections! Our community has also donated many new series, and our volunteers have been organizing the donations to compile lists items that we might need.

If you would like to make a suggestion for a graphic novel or manga, please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov



It's not too late to log your reading, listening, and writing books and hours for our Summer Reading Club! You have until Labor Day to log the books and/or hours that you read, listen, or write in the Library's free "Read, Renew, Repeat" Summer Reading Club! Our "Read, Renew, Repeat" Summer Reading Club members add a plank for every book or hour that you read, listen, or write! **Our ever-changing plank sculptures are growing!** Remember to Visit the reading club website at <https://harkerheights.readsquared.com> to log your hours and books OR visit the Library! There you can sign up for the club, log your books and/or hours, earn virtual badges, complete missions, and see booklists! You can count ALL THE BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS that you have read since the beginning of summer even if you sign up now!



Let's Explore our beautiful Forests in our preschool programs this week. Each week we explore early literacy concepts such as letter knowledge, vocabulary, print motivation, and more! 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 Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 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.

The Library hosted a Local Author Fair on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Seventeen local authors brought books and more for all ages and genres! They discussed books and their writing processes! If you would like to meet with other aspiring and published authors, join our **Authors Support Group on the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm!**

Music Time returns Mondays in September 2024 beginning Monday, September 9! Join the Library for music, rhymes, movement, and more! Babies ages 0-18 months and their families come at 9 a.m. Children ages 18 months through 6 years and their families come at 10 a.m. Registration is not required for this program, but seating is on a first come first serve basis. The Library is CLOSED Monday, September 2, 2024, for Labor Day and will hold no classes or programs.

The Library is pleased to offer 24/7 access to online resources for children and teens! From e-books and e-audiobooks, to TexShare databases, to World Book online, our Library offers a wide variety of informative information that can be accessed even when the Library building is closed. Most of these resources can be used as documentable resources for school assignments. Whether you choose to homeschool, attend a private school, or attend a public school, these resources are available for you! Just use your library card number! Start at <https://harkerheights.gov/library> and use the links on the right hand side of the page. **Children and teen resources go to the TexShare Databases at <https://texshare.net>.** Choose the "Harker Heights Public Library" and password TX76548. Take a look at the "K-12 Resources."

RECREATION CENTER

The Recreation Center will be **CLOSED** Saturday, August 31 and Monday, September 2 in observance of **Labor Day** weekend.

Beginner Mexican Folklorico Dance registration for session two is open. The class will be held on Mondays (September 23 – October 21, 2024). Class times are 6 pm – 7:15 pm for ages 9-13 and 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm for ages 14-Adults. The fee is \$45.00 per person per session.



ABILITY SPORTS



Ability Pickleball wrapped up its season. We are excited to have Ability Soccer registration now open.

SPORTS

The **fall soccer season** has begun. Teams are currently holding practices with the games kicking off September 14.

We are gearing up for **Fall Basketball**. Registration opens September 2nd.



There will be a **Basketball Camp** hosted at the Recreation Center during the ISD Fall break. The dates are October 14th-18th . Registration opens September 9th.

SENIOR RECREATION

- ❖ Save the date for **Grand Day @ the HH Rec Center** on Saturday, September 7, 2024, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren, great grandchildren, and /or V.I.P. for fun activities, games, and more. RSVP by calling 254-953-5683 or sign up at the Recreation Center by the deadline of September 4, 2024.



- ❖ Registration for September's **Lunch & Learn** will open on September 3, 2024. It will take place on Friday, September 20, 2024, from 11:45 am – 1:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Amy Sargant with United Health Care discussing the ABCs of Medicare. Registration can be done in person or on the phone at 254-953-5683

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** will return on October 5 and run every Saturday through December 21 at 305 Miller's Crossing. Applications to be a Farmers Market Vendor continue to be accepted during the break. The last day to submit a vendor application is November 15, 2024. The Farmers Market webpage and application information can be found at the link: <https://www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/programs/farmers-market-2>. For more information, call 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov. Be sure to follow the Harker Heights

Farmers Market Facebook page on <https://facebook.com/heightsFM> for further updates on the 2024 season.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The **Fall Community Garage Sale** will be held on Saturday, October 5. Residents are invited to host a garage sale at their home on this day and participate in the city-wide event. Registration to have your sale placed on the Garage Sale Map will be opening soon. Be sure to follow <https://bit.ly/harkerheightsevents> for updates on when you can register your sale.



GO Heights

Interested in **Fall Gardening**? Now is the time to prepare your garden beds so they are ready for planting. 4 ft. by 8 ft. garden beds are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden (400 Miller's Crossing) and at Kern Park (400 S Ann Blvd). For more information on how to obtain a plot visit the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing) or call (254) 953-5657.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

On August 24, 2024, the Harker Heights Fire Department hosted a “Home Wildfire Safety Class” along with the Texas A&M Forest Service. Topics included: Home Hardening; Fire resistant landscaping; Structure ignition zone preparation; Fire Breaks; and Fuel (vegetation) reduction. 18 members of the community attended this class.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Citizen Police Academy – Registration begins early September through September 30th.
The sessions will be Monday and Wednesday from 6pm – 9pm, October 14th through November 20th.**



National Night out will be October 1, 2024. Registration ends September 20th!



Killeen ISD Freedom Walk will take place on September 11th at 9:30am at Killeen High School.

