

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



## APRIL 9, 2024

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

### Administration Department



**THE HARKER HEIGHTS GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS  
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**

**Election Day Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**ELECTION DAY AND EARLY VOTING POLL LOCATION:**

**Harker Heights Recreation Center, 307 Miller's Crossing, Harker Heights, TX 76548**

**Take Advantage of Early Voting! Early Voting Poll Hours:**

Monday, April 22: 8am-5pm

Tuesday, April 23: 8am-5pm

Wednesday, April 24: 8am-5pm

Thursday, April 25: 8am-5pm

Friday, April 26: 8am-5pm

Monday, April 29: 8am-5pm

Tuesday, April 30: 7am-7pm (Extended Hours for Last Day)

### Human Resources Department

- The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on April 1st. Michell Henry was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.
- The Fire Department welcomed a new employee on April 2nd. Cody Cook was hired for the position of Firefighter/EMT.
- The Parks Department welcomed a new employee on April 4th. Tamara Gonzalez was hired for the position of Light Equipment Operator on April 4th.
- Police Officer John Moseley announced his retirement to be effective April 12th, after serving for 15 years with the City. Congratulations John!
- Battalion Chief Ray Gandara has been selected as the Fire Department's new Division Chief - Training effective April 15, 2024.

The City is currently taking applications for the following positions:

- Part Time Recreation Aides
- Seasonal Aquatics positions
- Maintenance Technicians



# Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

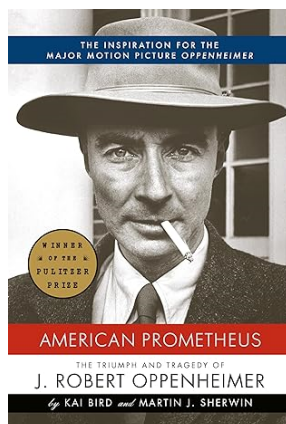
**The Library is pleased to have been a part of the total solar eclipse 2024 in Harker Heights! From outreaches to costume characters, festivals and a truly incredible eclipse day experience, our Library celebrated this event with our community. We appreciate our NASA@ Your Library grant from StarNet Libraries, program and technology assistance from local MECA TX, and our incredible volunteers through whose efforts we were able to reach so many families!**

## **April 7 - 13, 2024, is "Ready, Set, Library!" National Library Week 2024**

The theme for National Library Week 2024, “Ready, Set, Library!,” promotes the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Find your crew at your library’s author talks, workshops, and book clubs. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life’s journey—preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family—your library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs. Get ready to explore, become inspired, and connect with your library this National Library Week. Libraries are there for you, all the way to the finish line. April 8, 2024, is National Library Worker's Day, and April 9, 2024, is National Library Outreach Day!

- **Join us for Babytime for babies ages 0-18 months on Tuesdays at 10am. Storytime 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. The theme of the week of February 8-13, 2024, is “Everything Grows”.**
- **The Library offers a Mixed Media Art Exploration Class on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 2-5 pm. Encourage your creativity! Artist and Instructor Vicky Best leads you in combining a variety of materials to develop your own style and originality! Space is limited. Call 254-953-5491 to register.**

Let's get together to discuss "**American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer**" by Kai Byrd and Martin J. Sherwin on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 6:30 pm. The book chronicles Oppenheimer's rise to fame as "the father of the atomic bomb" and director of the Manhattan Project, as well as his tragic downfall due to his security hearing in the McCarthy era. This club meets in-person at the Library and virtually. For an invitation to our virtual club, please e-mail [lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov](mailto:lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov).



- **Budding authors wishing to self-publish their works register to attend the FREE Self-Publishing Workshop on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 2-4pm! Learn where to go and what to do to get your books out of your minds or notebooks and into the eyes and hands of readers! Published author and self-publishing consultant Miriam Manifest prepares writers for the business of being a self-published author! Call 254-953-5491 to register!**
- **Get ready for the Friends of the Library Booksale Friday, April 19 from 3-6pm and Saturday, April 20 from 8am - 1pm. Here's your chance to pick up books, audiobooks, and more at low, low prices!**
- **The Library offers a variety of Do-It-Yourself resources available to you 24/7. Take a look at our TexShare Databases! All you need is your Library Card! Visit the Library's website at [harkerheights.gov/library](http://harkerheights.gov/library)! Under the Library's quick links, choose "Find Information." Choose "TexShare Databases." Check out the subject listing for Do-It-Yourself resources!**

## ATHLETICS

- The **2024 Youth Sports Schedule** has been released and can be found on the Parks & Recreation website!
  - **Youth Tee Ball, Softball, and Baseball** opening weekend is on April 13th.
  - **Youth Volleyball** registration will open March 25th until May 8th, if does not fill up before that date.



## AQUATICS



- **Swim Lessons** registration begins May 11th.





## 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. April's activity is Pickleball.



- Seniors 50+ are invited to kick off the Masters at the **Mini Golf Masters** by playing miniature golf at the Recreation Center on Thursday, April 11 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Recreation Center.



- April's **BINGO** will be Thursday, April 18 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Recreation Center.



- **Ladies Night Out** is on Thursday, April 18 at 5:00 pm. The restaurant will be determined. 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, April 22 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.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Calling all farmers! The **Harker Heights Farmers Market** is now accepting vendor applications for the 2024 season! Held at the City Hall Parking Lot on 305 Miller's Crossing, the season will start on May 4 and continue every Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm until July 27. The market will then be taking a break during the months of August and September, then will start back on October 5 and continue every Saturday. The final market date of the 2024 season will be December 21. Applications for the first market day must be submitted by April 19. After the first Saturday, all new applications will be accepted until November 15, 2024. For more information on the market, visit <https://www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/programs/farmers-market-2>. To stay up to date with the Farmers Market, follow the Harker Heights Farmers Market Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/HeightsFM/>.



**Lemonade Day** weekend will be held on May 4 – 5, 2024! Throughout Harker Heights you will see young entrepreneurs selling lemonade and other tasty treats on the first weekend in May. These kids are part of the Lemonade Day Fort Cavazos Area, which teaches kids how to start and operate their own business, learning about how to be an entrepreneur and having fun. Check out more information on <https://lemonadeday.org/>.



# Parks & Recreation Department

Thank you to everyone who came out to the **Harker Heights Arts Festival!**



"Eclipse in Nature" Art Show was such a blast. Visitors enjoyed a temporary 2,600 square foot exhibit in the main Activities Center ballroom. Stay tuned for future exhibits and fun at the Activities Center.

## GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- The **Family Hike** at Mother Neff State Park originally scheduled for March 16, 2024 was postponed due to the weather. The new date will be Saturday June 8, 2024. Registration will open early May. Register through Civic Rec or by visiting the Recreation Center (307 Millers Crossing).



# POLICE DEPARTMENT




The Community Services Division is currently accepting applications for the Citizen's Police Academy that is set to begin on April 15, 2024.

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



The 2024 Bell County Peace Officer Memorial ceremony will be hosted by the Harker Heights Police Department at the Harker Heights Activities Center on May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

2024  
BELL COUNTY  
PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL



MAY 15, 2024 | 9AM



HARKER HEIGHTS ACTIVITIES CENTER  
400 INDIAN TRAIL DRIVE, HARKER HEIGHTS, TX 76548  
POINT OF CONTACT: HHPD COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION | 254-953-5400, OPT. 5

The poster for the 2024 Bell County Peace Officer Memorial ceremony. It has a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it says "2024 BELL COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL". In the center, there is a photograph of a statue of a police officer in uniform standing on a pedestal in front of a brick building. Below the photo, it says "MAY 15, 2024 | 9AM". At the bottom, there is a Harker Heights Police Department badge and the address "HARKER HEIGHTS ACTIVITIES CENTER, 400 INDIAN TRAIL DRIVE, HARKER HEIGHTS, TX 76548". At the very bottom, it says "POINT OF CONTACT: HHPD COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION | 254-953-5400, OPT. 5".

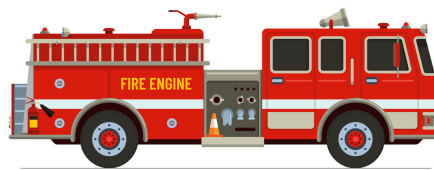
# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Calls for Service – March 2024

Incident Type	Incident Number	Δ Last Month	Mutual Aid Received	Δ Last Month
Fire	242	19% Increase	4	20% Decrease
Medical	365	12% Increase	26	30% Increase
Total	607	13% Increase	30	20% Increase

## Fire Marshal's Office – March 2024

Inspections	109
Plan Reviews	5



- **Lieutenant Ethan Gingerich attended the Arson and Fire Investigator Conference March 18-22, 2024 hosted by the Texas Engineering Extension Service and the International Association of Arson Investigators.**
- **Lieutenant Rene Fernandez and Assistant Chief Dunnam attended the 2024 Texas Fire Chief Association Annual Conference in Waco March 19-22, 2024.**
- **Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Chris Mahlstedt and Fire Chief Shannon Stephens attended the Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices course facilitated by the Texas Forestry Service in Georgetown on April 2-4, 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	\$534,106.66	\$473,232.50	\$447,458.01	\$259,558.94	\$259,685.74
March	\$505,890.78	\$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	\$122,733.86	\$120,067.52	\$107,542.69	\$90,974.33	\$86,917.11
March	\$113,274.41	\$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	\$14,866.27	\$17,296.49	\$12,965.79	\$11,058.25	\$15,342.02
March	\$16,016.08	\$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	4,192	3,811	3,566	3,290	2,759
March	4,222	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 MARCH 31, 2024**

**PAVING ASSESSMENT:**

**BALANCE**

Polk, Billy (deceased)/Phillip Sueoka      242 E. Cardinal      \$21,460.46

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*No payments were made for the Paving Assessment.*

**WILDEWOOD ASSESSMENT:**

**BALANCE**

Rickets, Tommie      936/940 Lemonwood      \$12,867.16

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*No payments were made for the Wildewood Assessment.*



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

## Economic Development Report

### MARCH 2024 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued **one (1)** commercial construction permit within the month of March.

- 2100 Memory Lane, multi-tenant building
  - Valued at \$700,000.00

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **two (2)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of March.

- 1517 Waco Trace, valued at \$250,758.67
- 1911 Fall Creek Dr., valued at \$502,375.00

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

- 1500 Mohican, valued at \$220,000.00

To date in calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) the City has issued a total of five (5) residential permits: three (3) single-family permits, two (2) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATES

As of March 31, 2024, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **35,610** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 846 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

March 1 thru March 31, 2024

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	118	63.78%
Grass Parking	19	10.27%
Other*	15	8.11%
Outside Storage	15	8.11%
Bulk Items	6	3.24%
Maintenance	5	2.70%
Trailer	3	1.62%
Brush	2	1.08%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	1	0.54%
Tree limbs	1	0.54%
Basketball Goal	0	0.00%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Fencing	0	0.00%
Junk Vehicle	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Skirting	0	0.00%
Tires	0	0.00%
Trash	0	0.00%
Total	185	100.00%

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:  
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack  
of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of  
Property.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass	602	41.40%
Grass Parking	234	16.09%
Outside Storage	226	15.54%
Other*	127	8.73%
Bulk Items	62	4.26%
Brush	56	3.85%
Maintenance	33	2.27%
Trailer	31	2.13%
Trash	16	1.10%
Fencing	15	1.03%
Tires	12	0.83%
Basketball Goal	11	0.76%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	10	0.69%
Building Inspection	7	0.48%
Junk Vehicle	5	0.34%
Skirting	4	0.28%
Boat	2	0.14%
Tree limbs	1	0.07%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	1,454	100.00%

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:  
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of  
Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.