

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



OCTOBER 7, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ❖ Lyndsey Amundson promoted to Employee Relations Manager on September 28th. Congratulations, Lyndsey!
- ❖ On October 30th there will be a Dementia Lunch and Learn for City Employees at the Activities Center.

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:



- ❖ Firefighter/Paramedics

THE STEWART C. MEYER HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY

Fall is here, and the Library is excited to usher it in with a full slate of program, services, displays, and more. 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>.

The Friends of the Harker Heights Public Library will be holding their **Fall Book Sale** on Friday, October 18, 2024, from 2-6pm (Friends members can enter early at 1pm) and on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 8am-2pm! Here's your chance to pick up books, DVDs, games, and more at low, low prices!

THE STEWART C. MEYERS HARKER HEIGHTS LIBRARY

We look forward to our **Fall Break October 12 – 19, 2024**, and we provide a variety of programs for all ages.

1. Saturday, October 12 from 10am – 5pm – Stay and Play for a variety of board and card games.
2. Saturday, October 12 from 1-3pm – Bring your own Pokemon or YuGiOh! cards or play with ours for our weekly games!
3. Monday, October 14 at 10am – Stepping Stones: Play is the Work of Childhood for ages 18 months to 3 years old. Please call 254-953-5492 to register.
4. Tuesday, October 15 at 10am – Baby Time for babies ages 0-18 months.
5. Wednesday, October 16 at 10am - Busy Builders for all ages – Use your ingenuity to build with Legos, planks, and more!
6. Wednesday, October 16 at 2pm – STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) afternoon for ages 7- 12 years – Come to the Library to assemble STEAM kits with Ms. Heather. All supplies are included. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register.
7. Thursday, October 17 at 9am – Let's Dance Storytime for children ages 3-6 years old and their families.
8. Thursday, October 17 at 10am - Let's Dance Storytime for children ages 0-3 years old and their families.
9. Friday, October 18 from 12 – 3pm – Game Room Open for School Age kids.
10. Saturday, October 19 from 1-3pm - Bring your own Pokemon or YuGiOh! cards or play with ours for our weekly games!
11. Maker Space – Open Saturdays 10am – 1 pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10am – 3pm.

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.

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

As a **Family Place Library**, our Library provides programs for preschoolers, children, teens, and adults. We also work to make a pleasant atmosphere that is welcoming for families. Enjoy our Friends and Family Early Learning Center filled with simple toys designed to fuel the imagination. 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.

Join us in discussing "**The Midnight Library**" by **Matt Haig** at the Library or in person on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30 pm. In **The Midnight Library**, an enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, or realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist. She must search within herself as she travels through the **Midnight Library** to decide what is truly fulfilling in life and what makes it worth living in the first place.

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library has a **new Boundless App** available to individuals with our Library card. This app allows patrons to access a large collection of e-books and audiobooks at the touch of a finger. This particular program is available on a variety of devices. Simply download the app, search for our Library, and use your Library card to set up an account.

The Library and its volunteers helped with **Giganticon** this past 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.

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 Recreation Center will be an **Early Voting** site from October 21- November 1, 2024, and on Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2024.



City Wide Door- to-Door Trick-or-Treating will be on Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.



ABILITY SPORTS

Ability soccer is going great the league has 30 participants. Lone-Star travel soccer team members are helping demonstrate skills.



SPORTS

Fall Soccer games are going great, this is the last week for U6 and U8. The league will pause for fall break October 14-18 and resume playoffs for U10 and U12 the week of October 21 with an anticipated season end by October 31.

Basketball Registration is still open; and filling up quickly with some age groups already on a Waitlist. We are excited to have secured all coaches for each team in each division.

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.



Parks & Recreation Department



SENIOR RECREATION



- ❖ The Parks and Recreation Department is **celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Senior Recreation Program** during October. We kicked off the celebration with snacks and fruit given away on October 1. Join us on October 17 for cupcakes and coffee from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. On October 31st we will wrap up the celebration with a Senior Trick-or-Treat from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- ❖ 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 there will be a new activity to keep participants moving and having fun. October's activity is Corn-hole.
- ❖ October's BINGO will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- ❖ Ladies Night Out for October will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm. at Opa's Schnitzel Hut 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.



- ❖ Crafty Connection will be on Monday, October 28, 2024, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. This month participants will do a pumpkin craft.



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Join the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department's **Dia 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 Dia 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 Dia 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

The Harker Heights Farmers Market has Returned and will 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.



GO Heights!

Join us for our **Annual Family Camp-out** on October 19-20, 2024. This year's campout will be in partnership with Peaceable Kingdom, and held at their property (19051 FM2484, Killeen, TX 76542). Participants should expect a mixture of activities provided by staff including a low ropes course, archery, visiting the properties farm animals, and more. The cost is \$15/Person. Children five and under are free (must still register). All ages are welcome; however, activities are designed for ages 6+ Pre-Registration Required.

<https://secure.recl.com/TX/harker-heights-tx/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTMyOTg2MzQ=>

Interested in joining the Family Camp-out but do not have camping supplies?

We have a limited number of tents available for families to use. If interested contact kgomez@harkerheights.gov or call 254-953-5465

FIRE DEPARTMENT

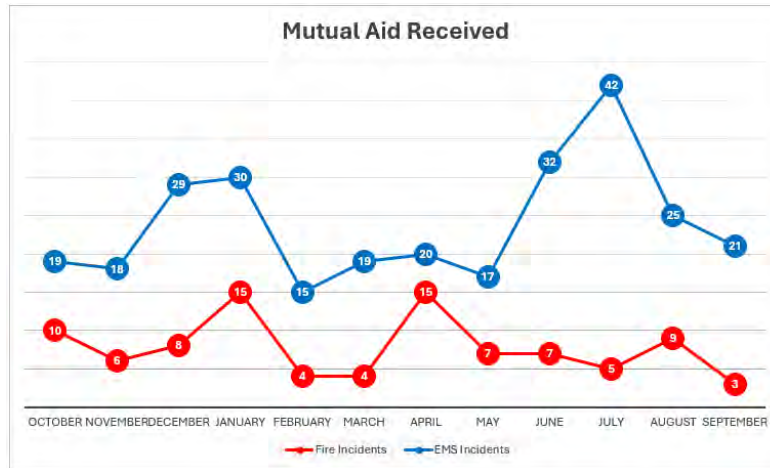
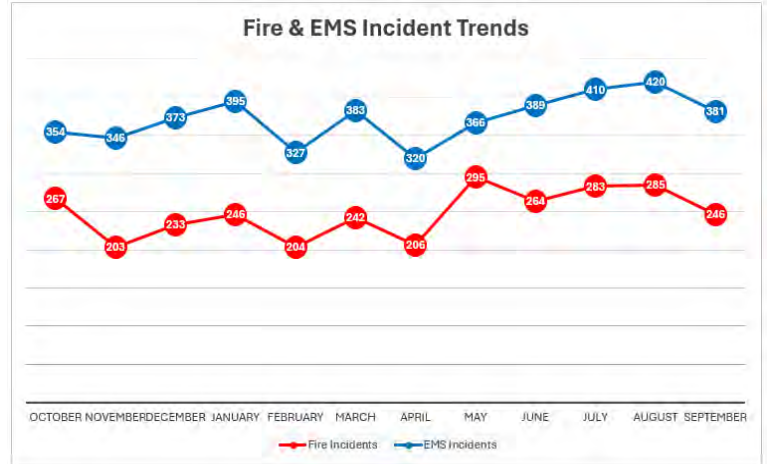
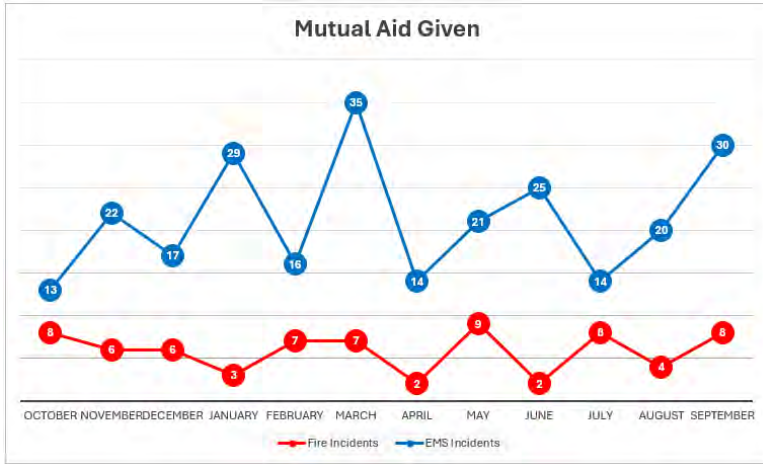
Fire Marshal's Office Activity Report - September 2024

Inspections: 107

Plan Reviews: 15

Investigations: 4

Department/Agency Assists: 25



Community CPR Training

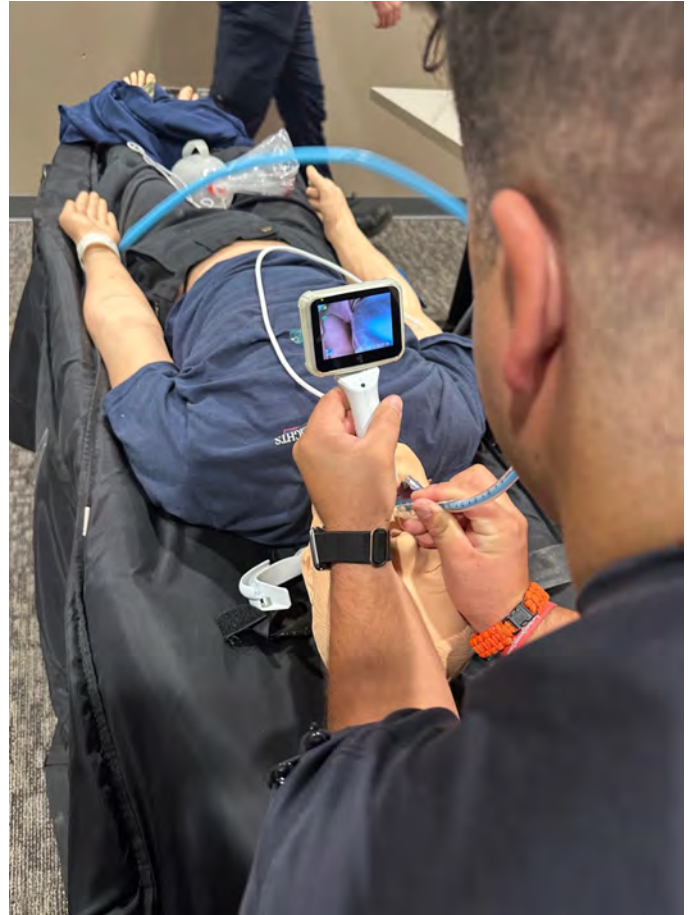


FIRE DEPARTMENT

Forcible Entry Training



Advance Airway Training



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is currently accepting monetary and/or new bikes for Blue Santa, which is happening in December.

Citizen's Police Academy has been cancelled.

Six juveniles will be participating in the BABY Program, which begins October 15th.



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	\$623,481.36	\$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	\$133,158.99	\$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	\$15,348.97	\$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	4,372	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

ASSESSMENT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

PAVING ASSESSMENT:

BALANCE

Polk, Billy (deceased)/Phillip Sueoka	242 E. Cardinal	\$22,337.76
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No payments were made for the Paving Assessment.

WILDEWOOD ASSESSMENT:

BALANCE

Rickets, Tommie	936/940 Lemonwood	\$13,393.16
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No payments were made for the Wildewood Assessment.