

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Public Works Department welcomed four new employees and promoted four employees. Zaeem Siddiqui was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician on February 20th, Nathaniel Trimble was hired for the position of Water Maintenance Technician II, Johnathan Vanwinkle was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician on February 23rd, and Rokeema Collins was hired for the position of Streets Light Equipment Operator.

The Public Works Department promoted four employees. On February 17th, Maurice Henderson was promoted to the position of Mechanic, Dale Reeves was promoted to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator Trainee, Patrick Wilson was promoted to Utility Specialist and Leslie Stevens was promoted to Chief Plant Operator. Congratulations to all!

The Parks Department promoted an employee. On February 17th, Norris Lockett was promoted to the position of Light Equipment Operator. Congratulations Norris!

The City is currently taking applications for the following position:

- Custodian
- Police Officer Trainee
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Student Library Page



Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

Spring Break is coming March 9-16, 2024, and the Library has plenty to do for all ages! Our theme this year is Out of This World! Take a look at the complete list of events on our website at harkerheights.gov/library.

Spring Break Events

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Children's Dungeons and Dragons 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | For children 10-14 years old. Registration required. Please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov

Kids Astronomy Club 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | For children ages 10-14 years old. Learn about science and technology used to look at the sky! Take a look at hardware, software, and methods for becoming citizen scientists. Enjoy hands on practice with equipment and presentations by MECA and science experts. Both hearing and visual aids are available.

2024 Total Solar Eclipse Training for Teens and Adults 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | For ages 13 and up. Learn about science and technology used during the Solar Eclipse! Take a look at hardware, software, and methods for becoming citizen scientists. Enjoy hands on practice with equipment and presentations by MECA and science experts! Both hearing and visual aids are available.

Pokémon and Yi-Gi-Oh! Card Games 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | For all ages.

Children's Dungeons and Dragons 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | For children 10-14 years old. Registration required. Please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov Play Date at the Library 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | For preschoolers and school age kids. Join us at the Library for an afternoon of play!

Monday, March 11, 2024

- **Game Room 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | For all ages. Play board games, card games, and video games!**

More Spring Break Events!

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

- **Babytime 10:00 AM | For babies 0-18 months only. Babies 0-18 months and their caregivers will work on early literacy concepts using songs and rhymes.**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

- **Stars and Science Austin Planetarium Show 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM | 2:00 PM| For all ages. Go inside a mobile planetarium to learn about the sun, moon, and the upcoming Total Eclipse! Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

- **Preschool Storytime 9:00 AM | For children 3-6 years old and their families. Children 3-6 years old and their families will read stories, sing songs, and more!**
- **Toddler Time 10:00 AM | For children 0-3 years old and their families. Children 0-3 years old and their families will read stories, sing songs, and more!**
- **Family Night: Let's Build Sun and Moon Solar Eclipse Models 6:00 PM - 7:00PM All ages welcome. Families may choose to build a solar eclipse demonstration model together or create a sun dial craft, perfect for younger participants!**

Friday, March 15, 2024

- **Game Room 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | For all ages. Play board games, card games, and video games!**
- **Read to Monty the Therapy Dog beginning at 2:00 PM | For children ages 6 years old and up. Children ages 6 and up can pick out a Library book to read to Monty! Registration required. Please call (254) 953-5491 beginning March 4th, 2024.**

Saturday, March 16, 2024

- **Pokémon and Yi-Gi-Oh! Card Games 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | For all ages.**
- **Teen and Adult Dungeons and Dragons 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | For ages 14 and up.**

Registration required. Please e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov

Spring Break Makerspace
Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
from 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library



The Library has spent much of February educating our community regarding the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse. Get ready for April 8, 2024, when the moon will cast a shadow over the Earth!

Harker Heights is in the right spot to enjoy the spectacle. We expect the eclipse to begin around 12:18 pm. The totality will begin around 1:26 pm. The entire event will conclude at 2:58 pm. Get ready now! Pick up your eclipse glasses. Make your plans for the day. The library staff and other City of Harker Heights staff members have spoken at caregiver workshops, anime conventions, schools, civic organization meetings, City of Harker Heights expositions, and more. For more information regarding the coming eclipse, please visit the City of Harker Heights Eclipse website at harkerheights.gov/eclipse.

The Library has been celebrating Black History Month throughout February!

Drop by the Library to see displays, booklists, and more!

The Library offers circulating items both in print and online!



The Library staff firmly believe in the importance of early literacy for our children. Visit up for one or more of our preschool programs. Upcoming in-person preschool programs at the Library:

Wednesday, February 28 at 10am – Celebrate Black History Month Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!

Thursday, February 29 at 9am – Celebrate Black History Month Storytime (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, February 29 at 10am – Celebrate Black History Month Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

**The Library will be offering the Family Place Program Stepping Stones
this March, 2024!**

Designed for children 18 months – 3 years old and their parents/caregivers, 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 different community resource professionals.

Registration is required, and families must be able to attend all four, 1-hour sessions of this workshop.

Please call (254) 953-5494 to register. Please leave a voicemail if our Children's Librarian is unable to take your call immediately! We will call back in order in which we receive registration inquiries.



**The Friends of the Library is accepting donations
for the annual book sale.**

Bring in books, audio books, music, and more anytime that the Library is open. The Friends of the Library is also looking for members! Do you love libraries? Do you want to help out with the book sale?

Check out the Friends of the library Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Friends-of-the-Library-Harker-Hts/100081018360629/>

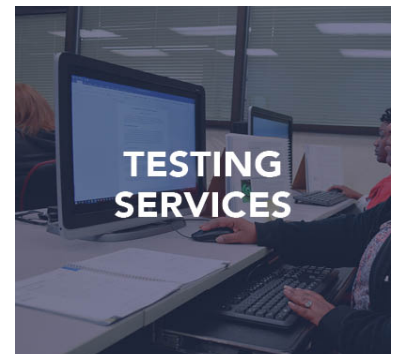
TESTING SERVICES

Did you know that you can take practice tests for SATs, GEDs, and other college exams?

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!

RECREATION CENTER & ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Recreation Center will be an **Early Voting** location: 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 **2024 Youth Sports Schedule** has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website!
 - **Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** is kicking off with practices for Tee Ball starting February 26th, Softball and Baseball will have player assessments on March 5th and 6th!
 - **Youth Volleyball** registration will open March 25th



AQUATICS

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

SENIOR RECREATION

The Old Glories: Granny Basketball team has challenged Harker Heights City Staff to a game of basketball. The **Battle of the Court: Annual Granny Basketball Benefit Game** will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 1:00 pm. The game will be held at the Recreation Center and admission is a non-perishable food item or new package of Socks or Underwear (all sizes welcome). Donated admission items to benefit the KISD H.A.R.P. (Homeless Awareness Response Program). This will be the third year and staff is excited to defend the trophy.

Seniors (50+) will celebrate **National Pi Day** on March 14, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Recreation Center.



Active Seniors (50+) are invited to PLAY a variety of recreational activities and games on Thursdays from 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm at the Recreation Center. Each month will be a new activity to keep you moving and having fun. The 29th of February is the last day for Miniature Golf. March's activity will be basketball to celebrate March Madness.

- Seniors are invited to participate in **Lunch & Learn** on Friday, March 15, 2024 from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Our guest speakers will be the Harker Heights Fire Department Chief Shannon Stephens and Library Director Lisa Youngblood. They will be discussing the upcoming Solar Eclipse. The maximum number of participants is 20. Registration is required and can be done over the phone by calling 254-953-5683 or in person at the Recreation Center starting March 1, 2024.
- March's **BINGO** will be Thursday, March 21 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.
- **Ladies Night Out** is on Thursday, March 21 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting Hallmark in Killeen. 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.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Have any artwork that you would like to display and sell? Sign up to be a vendor at the Harker Heights Arts Festival at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 4 pm – 8 pm and Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 12 pm – 4 pm. Free art activities, art vendors, food, live music, and more! For vendor application information, email sgibbs@harkerheights.gov.



Parks & Recreation Department

GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **Family Hike at Mother Neff State Park** will be on March 16, 2024. The Family Hike will include an opportunity for you and your family to explore Mother Neff State Park! The day will consist of a leisurely 2-mile hike, with stops at several points of interest along the way including a rock tower and a cave. After the hike, participants will eat lunch at the picnic area, and have a hands-on introduction to Geocaching. The afternoon will conclude with a trip to the Visitor Center. The timeframe at the State Park is 10am-1:30pm. This program is in partnership with Texas Parks & Wildlife as a part of the Community Outdoor Outreach Program grant. Pre-Registration is Required. Register through Civic Rec or by visiting the Recreation Center (307 Millers Crossing).



Active Seniors Hike will be on March 7, 2024. Active Seniors (50+) are invited to go on a 1-mile hike at Dana Peak Park! Learn how to use hiking poles and enjoy time outside while having fun with others. Time: 4pm-5pm Pre-Registration is Required. Register through Civic Rec or by visiting the Recreation Center (307 Millers Crossing).



POLICE DEPARTMENT



Citizens Police Academy will begin on April 15th and the B.A.B.Y program will begin on April 9th. .



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.

Officer Pablo Virgen was recognized by the Harker Heights VFW Post 3892 for the 2023 Police Officer of the Year



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Rene Fernandez was recognized by the Harker Heights VFW Post 3892 for the 2023 Firefighter of the Year.

