

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Fire Department welcomed two new employees. William “Chris” Mahulstedt was hired for the position of Fire Marshal – Deputy Chief on August 28th and Sean Kampmeier was hired for the position of Firefighter/EMT on September 5th.

The Public Works Department welcomed two new employees. Zyjuan Reaves was hired for the position of Water Service Worker on August 30th and Solomo Khu was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician on September 5th.

The Library will be promoting Heather Heilman to the position of Reference Librarian on September 16th.

Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Hicks announced her retirement effective September 29th after 29 plus years of service. Congratulations and thank you for your service Cindy!

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Animal Services Officer
- Light Equipment Operator
- Maintenance Technician
- Maintenance Technician II
- Senior Equipment Operator
- BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution Flushing Technician
- Collections Operator
- Inventory/Line Locator
- Firefighter/Paramedic



The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library started the year off right with new programs and initiatives, and we are happy to keep going!

Fall is a great time to learn about our world! Get back in the swing of school with a variety of resources from the Library!

The Library has recently added SimplyE to its Virtual Library options! Download the Library's free SimplyE E-reader App and get access to thousands of titles in e-book and electronic audiobook formats in world languages. All you need is your Library card to access these new resources made possible for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Library has a wealth of information, books, and more at our Virtual Library at <https://harkerheights.gov/library>! Visit for education, information, entertainment, and more! Take a look at our World Book Online, research from the TexShare Databases, magazines and newspapers from PressReader, Overdrive and SimplyE e-books and e-audiobooks, Tumblebooks for kids and teens, and more! All you need is your Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library Card!

Join us for the Sun, Moon, and Stars: Engaging Preschoolers and Elementary-aged Children with STEAM Activities FREE parent and caregiver workshop on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 9am-12pm. Excite children with science! From books, to games, to crafts – this interactive program presents a variety of fun and enriching activities designed to encourage exploration and spark imagination. Get ready for the two coming eclipse events with strategies, book lists, projects, and more. Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register. Caregivers will receive three (3) contact hours from this instructor led, in-person workshop!

Check out the City of Harker Heights' Eclipse website at <https://www.harkerheights.gov/eclipse>. Here you will find educational resources, tips for residents and businesses, and updates on upcoming programs regarding the two eclipse events! The annular eclipse will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, and the total eclipse will be on Monday, April 8, 2024. Our City looks forward to this community experience and encourages everyone to be prepared! Join us at the Library and Activities Center on Saturday, October 14, 2023, for a Viewing Party from 10am-1pm. There you will learn more about the science of the eclipse and you can view with our community. Check the website often for updates!



The Library is expanding its Dungeons and Dragons session offer. We have groups for ages 10-14 years and ages 14 through adult. If you are interested in playing D&D, then e-mail lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov to find out more information. Registration is required. Saturday Dungeons and Dragons for ages 10-14 — 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9-12pm OR 1-5pm (1-2 character development; 2-5 game)

Saturday Dungeons and Dragons for ages 14 and up — 1st and 3rd Fridays from 2-5pm OR 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 2-5pm

Dungeons of Drakkenheim for ages 14 and up — 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 4:30 - 7:30 pm



Blue is the color for the week of September 11 – 16, 2023, in our preschool programs! Celebrate Colors with our storytime series! Each week we will enjoy books, crafts, activities and more while focusing on a particular color! Join us each week through October for a focus on a different color. Our weekly preschool program schedule has changed for the Fall. Join us for one or more of these early literacy programs for your children. No registration is necessary for these regular programs, but space is limited. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Tuesdays at 10am – Babytime just for babies ages 0-18 months and their special adult – Learn rhymes, songs, and signs with this lap-sit program. Older siblings may not attend this program.

Wednesdays at 10am – Storytime for children ages 3-6 years and their families – Enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more!

Thursdays at 9am – Storytime for children ages 3-6 years and their families – Enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more!

Thursdays at 10am – Toddler Time for children ages 0-3 years and their families – These stories, songs, activities, and more are just right for our little learners!

The Library is preparing for a space themed Giganticon children's area! Giganticon is a small geek convention at Killeen Civic and Conference Center on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1, 2023.



Maker Space is ready for creators or all ages! Come see what you can make out of whatever is there. You never know what items will be available, so bring your imaginations! The Maker Space is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10am-3pm and Saturdays 10am – 1pm. We are also accepting donations of craft and school supplies to make available to our patrons. Just drop them off at the Library anytime that we are open.

ACTIVITIES CENTER

- **The Activities Center is looking to expand its offerings and needs your help! Volunteers are needed for all programs and event. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Sara Gibbs at sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or 254.953.5493**

ATHLETICS

- **Youth Soccer kicks off on Monday, September 18 with nearly 500 participants! Games are being held Monday-Thursday.**
- **Ability Soccer for children with special needs also begins on Monday, September 18. Lonestar Soccer Club will be helping facilitate soccer.**
- **Registration for Youth Basketball opens October 4.**



AQUATICS

- **The Carl Levin Park Pool is officially closed for the season! THANK YOU to our 2023 Aquatics Staff for keeping our community cool this hot summer!**



Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION

- Grandparents and grandchildren enjoyed games, activities, and snacks at Grand Day @ Rec Center. This was the second year for Grand Day in celebration of National Grandparents Day. A big thank you to the volunteers that assisted with pickleball, basketball, and crafts. Thank you to the citizens for coming out and sharing this day with us!



- Learn some helpful tips on fall prevention from Patrick Figueiredo, Owner and Physical Therapist with FYZICAL at the next Lunch & Learn. Lunch & Learn will be on Friday, September 15 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Recreation Center. FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Center is a new business in Harker Heights. Pre-register is required by calling 254-953-5657 or in person at the Recreation Center.
- September's BINGO will be Thursday, September 21 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center. Ladies Night Out is on Thursday, September 21 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting the Papa's Cafe 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.
- The Parks Department will have a booth set up at the 12th Annual Bell County Senior Expo on Tuesday, September 26 from 8:30 am - 1 pm at the Bell County Expo Center. The expo is a no pressure, info only, FREE event for Senior Citizens and friends. The staff will be there promoting our Senior Recreation Program as well as other programs, activities, and events the Department and City has to offer. The Parks' bus will be available for participants to sign up to be brought to the event. Space is limited and sign up started Tuesday, September 12 at 8am in person at the Recreation Center.



RECREATION CENTER

- **Swordplay: Recreational Fencing** celebrated World Fencing Day this past Saturday at Carl Levin Park. World Fencing Day takes place annually in September, on Saturday of the second weekend, where federations, fencers and coaches of all levels – from Olympic and World Championships fencers to local clubs – gather together to celebrate the sport of fencing in any community so that people can discover the sport, its history and values.



- **Open Gym Summer Hours are:**

- Mondays & Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.: Basketball
- Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.: 12U Open Gym
- Thursdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.: Volleyball
- Fridays 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.: Wheelchair Basketball



Parks & Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Harker Heights Farmers Market season continues through October every Saturday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at City Hall (305 Miller's Crossing). For more information, contact Sara Gibbs at 254-953-5493
- On Saturday, September 16, the city of Harker Heights will be throwing a Day of Play at Peaceable Kingdom by Variety in Killeen. Families, friends, and community members are welcome to this free event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees can expect activities like archery, a low ropes course, local food trucks, arts & crafts, water activities, carnival games, and more. Preregistration for the event is encouraged at bit.ly/47RcaTc
- Harker Heights: Día de Los Muertos Festival will be held at Carl Levin Park on October 28, 2023 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. There will be candy, music, dance groups, cultural activities, crafts, vendors, and more. If you are interested in performing or volunteering for this event please reach out to Sara Gibbs at sgibbs@harkerheights.gov or 254.953.5493.



GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- Community Gardens: Did you know you can grow food through winter? Fight the heat by planting in the Fall. 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.
- Sign up for a Hike with our Ability program! The hike will be Tuesday September 26th 6pm-7pm, at Carl Levin Park. The Ability program is designed for children with special needs. We are an all-inclusive program for youth ages 5-22. Our participants' disabilities range from Autism/Asperger's to Downs Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. Preregistration Required bit.ly/465bgjZ
- Bell County Master Gardener's will be teaching about Drought Tolerant Native Plants on Thursday September 28th from 6pm-7:30pm at the Activities Center (400 Indian Trail). Preregistration is encouraged, walk-ins are welcome. bit.ly/43wOEIc



POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Community Services will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop event at Harker Heights Whataburger on Thursday, September 14th from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.



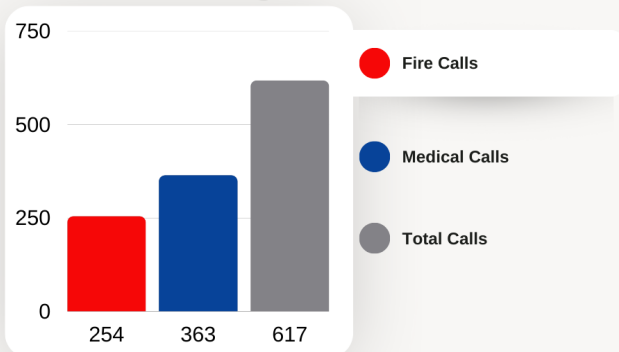
- National Night Out will be on Tuesday, October 3rd.



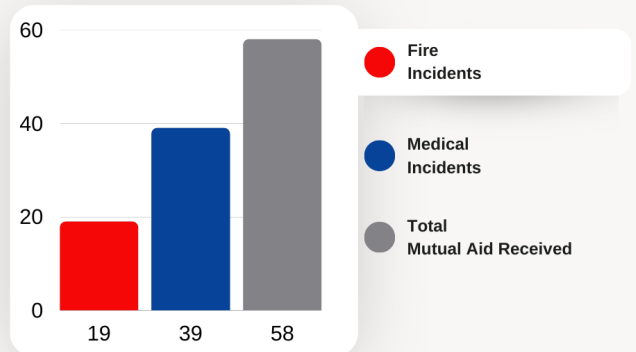
FIRE DEPARTMENT

- A citizen drew and presented to the Fire Department two pictures of the Ladder Truck.
- Domino's Pizza delivered 20 pizzas to our Admin Staff and the on-duty A-Shift.
- Harker Heights High School Sports Medicine department invited our crew out for a photo op.

Total Calls August 2023



Mutual Aid Received August 2023





Finance Department



ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$425,468.44	\$431,215.89	\$347,598.93	\$294,404.59	\$246,908.71
February	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74	\$239,620.03
March	\$457,827.45	\$427,327.54	\$337,154.90	\$260,569.11	\$267,408.59
April	\$404,428.51	\$450,611.99	\$341,911.77	\$297,973.05	\$214,513.90
May	\$577,032.32	\$457,447.36	\$455,951.18*	\$337,662.28	\$311,719.63
June	\$508,923.56	\$559,624.69	\$457,853.17	\$291,251.93	\$271,114.94
July	\$549,266.57	\$593,523.31	\$474,837.86	\$433,747.64	\$285,381.75
August	\$700,084.97	\$626,576.19	\$473,342.17	\$380,976.99	\$356,562.37
September		\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61	\$320,090.38
October		\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72	\$399,497.35
November		\$597,938.12	\$488,924.69	\$305,732.61	\$358,146.37
December		\$529,760.67	\$540,030.51	\$380,537.34	\$275,957.76

*As of April 26, 2021, automatic credit card drafts are now part of the online utility bill payment totals.

AUTOMATED PHONE PAYMENTS



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$104,768.73	\$110,804.07	\$122,588.54	\$114,100.16	\$85,442.31
February	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11	\$73,765.91
March	\$114,106.26	\$112,330.20	\$143,922.62	\$93,411.41	\$71,751.84
April	\$98,130.13	\$110,142.69	\$126,015.15	\$95,350.65	\$65,920.26
May	\$128,587.47	\$111,214.36	\$114,615.29	\$88,860.54	\$88,378.47
June	\$117,678.21	\$126,583.78	\$117,093.13	\$88,539.21	\$74,513.43
July	\$116,990.27	\$127,979.57	\$114,493.61	\$121,025.84	\$93,483.23
August	\$160,801.83	\$136,631.66	\$121,311.92	\$113,130.64	\$107,866.92
September		\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86	\$106,122.80
October		\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75	\$120,968.81
November		\$131,364.63	\$109,105.34	\$94,961.20	\$97,515.15
December		\$114,240.31	\$115,096.07	\$116,508.98	\$99,255.97



KIOSK PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	\$14,230.92	\$9,974.61	\$13,714.61	\$18,735.25	\$16,084.10
February	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02	\$16,019.68
March	\$13,010.92	\$13,519.99	\$16,168.18	\$14,213.01	\$12,078.00
April	\$12,552.09	\$13,777.77	\$14,514.82	\$14,165.99	\$11,636.59
May	\$16,807.66	\$14,264.27	\$12,642.08	\$16,670.43	\$15,446.69
June	\$16,308.52	\$17,616.84	\$13,961.69	\$13,795.19	\$14,092.62
July	\$16,201.62	\$19,794.27	\$13,973.86	\$21,778.38	\$18,147.78
August	\$21,416.32	\$17,131.77	\$13,053.66	\$17,566.80	\$20,613.07
September		\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28	\$18,407.61
October		\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50	\$19,399.15
November		\$17,225.45	\$14,707.98	\$15,206.33	\$20,304.92
December		\$19,102.03	\$14,030.94	\$14,953.30	\$15,822.59

NUMBER OF E-BILLS SENT OUT



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
January	3,798	3,565	3,245	2,719	2,406
February	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759	2,471
March	3,852	3,555	3,293	2,880	2,519
April	3,922	3,603	3,321	2,819	2,552
May	3,927	3,654	3,364	2,847	2,533
June	3,960	3,698	3,396	2,931	2,588
July	4,061	3,695	3,461	2,976	2,582
August	4,021	3,747	3,505	3,069	2,622
September		3,746	3,523	3,072	2,669
October		3,789	3,536	3,127	2,664
November		3,757	3,548	3,186	2,695
December		3,749	3,533	3,201	2,715