

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

Human Resources staff and officers from the Police Department attended the Fort Cavazos Mega Winter career fair on January 9th.

Human Resources staff and officers from the Police Department attended the Harker Heights High School career fair on January 24th.

Assistant Director of Human Resources Melonie Matthewson and Judge Billy Ray Hall attended the Senior Job Fair on February 3rd.

Welcome to all the New Hires:

The Fire Department welcomed a new employee on February 12th. Ethan McClellan was hired for the position of Firefighter/EMT. The Fire Department will be welcoming another new employee on March 18th. Charles Maines will begin employment with the City as a Firefighter/EMT.

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:

- Director of Parks and Recreation
- Wastewater Superintendent
- Chief Plant Operator
- Collections Operator
- Inventory/Line Locator
- Mechanic
- Senior Equipment Operator
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- BPAT/CSI Water Distribution Flushing Technician
- Maintenance Technician II
- Maintenance Technicians
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Part Time Recreation Aide
- Part Time Aquatics Cashiers
- Part Time Aquatics Supervisors
- Part Time Lifeguards
- Part Time Water Safety Instructors

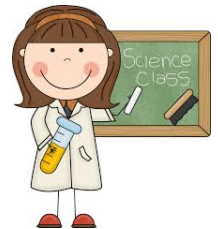


Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

The Library is pleased to invite everyone to work on those new years resolutions at the Library! Do you want to read more?

Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

- Wednesday, February 14 at 10am – Happy Valentines Day Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!
- Thursday, February 15 at 9am – Be Kind Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!
- Thursday, February 15 at 10am – Be Kind Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!



Virtual Programs on the Library's Facebook:

- Wednesday, February 14 at 2pm – Science Time with Ms. Heather
- Thursday, February 15 at 6pm – The Science of Kindness Family Night – Ms. Lisa believes in the power of kindness! Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little!

Yoga for Littles returns on Monday, February 26 in-person at the Library! Babies ages 0-18 months come at 9:00 am with their special adult. Children ages 18 months - 6 years and their families come at 10:00 am. Enjoy a relaxing age appropriate yoga session filled with songs, rhymes, and more. Work on fine and gross motor skills, neuroplasticity, balance, and more!



The Library will provide a space and anime themed maker space at the local Anime Convention in Belton, TX on February 17 and 18. Learn a little about the coming coming eclipse, explore anime inspired art, and let your creative juices flow.



In-Person Maker Space:

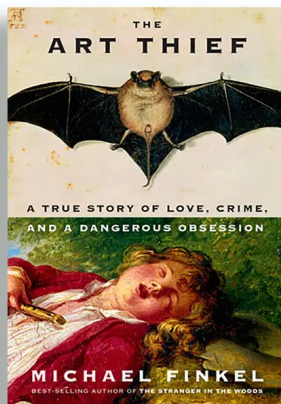
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 10am - 1pm. We learn best when we play! Imagine what you can create with whatever is in the room! Drop in to be a maker.

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Do you have art supplies or unusual items that you would like to donate? The Library can use them to stock our popular Maker Space. Just drop them off anytime that the Library is open. The Friends of the Library is also accepting donations for the annual book-sale. Bring in books, audio books, music, and more anytime that the Library is open.

Join us in-person at the Library or Virtually!

Thursday, February 15 at 6:30pm – Book Discussion of “Art Thief” by Michael Finkel.

For a virtual invitation, please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov. In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, the best-selling author of *The Stranger in the Woods* brings us into Breitwieser’s strange world. Unlike most thieves, he never stole for money. Instead he kept all his treasures in a single room where he could admire them.



Did you know that you can view find job getting information through our Texas Share Databases 24/7?

Just visit harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library. Click on “Find Information” in the Quick Links menu. Then click on “TexShare.” You will need your library card number to access the “Learning Express” database which provides resume assistance, preparation tests for SATs, GEDs, and other entrance exams, job forecasts, and more!

Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER & ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Recreation Center and Activities Center will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day. The centers will resume normal business hours on February 20, 2024.

- The Recreation Center will be an **Early Voting** location:
 - Tuesday – Friday, February 20 – 23, 2024, from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
 - Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
 - Monday – Friday, February 26 – March 1, 2024, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

The Recreation Center will be an **Election Day** location on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.

ATHLETICS

The **Youth Basketball** program is officially full and will end this month.



The **2024 Youth Sports Schedule** has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website!

- Registration for **Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** opened on January 2 and closes February 21!
- **Youth Flag Football** registration opened on January 15 and will be a mini-season. Games will be on Saturdays in March.



- **Ability Sports Basketball for Children with Special Needs** opened for registration on January 22.

AQUATICS

Lifeguard and other summer job opportunities are now available on the City website!

SENIOR RECREATION

The **Armchair Travelers** group meets each week on Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:30pm as they watch videos of many destinations around the world from the comfort of their chair at the Recreation Center.

Active Seniors (50+) are invited to PLAY a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 12:00pm – 1:45pm at the Recreation Center. Each month will be a new activity to keep you moving and having fun. February's activity is Miniature Golf.

February's **BINGO** will be Thursday, February 15 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, February 15 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting Zum Edelweiss in Harker Heights. Each attendee is responsible for purchasing their own supper. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center.



- Join us for **Crafty Connection** on Monday, February 26 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Seniors can bring a craft project they are working on at home to socialize and show other crafters. If participants don't have a craft project they don't have to worry a craft will be available for them at the Recreation Center.
- Come cheer the **Granny Basketball** team "Old Glories" at the next home game on March 1 at 12:00 pm the Recreation Center.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars for the **Harker Heights Arts Festival** on
Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7!

Experience the creativity of Central Texas! Dive into a two-day festival of colors, textures, and inspiration at our upcoming event. Local artists will showcase their talents across diverse mediums, inviting you to immerse yourself in our community's artistic spirit. This event will lead up to Monday for the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse. Join us for a canvas of culture, art, and nature!



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Outdoor & Science Expo a Success Despite Inclement Weather: The Outdoor & Science Expo brought in hundreds of attendees from across the community to swap seeds, visit Educational Booths, and even get their bikes fixed, along with dozens of other Outdoor Activities, crafts, and more!**



Community Gardens: Did you know you can grow food through winter? Plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden & Kern Park (Free) Community Garden. Rentals are for six months or one year. To pay and register for your plot, please go to the Harker Heights Rec Center, 307 Miller's Crossing.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **Community Services hosted a Coffee with a Cop event on February 13th at 10am at Corner Donuts & Kolaches. Stay posted for the next event!**



- **Officer Daniel Huff and Ms. Karry Fow were selected as the 2023 Fourth Quarter HHPD Employees of the Quarter. Congratulations!**



Healthy Homes will be hosting a Free Children's Pop-Up Clinic on April 27th at 9am - 12 pm at the Harker Heights Activities Center.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

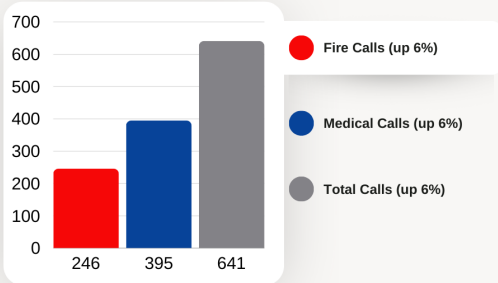
Rene Fernandez was recognized at the Chamber Banquet and at the Harker Heights American Legion 573 for Firefighter of the Year.

A citizen came by and dropped off cookies for the crew to thank them for everything they do.

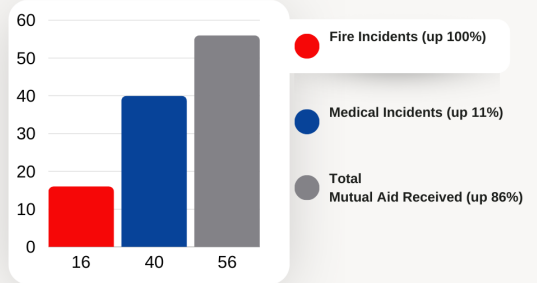
A citizen stopped by the station to bring bundtins to our crews for helping her many times with the transport of her husband.

Betty DeLong has demonstrated outstanding leadership in spearheading the implementation of regional Fire Department Executive Assistants collaboration meetings. These meetings are designed to discuss current topics and to share administrative best practices, which will significantly enhance our collective performance and effectiveness. Betty's initiative and concern to raise the collective performance bar of all of her regional colleagues is a testament to her commitment to public service and leadership.

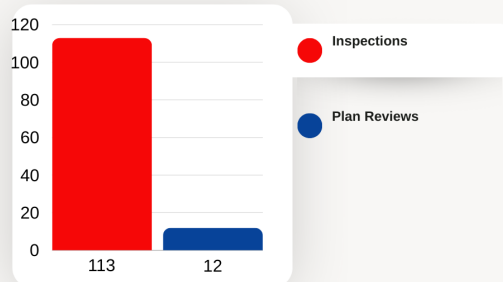
Total Calls January 2024



Mutual Aid Received January 2024



Fire Marshal's Office January 2024





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		\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74
March		\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11
April		\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05
May		\$577,032.32	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28
June		\$508,923.56	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93
July		\$549,266.57	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64
August		\$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		\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11
March		\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41
April		\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65
May		\$128,587.47	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54
June		\$117,678.21	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21
July		\$116,990.27	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84
August		\$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		\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02
March		\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01
April		\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99
May		\$16,807.66	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43
June		\$16,308.52	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19
July		\$16,201.62	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38
August		\$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		3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759
March		3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880
April		3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819
May		3,927	3,654	3,364	2,847
June		3,960	3,698	3,396	2,931
July		4,061	3,695	3,461	2,976
August		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

ASSESSMENT BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

PAVING ASSESSMENT:

Balance

Polk, Billy (deceased)/Phillip Sueoka 242 E. Cardinal \$21,175.75

No payments were made for the Paving Assessment.

WILDEWOOD ASSESSMENT:

Balance

Rickets, Tommie 936/940 Lemonwood \$12,444.63

No payments were made for the Wildewood Assessment.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

January 1 thru January 31, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass Parking	65	24.16%
Other*	52	19.33%
Outside Storage	45	16.73%
Grass	27	10.04%
Bulk Items	20	7.43%
Trailer	14	5.20%
Brush	13	4.83%
Trash	12	4.46%
Fencing	6	2.23%
Basketball Goal	3	1.12%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	3	1.12%
Maintenance	3	1.12%
Tires	3	1.12%
Building Inspection	2	0.74%
Junk Vehicle	1	0.37%
Boat	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	269	100.00%

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	429	40.94%
Grass Parking	181	17.27%
Outside Storage	159	15.17%
Other*	87	8.30%
Bulk Items	45	4.29%
Brush	41	3.91%
Trailer	26	2.48%
Fencing	14	1.34%
Trash	14	1.34%
Maintenance	12	1.15%
Basketball Goal	10	0.95%
Tires	8	0.76%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	8	0.76%
Building Inspection	7	0.67%
Junk Vehicle	3	0.29%
Skirting	3	0.29%
Boat	1	0.10%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	1,048	100.00%



City of Harker Heights
Planning & Development
305 Miller's Crossing
Harker Heights, TX 76548
planning@harkerheights.gov

Economic Development Report

JANUARY 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued zero (0) commercial construction permits within the month of January.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **zero (0)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of January.

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

- 212 W. Dove Lane, valued at \$220,000.00

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City issued a total of one (1) residential permit: zero (0) single-family permits, one (1) two-family permit, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

As of January 31, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,538** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 822 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.