

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



## DECEMBER 12, 2023

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

### Human Resources Department

**Congratulations to Jaime Davalos for his promotion to Crew Leader on December 9th!**

**Welcome to all the new hires:**

**The Parks Department welcomed a new employee on November 27th. Lizette Brooks was hired for the position of Part Time Recreation Aide.**

**The Municipal Court welcomed a new employee on December 4th. Dorcas Sappor-Kabutry was hired for the position of Deputy Court Clerk.**

**The Public Works Department welcomed two new employees. Kendell Jones was hired for the position of mechanic on December 4th and Terry Wilson was hired for the position of wastewater maintenance technician on December 11th.**

**The Fire Department welcomed a new employee on December 5th. Ethan Gingerich was hired for the position of Deputy Fire Marshal.**

**The Police Department will be welcoming a new employee on December 18th. Darlene Prechtel was selected for the position of Records Clerk.**

**The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:**

- **Part Time Recreation Aide**
- **Senior Equipment Operator**
- **BPAT/CSI and Water Distribution System Flushing Technician**
- **Chief Plant Operator**
- **Collections Operator**
- **Inventory/Line Locator**
- **Light Equipment Operators**
- **Maintenance Technician**
- **Mechanic**



## Happy Holidays from the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library!

The Library will have a slightly altered schedule during the holidays.

- Open 9am-1pm — Friday, December 22
- Closed — Saturday, December 23 through Monday, December 25
- Open 9am-1pm — Friday, December 29
- Closed — Saturday, December 30 through Monday, January 1

The Library has normal hours on all other days.

The Library and its volunteers had a wonderful weekend at the City of Harker Heights Frost Fest. We were so excited to work with the Harker Heights Arts Commission to provide a holiday maker space and to allow attendees to work on a community art piece. Be looking for the unveiling of this piece when it is finished! Our other volunteers rocked as well. Joining us were Tow-Mater, Girl Scouts, Rapunzel, Ladybug Girl, Marshmallow, Professor McGonagall, Little Mermaid, and a Stormtrooper. Thank you Bell County Comic Con, Chuck's Garage, Central Texas College EGX, Library Volunteers, Girls Scouts, and the Harker Heights Arts Commission for such magical nights.

Drop by the Library later this week and throughout the holidays to see the handmade ornament themed tree that we started working on during Frost Fest. You can add your own! We will have the ornament making projects available through the end of December.



The Library's programs continue throughout the holiday season. If the Library is open, then our regular programs will be offered! Join us for Baby-time for babies ages 0-18 months on Tuesdays at 10am. Story-time for ages 3-6 years and their families are on Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 9am. Toddler Time for ages 0-3 years and their families is on Thursdays at 10am.

Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 pm is Holiday Family Night! Bring the whole family for music, activities, stories, and more!

Can't come into the Library? Our Virtual Family Night on Thursday, December 14, 21, and 28 at 6:00pm on our Facebook Page will also excite families with stories, crafts, and more!

Holiday Maker Space is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am -3pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm! Drop in for ornament making, dreidel spinning, and more! We put out new materials each week. Come see what you can make with whatever is there!



Let's get together to discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt on Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 pm. This is a charming, witty, and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.



Come on ring hose bells at Holiday Music Time is here on Monday, December 18, 2023! Work with your children on rhyme, rhythm, and more! Babies ages 0-18 months and their special adults come at 9am each Monday morning in November. Children ages 19 months through 6 years come at 10am. Space is limited. Seating is on a first come-first served basis.



Homeschool Meet-Up is in the Maker Space on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 1-3 pm. Homeschool families with preschool and elementary aged kids hang out for games, self-guided science exploration, and crafts that you make on your own or with others!

Teen Game Time is on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 1-3 pm. Teens ages 13 and up drop by the Library to play board games!



Save the Date for an Eclipse Town Meeting!

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce and the City of Harker Heights will offer two programs on Monday, January 22, 2024, from 8:30 – 9:30 am and from 6:00- 7:00 pm at the Harker Heights Library and Activities Center (400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights, TX.) We will discuss the total eclipse coming on Monday, April 8, 2024, the Eclipse themed Harker Heights Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, 2024, in increased traffic and tourism expected that weekend, safe choices for enjoying this incredible event, and possibilities for capitalizing on the festivities.

The Library offers a variety of do-it-yourself online databases. Visit the Library's website at [harkerheights.gov/library](http://harkerheights.gov/library)! Choose to access e-books, activities, and more through TexShare Databases Do-It-Yourself resources. Under the Library's quick links, choose "find information." Then choose TexShare Resources!

## 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](mailto:sgibbs@harkerheights.gov) or 254.953.5493.

## ATHLETICS

- The **Youth Basketball** program is officially full and will run from December 2023 to February 2024.



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





## SENIOR RECREATION

- **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. This is a great opportunity to exercise and socialize with friends. December's activity will be Line Dancing and will only meet on December 7 and 14 with remaining two weeks off for the holiday break.
- Join us for **Crafty Connection** on Monday, December 18 from 2:00pm – 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.
- December's **BINGO** will be Thursday, December 21 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- **Ladies Night Out** is on Thursday, December 21 at 5:00 pm. The ladies will be visiting Taqueria Mexico 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.



## RECREATION CENTER

The **Swordplay: Recreational Fencing** class will have their awards banquet on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 11 am – 1 pm at the Harker Heights Activities Center. The will be honoring many of the class participants for their achievements over the year.



The Recreation Center **hours of operation** for the Christmas/New Year holidays will be:

- Friday, December 22, 2023      Open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm noon
- Saturday, December 23, 2023      Closed
- Monday, December 24, 2023      Closed
- Normal business hours will return on Tuesday, December 26, 2023.
- Friday, December 29, 2023      Open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm noon
- Saturday, December 30, 2023      Closed
- Monday, January 1, 2024      Closed
- Normal business hours will return on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.



# Parks & Recreation Department

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Our Two-Day **Frost Fest** was a resounding success! Located at the Harker Heights Community Park on 1501 East FM 2410, visitors were treated with a Holiday Market with more than 70 vendors, fun activities for all ages, photo ops, and a visit with the famous Santa Claus!



- The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** has an extended season! This market is smaller compared to our seasonal market as it is limited to only farmers and ranchers. Held at every Saturday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Carl Levin Park on 400 Miller's Crossing. Know any farmers or ranchers? Please reach out to [sgibbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgibbs@harkerheights.gov) for an application!

## 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.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Services will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop event at Harker Heights Dutch Bros Coffee on Friday, December 15th, from 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

HARKER HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S

# COFFEE WITH A COP

**FRIDAY  
DEC 15TH  
12PM -2PM** @



**DUTCH BROS**  
Coffee

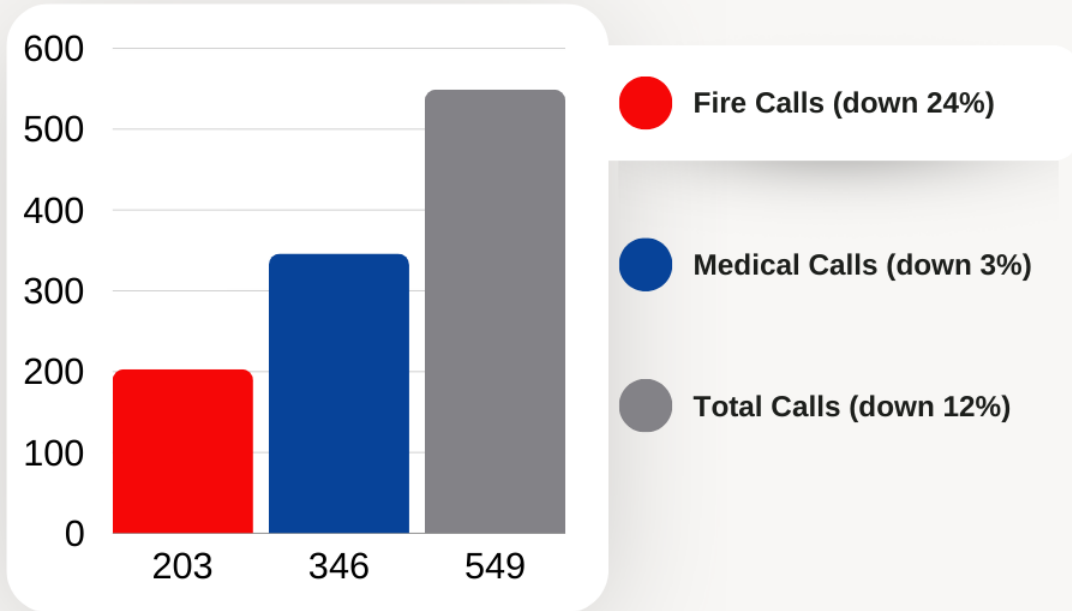


**650 E. FM 2410  
HARKER HEIGHTS**

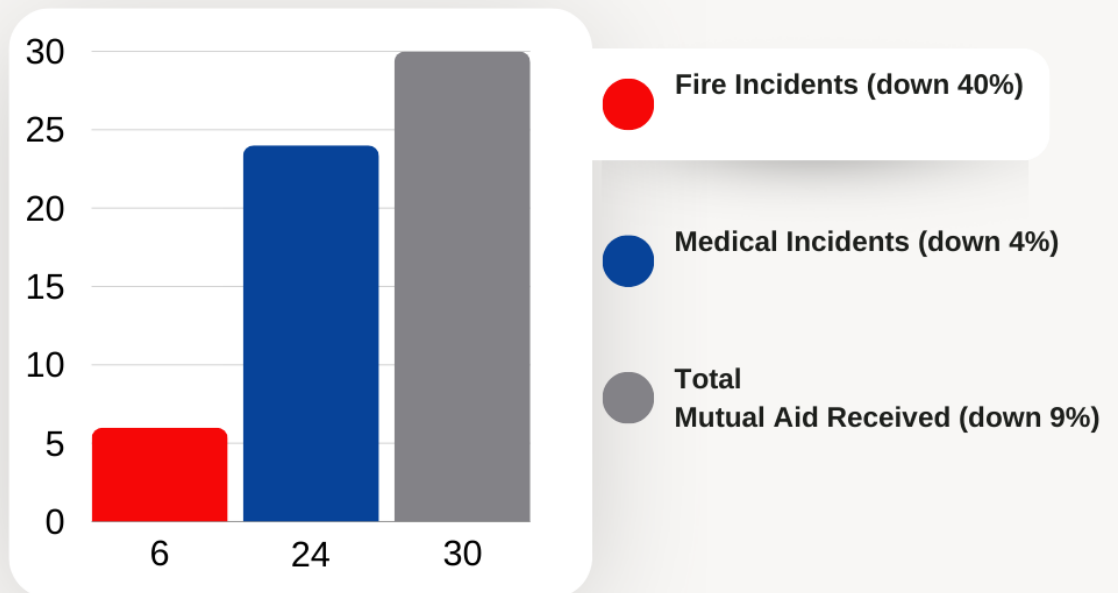
The poster features a blue background with white snowflake patterns. At the top, it reads 'HARKER HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S'. The main title 'COFFEE WITH A COP' is in large, glowing white letters. Below this, the event details 'FRIDAY DEC 15TH 12PM -2PM' are listed, followed by an '@' symbol. To the right is the Dutch Bros logo, which includes a white windmill icon and the text 'DUTCH BROS Coffee'. Below the logo is the address '650 E. FM 2410 HARKER HEIGHTS'. In the bottom left corner is the Harker Heights Police Department badge, which is a shield-shaped emblem with 'HARKER HEIGHTS SERVICE AND PROTECTION POLICE THE STATE OF TEXAS' written on it.



# Total Calls November 2023



# Mutual Aid Received November 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	\$732,809.66	\$733,557.95	\$575,867.17	\$466,173.61	\$320,090.38
October	\$640,193.47	\$550,329.57	\$615,499.23	\$433,650.72	\$399,497.35
November	\$644,238.19	\$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	\$149,676.66	\$153,943.37	\$128,969.57	\$137,771.86	\$106,122.80
October	\$140,226.20	\$120,331.11	\$133,559.38	\$123,306.75	\$120,968.81
November	\$141,456.45	\$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	\$21,162.07	\$21,855.49	\$15,046.80	\$24,119.28	\$18,407.61
October	\$16,367.61	\$17,549.59	\$19,801.71	\$18,037.50	\$19,399.15
November	\$20,801.21	\$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	4,054	3,746	3,523	3,072	2,669
October	4,092	3,789	3,536	3,127	2,664
November	4,105	3,757	3,548	3,186	2,695
December		3,749	3,533	3,201	2,715



City of Harker Heights  
Planning & Development  
305 Miller's Crossing  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
[planning@harkerheights.gov](mailto:planning@harkerheights.gov)

## Economic Development Report

### NOVEMBER 2023 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued two (2) commercial construction permits within the month of November.

- 329 Indian Trail, Management Office/Meeting Area/Fitness Center
  - Valued at \$500,000.00
- 4017 Stillhouse Lake Road, Dollar General
  - Valued at \$1,596,000.00

**To date (November 30, 2023) the City has issued a total of nineteen (19) commercial permits totaling \$10,530,000.00 in project valuation for calendar year 2023.**

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **ninety-two (92)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of November.

- 19 Single Family permits in The Village at Nolan Heights
- 70 Single Family permits in Cedar Trails
- 2 Single Family permits in Cedarbrook Ridge
- 1 Single Family permit in Lakeside Hills Section Two

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

**To date (November 30, 2023) the City has issued a total of two-hundred ninety-three (293) residential permits, two-hundred nineteen (219) single-family permits, seventy-four (74) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits in calendar year 2023.**

As of November 30, 2023, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,405** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020 was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 777 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

November 1 thru November 30, 2023

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	115	50.00%
Grass Parking	34	14.78%
Outside Storage	34	14.78%
Other*	13	5.65%
Bulk Items	10	4.35%
Brush	8	3.48%
Trailer	4	1.74%
Fencing	3	1.30%
Maintenance	3	1.30%
Trash	2	0.87%
Boat	1	0.43%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.43%
Junk Vehicle	1	0.43%
Tires	1	0.43%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	230	100.00%

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	312	54.93%
Grass Parking	80	14.08%
Outside Storage	76	13.38%
Brush	20	3.52%
Other*	20	3.52%
Bulk Items	17	2.99%
Trailer	9	1.58%
Maintenance	8	1.41%
Basketball Goal	6	1.06%
Fencing	6	1.06%
Building Inspection	4	0.70%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	3	0.53%
Tires	3	0.53%
Trash	2	0.35%
Boat	1	0.18%
Junk Vehicle	1	0.18%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	568	100.00%