

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates

Human Resources Department

The Library welcomed two new Library Clerks. Haley Mae Alcorn was hired on September 19th and Jazmyne Lee was hired on September 20th.

The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on September 21st. Christopher Rangamar was hired for the position of Wastewater Maintenance Technician.

The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on September 25th. Kayla Seymour was re-hired for the position of Vet Technician.

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:

- Chief Plant Operator
- 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
- Part Time Recreation Aide



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 here! We look forward to cooler weather and even cooler programs!

The Library and Activities Center 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 30th and Sunday, October 1, 2023. We will be taking games, crafts, educational information, and physical activities to celebrate the upcoming eclipse events. We will focus on the solar system in science and science fiction!



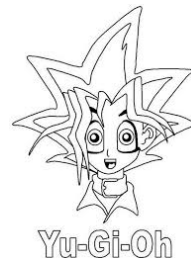
Join us for the Annular Eclipse Viewing Party at the Library and Activities Center on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 10am-1pm. Enjoy this free family event! From books, to games, to crafts – this interactive program presents a variety of fun and enriching activities designed to encourage exploration and spark imagination.

Get ready for the two coming eclipse events with strategies, book lists, projects, and more.



Homeschoolers enjoy a variety of meet-up programs at the Library on the last Wednesday of each month September through November from 1-3pm. Teens ages 13 and up meet for board games and card games. Kids ages 12 and younger meet in the Maker Space for crafts, science, exploration, and more!

The Library has returned to offering Yu-gi-oh! Card games with its Pokemon Card games on Saturdays from 1-3pm! Bring your own cards or play with ours.



Green is the color for the week of September 25 – 30, 2023, in our preschool programs! Celebrate Colors with our story-time 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 – Baby-time 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 – Story-time for children ages 3-6 years and their families – Enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more!**
- **Thursdays at 9am – Story-time 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!**

Check out the City of Harker Heights' Eclipse website at 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!



Kids like e-books and e-audiobooks, too! The Library offers Early World of Reading, Tumble Books, Tumble Math, Overdrive, and the recently added SimplyE through 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! All you need is your Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library Card!



**Citywide Trick-or-Treating hours will be
Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.!**

ACTVITIES 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

- **Fall Youth Soccer began on September 18 with nearly 500 participants!**
- **Ability Sports for Children with Special Needs**
 - **Ability Soccer for children with special needs kicked off on Monday, September 18.**



- **Ability Skateboarding was on Saturday, September 23rd with six participants! We will have the second meet-up on Saturday, September 30th**



- **Ability Hiking will be held on Tuesday, September 26th at Carl Levin Park.**

- **Registration for Youth Basketball will be open from October 4th – November 15th.**



- **The 2024 Youth Sports Schedule will be released to the public in October 2023.**

Parks & Recreation Department

SENIOR RECREATION

- The Parks Department had a booth at the 12th Annual Bell County Senior Expo this morning September 26 at the Bell County Expo Center. The expo was a no pressure, info only, FREE event for Senior Citizens and friends. Staff promoted our Senior Recreation Program as well as other programs, activities, and events the Department and City has to offer. The Parks' bus brought participants to the expo. 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.
- 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. October's activity will be Pickleball!



- Travel with us as we watch videos of many destinations around the world from the comfort of your chair at the Recreation Center. Join us on Tuesdays from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm for Armchair Travelers. Don't worry about the long waits at airports or the many miles in a car.



Parks & Recreation Department

RECREATION CENTER

- **Open Gym Fall Hours are:**

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Basketball**



- **Thursdays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: 12U Open Gym**

- **Fridays 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Wheelchair Basketball**



- **To participate in open gym you must obtain a Civic Rec check in card; which is free to open an account and get a card. If you are a resident of Harker Heights there is no fee and you would need to bring proof of residency. Non-resident do have to pay a fee and they are 17 yrs. old & Under: \$3, 18-49 yrs. old: \$5, and Seniors (50+): \$3.**

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.



- 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.



- Thank you to all who participated in the Day of Play at Peaceable Kingdom by Variety in Killeen. Families, friends, and community members were able to participate in archery, a low ropes course, local food trucks, arts & crafts, water activities, carnival games, and more.

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.



- 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