

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

New Hires:

- ❖ The Police Department welcomed a new employee on September 5th and will be welcoming another on October 7th. Shailee Gilmore was hired for the position of Telecommunicator. Ethan Ogas will be hired for the position of Police Officer Trainee.
- ❖ The Parks Department welcomed two new Part Time Recreation Aides. Veronica Lupian-Soto was hired on September 9th and Christian Batista was hired on September 11th.
- ❖ The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on September 16th. Lindsay McLaughlin was hired for the position of Animal Services Officer.

Promotions:

- ❖ On August 31st, Justin Tanner Read promoted to Lieutenant and Jason Moore promoted to Driver/Pump Operator.
- ❖ On October 7th, Jaime Davalos will be promoting to Crew Leader.

Congratulations to each of them!

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- ❖ Police Officer Trainees
- ❖ Firefighter/Paramedics
- ❖ Light Equipment Operator
- ❖ BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution Flushing Technician
- ❖ Heavy Equipment Operator
- ❖ Maintenance Technicians
- ❖ Senior Equipment Operator
- ❖ Water Service Worker



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Everyone can celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month with a **“Big Blow Out”** program day on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**. Join us in playing on several inflatables that will be available 10:00 am - 6:00 pm! We will have something for all ages! Preschoolers come at 10:00 am for a special storytime! Homeschoolers come and go from 1:00 – 3:00 pm for games, crafts, and inflatable fun. Teens and school age kids join us from 3:30 – 6:00 pm to put some of that energy in motion!



Children ages 18 months – 3 years and their families join us for **Stepping Stones**, a play-based program in which families learn to work and play together. This series will be on Mondays in October at 10:00am. Area services provides in speech therapy, child development, early literacy, and nutrition will also be available to answer parents’ questions. Older siblings are not allowed at this program. Please call 254-953-5491 to register for this Family Place Library program.

STEWART C. MEYER HARKER HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
400 Indian Trail Harker Heights, TX 76548

STEPPING STONES: A FAMILY PLACE PROGRAM

Mondays in October 2024 | 10:00 AM
Registration begins Monday, September 23rd, 2024



Designed for children 18 months - 3 years old and their parents/caregivers. No older siblings, please.

Families will learn and play together in a 4 week workshop focused on child development.

Families will also have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with a different community resource professional regarding the topics below.

Speech and Language Development | Early Literacy
Child Development | Nutrition

Session Dates

- Oct. 7
- Oct. 14
- Oct. 21
- Oct. 28

Families must be able to attend all 4 sessions to register. Space is limited. Please call (254) 953-5491 and ask to speak with the Children's Librarian to register.



GAME NIGHT WITH NEURODIVERGENT FRIENDS



Location
The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library and Activities Center
400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights, TX 76548

DATE 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
STARTING SEPT. 24TH, 2024
TIME:
AGES 13-17: 4:00PM-7:00PM
AGES 18-26: 5:00PM-7:30PM

FREE EVENT
REGISTRATION is required



<https://www.stewartcmeyerharkerheights.org/programs/neurodivergent-friends>



QUESTIONS CONTACT
MICHELE LAMMERS
254-275-1362
REGION2PRN@GMAIL.COM

Neurodivergent Friends are invited to a monthly game night at the Library on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Patrons ages 13-17 come from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Patrons ages 18 – 25 come 5:00- 7:30pm. This is a FREE program designed to promote socialization and to develop confidence! Registration is required. Call 254-275-1362 to register!

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is expanding our Manga and Graphic Novel collections! Manga are illustrated books from Korea, Japan, and other Eastern countries. If you love these books, then drop by the Library to take a look! We have doubled the shelves and are slowly adding more titles! Our community has also donated many new series. If you would like to make a suggestion for a graphic novel or manga, please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov!

Fall is here, and we are celebrating 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.

Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library
400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights, TX 76548 | Phone: 254-953-5491

CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAMS

BABYTIME LAPSIT PROGRAM
Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
Babies and their caregiver will sing songs, rhymes, and learn fingerplays! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. No older siblings, please.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME
Wednesdays at 10:00 AM
Thursdays at 9:00 AM
Visit the Library each week for a variety of stories, songs and more! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. For children ages 3-6 years old and their families.

TODDLER TIME
Thursdays at 10:00 AM
Visit the Library each week for a variety of stories, songs, and more! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis. Designed for children ages 0-3 years old and their families.

FAMILY STORYTIME
2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM
Children of all ages and their families may enjoy a variety of stories and songs! Registration is not required. Classes will fill on a first come, first serve basis.

Our last Music Time for this series is on Monday, September 30, 2024! 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 and its volunteers helped with the **Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum Muggle Mayhem** program this weekend. From spells practice, to wand making, to potions and herbology, the Library helped usher students through Hogwarts in this live action role play based in the world of Harry Potter. For more magical fun, stop by the **Library's Kid Zone at Giganticon** October 5, 2024, from 10am-6pm, and October 6, 2024, from 10am-5pm at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.



The Library has 24/7 access to e-magazines through PressReader. Get access to more than 7,000 of the world's top newspapers and magazines in a variety of languages as soon as they are available on shelves. There are no limits on downloads. They are yours to keep forever. To access PressReader, download the app or go to <https://pressreader.com/catalog>. Select "Library or Group" and then search for the Harker Heights Public Library. Use your library card number and pin to log in. Due to a system upgrade, your pin will be either your last name plus the last four digits of your library card, or your pin may be your last name only. You can personalize your account with your email and create a password.



RECREATION CENTER

Session 2 for **Beginner Mexican Folklorico Dance** started Monday, Sept. 23. The class is held on Mondays (Session 2: September 23 – October 21, 2024) from 6 pm – 7:15 pm for ages 9-13 and 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm for ages 14-Adults. On the last day of the session, the participants will have a chance to showcase the dances they learn to the parents.



ABILITY SPORTS

We are excited to have twenty-nine participants in the Ability Soccer league.

There be an ability Sensory Gardening program on September 26th from 6pm-7pm at Carl Levin Park Community Garden.

Pre-Registration Required. Register through Civic Rec or visit the Recreation Center.

SPORTS

The fall soccer season games began on September 14.



Basketball Registration opened September 2nd. Spots are filling up fast!

There will be a Basketball Camp hosted at the Recreation Center during the ISD fall break. The dates are October 14th-18th .

Registration opened September 9th.



SENIOR RECREATION

- ❖ The Parks and Recreation Department had a booth at the **13th Annual Bell County Senior Expo** today, Sept. 24 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Cadence Bank Center. The staff was there promoting our Senior Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation, other department programs, activities, and events. The Park's bus brought a group of our senior member to attend the expo. Members of the Granny Basketball team "Old Glories" were at the Park's booth to assist with promoting the team and other senior activities.



Active Seniors (50+) are invited to **PLAY** a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 11:00 am – 12:45 pm at the Recreation Center. Each month will be a new activity to keep you moving and having fun. September's activity is pickleball and October's activity will be cornhole.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Join the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department's **Día de Muertos Festival!** Get ready to celebrate life, culture, and community at our annual event. This vibrant event is a unique opportunity to honor loved ones who have passed away while embracing the rich traditions of

Mexican culture. The event will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Carl Levin Park on 400 Miller's Crossing. Here is what you can expect:

- ❖ **Alter Displays:** add your loved ones to our altars (ofrendas) created by local community members.
- ❖ **Live performances:** enjoy traditional music and dance performances that bring the spirit of Día de Muertos to life.
- ❖ **Art and crafts:** engage in various crafts that reflect the customs and heritage of this special day.
- ❖ **And more!**

This festival is open to all ages, and admission is free. Bring your family and friends to share in this beautiful celebration of life and remembrance. For more information, visit our website at <https://harkerheights.gov/index.php/special-events-2> or call 254-953-5466.



Vendors Needed for Día de Muertos Festival! Applications to be a vendor for the event have now opened. The application is located on the online platform CivicRec through the link below. Please note that vendors will have to create a CivicRec account first before filling out the application. Application can be accessed on <https://bit.ly/4fOLHcO>. The deadline to submit an application is October 25, 2024. For more information, contact sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5493.

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. 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.



The anticipated annual **Fall Community Garage Sale** is set to take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm throughout the City of Harker Heights. This event offers residents an opportunity to declutter their homes or shop around the city for unique items. Harker Heights residents have the option to register their garage sale time and address to be listed on the Garage Sale City Map. The map will be available on Monday, September 30, 2024. Online copies will be located at <https://bit.ly/harkerheightsevents> and printed copies will be available for free pick up at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail) or at the Recreation Center (307 Miller's Crossing). For more information, call 254-953-5493 or email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov. Be sure to follow <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspr> for updates!



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](tel:254-953-5657).



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Coffee With a Cop – Wednesday, October 2nd from 9am – 11am at Dutch Bros Coffee.



Citizen's Police Academy registration closes on September 30th.



National Night Out will be on Tuesday, October 1st.



We are accepting monetary and/or new bikes for Blue Santa, which is happening in December.



Economic Development Report

AUGUST 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **three (3)** new commercial permits within the month of August.

- 980 Jama Drive, new Starbucks
 - Valued at \$1,300,000.00
- 1825 E. FM 2410, new gas station
 - Valued at \$400,000.00
- 14025 E. FM 2410, new church
 - Valued at \$2,875,000.00

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

- 100 E. Central Texas Expressway, Starbucks remodel
 - Valued at \$250,000.00
- 200 Nola Ruth Blvd, Clements Boys & Girls club remodel
 - Valued at \$1,250,000.00
- 128 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., existing commercial remodel
 - Valued at \$200,000.00

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **fourteen (14)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of August.

- 12 expired permits re-issued for Cedar Trails Subdivision
- 1 new permit issued for 1936 Deodar Drive (Cedar Trails Subdivision)
 - Valued at \$132,321.00
- 1 new permit issued for 3121 Cedar Knob Circle
 - Valued at \$650,000.00

The City issued a total of **one (1)** permit for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of August.

- 222 N. Mary Jo Drive
 - Valued at \$220,000.00

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of forty-two (42) residential permits: twenty-seven (27) single-family permits, fifteen (15) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of August 31, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,820** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 917 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.