

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 28, 2020

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department gave out **FREE At-Home Camping Kits** to the first 25 families that registered on April 22nd. The kits included s'mores supplies, camping activities, and lessons to learn how to "Leave No Trace." The kits were then distributed one-by-one (to remain properly socially distanced) on April 24th. Thanks to all who participated!

The **Virtual Running Challenge** officially begins this Friday and will run through the month of May! Participants who register will have the opportunity to compete in various distance and timing challenges for prizes and all registrants will receive a Running Challenge t-shirt at the conclusion of the program. Registration is \$20 per runner. For more information, visit the Parks and Rec website or Facebook page.

Visit our **Virtual Recreation Center** for tips on getting outdoors while social distancing, at-home sports drills, ways to stay active, craft projects, virtual tours of parks and museums, and MUCH MORE!

Parks are OPEN but please remember to **#keepyourdistance** and be aware of facility closures

- Restrooms, Pavilions, Playgrounds, Courts, Water Fountains, and Workout Stations are CLOSED
- When using trails, observe the CDC's minimum distancing of 6' from other persons at all times

All sports leagues, programs, and special events have been postponed until further notice but keep up with us on Facebook and our website as new activities are added daily

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The City is currently taking applications for the position of **Firefighter/Paramedic** and **Water Service Worker**.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department has had several donations of PPE, Food and Appreciation from the public. We would like to thank all of them, we are proud to be part of such a caring Community. Special Thanks to **Debbie Mozek, Lisa Youngblood, Harker Heights Interact Club, Casey Baugh and many others**.

On the same note of appreciation, we would like to recognize, **Shawn Jenkins** and **Parks & Rec** for all their assistance in moving several large items at Station 2. This was a great help with our Department's preparation for the Station 2 renovation. Something great about the City of Harker Heights is it isn't an island of Departments, but a Community that looks after each other.

The Fire Department has received for the second year in a row the **highest Mission Lifeline award (Gold Plus) from the American Heart Association**, which is given to departments that meet exceptional standards in handling heart attack emergencies.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has hired two new **Police Officer Trainees, Jason Hume and Justin Smith**, who will start the Police Academy at Central Texas College on April 27th.

The Police Department also has four **Police Officer Trainees, Bambi Basinger, Patrick Hogan, Dustin Weaver, and Wyatt Odom**, who are currently attending the Police Academy at Central Texas College and they will be graduating on June 26th.

The Police Department currently has one opening for Police Officer and we are working to fill that position while still complying with safe practices as it relates to COVID-19 and State and Federal guidelines.

Chief Phil Gadd would like to congratulate **Leona Clay, Human Resources Director**, on recently obtaining her **Master Peace Officer Certification** through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The **Police Department** would like to thank the community for their support as we all navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen many generous and thoughtful donations of masks, face shields, sanitizing products, and food from individuals, groups, and businesses from all over the central Texas area.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement family is growing with the addition of **Ainslee Dawn**, born to our **Building Official Mike Beard and his wife Dawn**, on April 22nd.

ACTIVITY CENTER

As you know during this time with social distancing and guidelines, many of our staff and departments are coming up with virtual activities and programs the community can still participate from home, out in their neighborhoods, or a park. Please continue to follow us on **Facebook** and our **Special Event's page** of the **Parks & Recreation website** for upcoming events and programs.

Senior Recreation

- May is **Older Americans Month!** The Senior Recreation Program will be celebrating our seniors. Photos will be posted on the Facebook to honor our seniors.
- **Senior 2 Senior:** Seniors from the Senior Recreation Program can write a piece of advice to give to graduating high school and college seniors. We will share the advice on the website.
- May is also **National Pet Month**. The seniors are welcomed to send in photos of themselves with their furry friends to share with everyone. Staff will have photos of their dogs in the newsletter so the seniors will have to guess whose pet is who!

Events

- **Earth Day/Arbor Day Art Contest** had 21 entries. Pictures of the winning art pieces were announced on the Parks & Recreation Facebook and website.
- Soon you will be hearing more about the Monarch Butterfly. Many City departments are working together to support the **Monarch Butterfly Pledge** by offering programs and activities throughout the year.

LIBRARY

The **Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library** at 400 Indian Trail in Harker Heights is offering a **curbside pick-up service** beginning Monday, April 24th. Though the building itself is still closed for walk-ins, patrons can call 254-953-5491 or e-mail reference@harkerheights.gov to reserve materials to be picked up at the side of the Library in the drive through area. E-mail your name, card number if available, titles and authors of items that you want, and the best way for the Library to contact you when your items are ready! Curbside pick-up hours will be from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Saturdays. The drop box for returning materials will continue to be open 24/7. Staff members will be taking additional precautionary measures which will allow for pick-up and drop off without direct contact between individuals. For additional information, please visit our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary/> or call 254-953-5491. To look at the Library's catalog online, please visit <http://67.79.126.39/opac/hhpl/index.html#menuHome>

The Library continues to provide a robust schedule of programs and services to its patrons through its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary/> .

April is Poetry month! For the past two weeks City of Harker Heights employees have been sharing their love of poetry with our patrons! They have been reading their favorite poems. Take a look and a listen to great poetry!

May the 4th Be With You is a celebration of all things **Star Wars**, but one day is just not enough for the Library! Though we cannot meet in-person, **Star Wars fans** from our area are coming together to enjoy **A Weekend of Star Wars** May 1st – 5th through the Library's Facebook page. From crafts, to booklists, to story-times, and to costumed characters, we will enjoy Facebook posts, polls, and fun!

Stop By, Monarch Butterfly! The Library, Activities Center, and Parks and Recreation are combining forces to celebrate the migration of the **Texas State Insect – the Monarch Butterfly**. As part of the **Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge initiative**, these departments will provide a variety of programs, informational posts, website games, and drive and hunt community activity. Check the Library and Parks and Recreation websites for information on upcoming events.

Even though the Library is opening its curbside service so that patrons can check out library materials, the **Library's Virtual Library** at www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/virtuallibrary will still be offering an array of electronic resources! New to our online resources is the TumbleBook Library, and online collection of children's books and audiobooks. Just visit www.tumblebooklibrary.com. Use the username: **harkerheightspl** and the password: **trial** to open a world of wonder for our youngest patrons.