

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

- ❖ The Police Department welcomed a new employee on August 27th. Emily Wallace Sammons was hired for the position of Records Clerk.
- ❖ The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on August 31st. Brandon Casto transferred from the Parks Department to the position of Drainage Light Equipment Operator.
- ❖ The Library welcomed a new employee on September 3rd. Ashlyn Brooks was hired for the position of Library Clerk.
- ❖ The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on September 4th. Isabelle VanNiekerk was hired for the position of Part Time Receptionist.
- ❖ Sgt. Russell Dunagan announced his retirement to be effective on September 12th.
- ❖ Steven McClain will be promoted to the position of Police Sergeant on September 14th.

Congratulations to both of them!

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- ❖ Police Officer Trainee



Wow! Harker Heights read, listened, and wrote a ton this Summer in our 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 have grown!

We are getting them into their final shape. Be sure to drop by the Library to see it before it is gone. Though not everyone has entered their final numbers, the entire membership read, listened, or wrote over 10,000 books or hours!



International Observe the Moon Night is Saturday, September 14, 2024, and the Library is pleased to work with MECATX to provide an evening of stargazing! Come at 7:00 pm for astronomy science! Bring your own telescope or use one of ours at 8:00 pm to see the moon and other wonders of the sky.



Happy Library Day! When is that? Every day can be Library Day, and September is a great time to get excited by getting a Library Card! September is National Library 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

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 story-time!
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 pm – 6:00 pm to
put some of that energy in motion!



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 pm – 7:00 pm.

Patrons ages 18 – 25 come 5:00 pm - 7:30pm.

This is a FREE program designed to promote socialization and to develop confidence!

Registration is required. Call 254-275-1362 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 76448

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.neurodivergentfriends.org/events>



QUESTIONS CONTACT
MICHELE LAMMERS
254-275-1362
REGION12PRN@GMAIL.COM

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is expanding our Anime collection! Anime are animated videos from Korea, Japan, and other Eastern countries. If you love these movies and series, then drop by the Library to take a look! We have moved these items to a more accessible area, 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 of items that we might need.

If you would like to make a suggestion for an anime, please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov!

There are Apples, Apples, Everywhere! 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.



Music Time is on Mondays in September 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 is pleased to offer 24/7 access to LearningExpress Library in TexShare Databases! This is a collection of practice tests, interactive tutorials, flash cards, and e-books patrons can use to improve academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. This product even offers practice for those high-stakes college entrance and professional tests such as ACT, SAT, and others. 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. For LearningExpress Library go to the TexShare Databases at <https://texshare.net>. Choose the “Harker Heights Public Library” and password TX76548.



RECREATION CENTER

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

We are excited to have Ability Soccer registration now open.

There be an ability Sensory Gardening program on September 26th from 6pm-7pm at Carl Levin Park Community Garden. Registration opened September 9th. Pre-Registration Required. Register through Civic Rec or visit the Recreation Center.

SPORTS

The fall soccer season has begun. Teams are currently holding practices with the games beginning 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

- ❖ Grandparents and grandchildren had a great time during **Grand Day @ the HH Rec Center** this past Saturday. They enjoyed games, crafts, ping pong, basketball, pickleball, snacks and new for this year BINGO! Thank you to our Senior volunteers and Hal Alcorn, Library Clerk, with HH Public Library with assisting with the activities during the event.



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.



September's **BINGO** will be on Thursday, September 19, 2024, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



Ladies Night Out for September will be on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm at Joe's Italian Restaurant in Harker Heights. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own meal. Registration is preferred and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.



Registration now open for September's **Lunch & Learn** taking place on Friday, September 20, 2024, from 11:45 am – 1:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Amy Sargent with UnitedHealthcare discussing the ABCs of Medicare. Space is limited; registration can be done in person or over the phone at 254-953-5683.

The Parks Department will have a booth at the **13th Annual Bell County Senior Expo** on Tuesday, September 24 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Cadence Bank Center. The expo is a free event for Senior Citizens and friends. The recreation staff will be there promoting Senior Recreation Programs as well as other programs, activities, and events the Department and City has to offer. The Park's bus will be available for participant's transportation to the event, sign up today as space is limited.



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.

Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

25 more sleeps until the Framers Market Returns!

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 web-page 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 coming up! 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 last day to register your garage sale for the map is Friday, September 20, 2024. To register, click here: <https://bit.ly/4e8sLUJ>

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).

Learn about **"Vegetable Gardening in Central Texas"** with Bell County Master Gardener's on Tuesday September 17th, 2024, from 6pm-7:30pm at the Harker Heights Activities Center (400 Indian Trail). The class is free and open to ages 8 and up. Registration is encouraged, walk-ins are welcome. Register through Civic Rec or visit the Recreation Center.



We have partnered with Peaceable Kingdom for an Adaptive Archery Camp Saturday September 14, 2024, from 9am-1pm. This come-and-go adaptive archery event is a fun-filled day for everyone, regardless of age or ability. Participants can either shoot for fun or receive basic beginner archery instruction from experienced instructors. The focus is on enjoying the outdoors, learning the basics of archery, and having fun in a supportive environment. Pre-Registration Required. Register through Civic Rec or visit the Recreation Center.



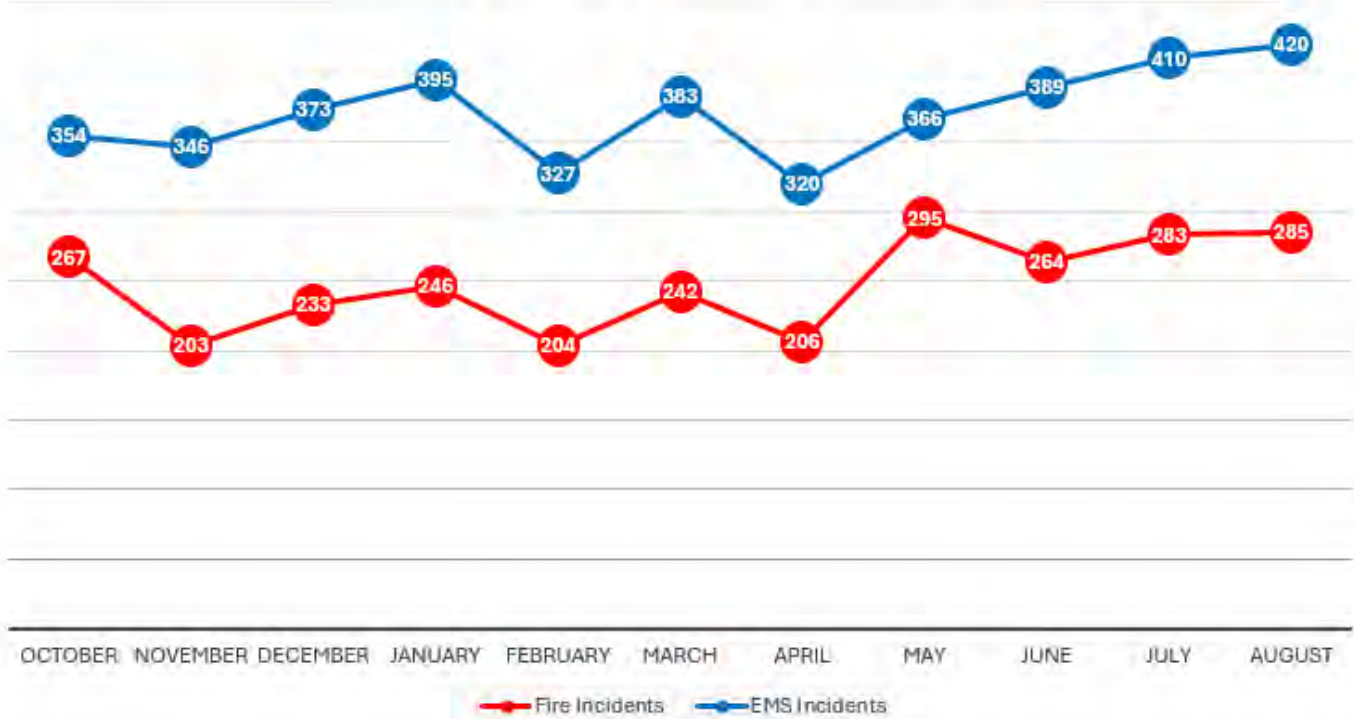
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Harker Heights FD will have six (6) members participating in this year's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb in Dallas this weekend and two (2) members also participating in the San Antonio climb on the 11th. Crew from last year's Dallas climb.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

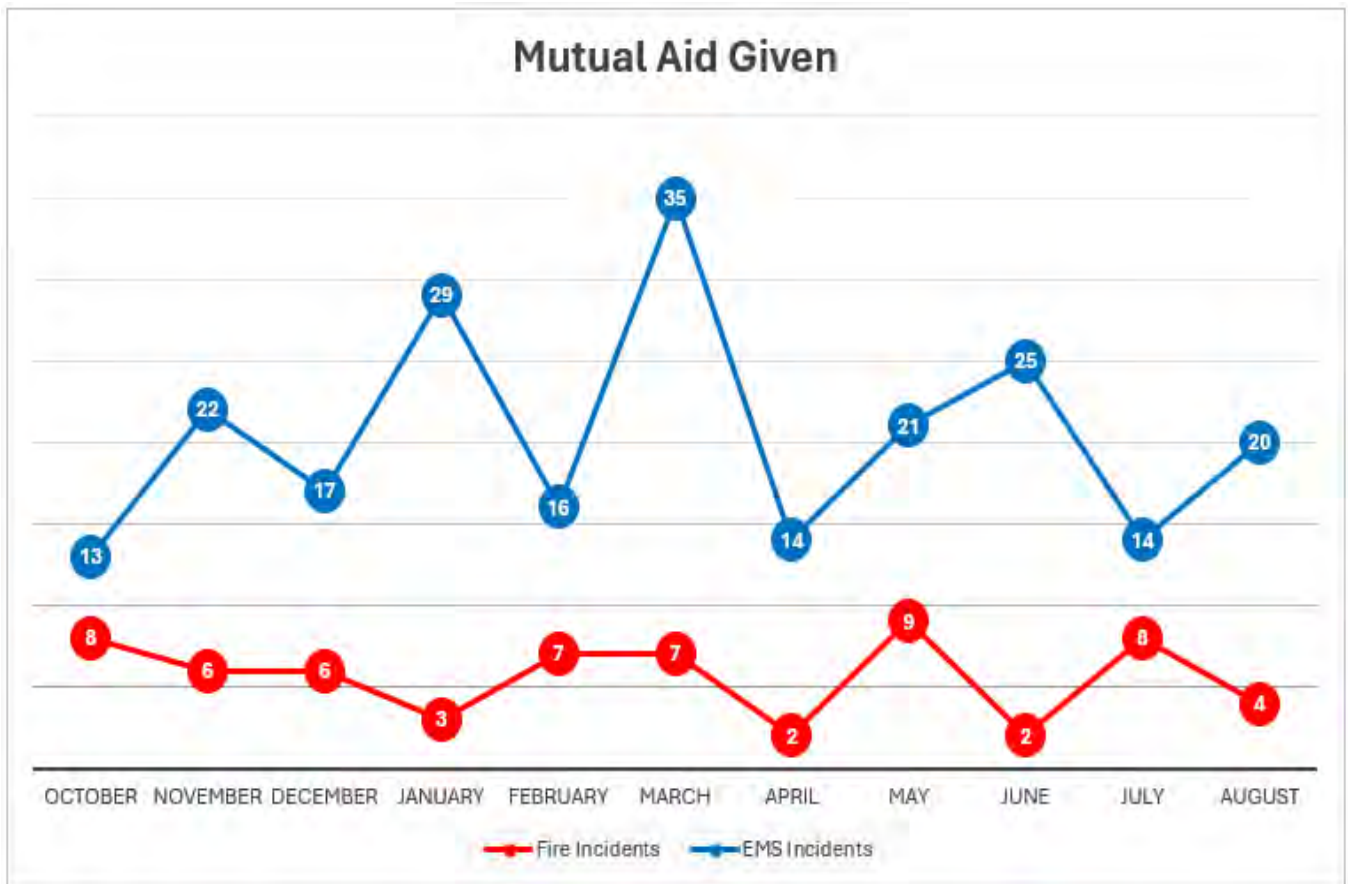
Fire & EMS Incident Trends



Mutual Aid Received



FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Marshal's Office – August 2024

Inspections	118
Plan Reviews	6
Investigations	3
Permits Issued	14
Department/Agency Assists	12

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.



Sergeant Russell Dunagan is retiring September 12th, 2024, after 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Harker Heights. The ceremony will be held in the Harker Heights Police Department Training Room at 10am.



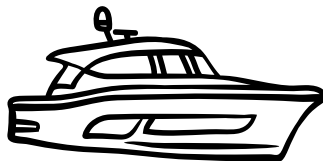
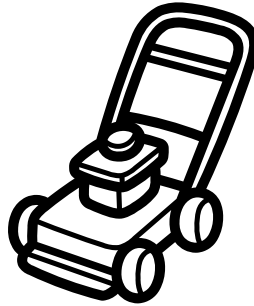
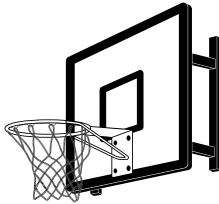
Officer Steven McClain will be promoted from Officer to Sergeant September 13th, 2024. The ceremony will be held in the Harker Heights Police Department Training Room at 3pm.



AUGUST 2024

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
August 1 thru August 31, 2024		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	106	39.26%
Grass Parking	54	20.00%
Outside Storage	36	13.33%
Brush	29	10.74%
Other*	21	7.78%
Bulk Items	13	4.81%
Maintenance	3	1.11%
Trailer	3	1.11%
Fencing	1	0.37%
Skirting	1	0.37%
Tires	1	0.37%
Trash	1	0.37%
Tree limbs	1	0.37%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	270	100.00%



CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY		
October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024		
Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	1237	43.66%
Grass Parking	424	14.97%
Outside Storage	399	14.08%
Other*	231	8.15%
Brush	147	5.19%
Bulk Items	120	4.24%
Trailer	64	2.26%
Trash	64	2.26%
Maintenance	46	1.62%
Fencing	21	0.74%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	17	0.60%
Basketball Goal	14	0.49%
Tires	13	0.46%
Junk Vehicle	10	0.35%
Tree limbs	9	0.32%
Building Inspection	8	0.28%
Skirting	5	0.18%
Boat	4	0.14%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	2,833	100.00%





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	\$455,755.87	\$508,923.56	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93
July	\$632,588.50	\$549,266.57	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64
August	\$648,863.93	\$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	\$103,002.72	\$117,678.21	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21
July	\$128,211.92	\$116,990.27	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84
August	\$140,993.30	\$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	\$16,060.62	\$16,308.52	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19
July	\$16,487.65	\$16,201.62	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38
August	\$19,529.80	\$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	4,307	3,960	3,698	3,396	2,931
July	4,318	4,061	3,695	3,461	2,976
August	4,369	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