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# HARKER HEIGHTS HERALD

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# PROGRESS

## 2022

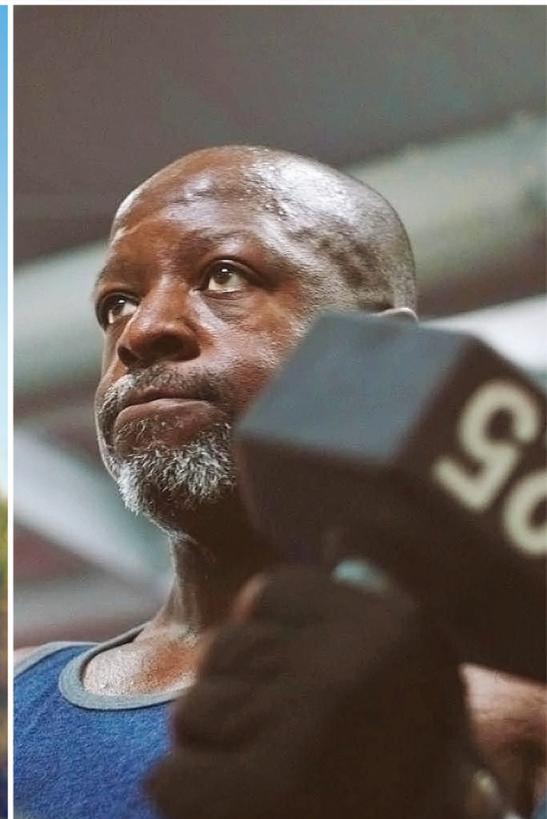
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## [ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ]

Harker Heights mayor's letter	Page 4
Heights continues to grow in population, business	Page 5
Harker Heights city manager's letter	Page 6
Heights making progress on array of projects	Page 7
Highway projects still impacting drivers	Page 11
Water system achieves highest rating from TCEQ	Page 12
Harker Heights police chief retires after 7 years	Page 13
Fire Department continues to grow with city	Page 14
Chamber brings health care, entertainment	Page 18
City Hall places emphasis on reaching out	Page 20
Local sales tax remains strong; growth slows	Page 21
Heights, Nolanville housing markets remain strong	Page 22
Nolanville city manager highlights development	Page 28

**Harker Heights Progress 2022**  
is a Killeen Daily Herald publication.

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# Mayor: Heights is a 'wonderful community'

Greetings, Neighbor,

It is my honor to serve you as the Mayor of Harker Heights. I sincerely hope that you and your families are happy and healthy and are able to enjoy the services that our city provides.

Changes and improvements are in the air all around our city, to include: Road reconstruction, water improvements and upgrades, drainage upgrades, wastewater upgrades, and technology advancements.

In our ongoing effort to stay connected with residents and visitors, the City of Harker Heights uses several tools to provide timely information about meetings, community events, construction projects, emergency notifications, and other important news and alerts.

The City Council approved the transition to GovDelivery as a part of



MAYOR'S LETTER  
SPENCER SMITH

the larger effort to connect and curate information access for our community. This information is tailored by topic and how you wish to receive it. Simply visit our City webpage to sign up [www.harkerheights.gov](http://www.harkerheights.gov)

The City Council agreed to push forward with a citizen survey. This survey will help ensure that the city receives a quality data set which will enable us to make the best decisions regarding the current and future services.

The survey results will be posted on the city's website and social media accounts for citizens to review.

Our support for Fort Hood is mani-

fested in the care and protection of active-duty families while their soldiers are deployed around the world. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, our adopted unit, and the city are closely bound.

We are fortunate to have city council members who are motivated to provide an outstanding quality of life and an exceptional standard of service to those who choose to call Harker Heights their home.

Your City Council is committed to working hard to continue the progress. The City of Harker Heights is a wonderful community because of the contributions of everyone who lives and works here.

I am very proud to represent this city we call home.

Sincerely,  
Spencer H. Smith  
Mayor, City of Harker Heights

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# Heights continues to grow in population, business

HERALD STAFF REPORT

For Harker Heights, Fiscal Year 2022-2023 will be marked by continued growth in the number of people living in the city, the construction of homes and apartments, new businesses and a variety of economic development projects.

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to information provided by the Harker Heights Planning and Development staff, the city issued a total of 21 permits in May for single-family residential construction.

That includes 18 single-family permits in Cedarbrook Ridge, one single-family permit in Pecan Meadows and two permits in other areas.

As of May 31, 2022, the City issued a total of seventy-nine residential permits in calendar year 2022; 71 single-family permits and eight two-family permits.

The estimated population of Harker Heights is 34,495 residents. According to the U.S. Census, the population as of April 1, 2020, was 33,097 residents.

Director of Plant Services Mark Hyde reports that since that time, the City has added 471 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City of Harker Heights has enlisted The Retail Coach to assist in improving



commercial growth. They have completed several market studies to help maximize the City's appeal to retail and commercial groups with interest in the region. A Community Dashboard has been created at <http://www.retail360.us/harkerheights-tx/>.

The City issued two commercial construction permits during May for the Clear Sky Rehabilitation Facility and remodel work for Chick-Fil-A.

Future construction, which is either in the planning stages or already underway, includes: a Chuy's Restaurant, Gambit Family Entertainment Venue, Hampton Inn and Comanche Gap Park.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

An agreement was entered into, in March, between the city and Yellow Lilly, Inc. The city is providing certain economic development incentives to Yellow Lilly pursuant to its authority under Chapter

A Hampton Inn is nearing completion near the intersection of FM 2410 and Interstate 14, across from Carl Levin Park. It will be the city's first four-story building; a conditional-use permit from the city was needed to accommodate the extra height. Both Seton Medical Center and Extraco Bank are three-story structures.

DAVE MILLER | HERALD

380 of the Texas Local Government Code.

The 380 agreement was for the redevelopment of Lynn Drive.

All structures have been demolished and will be platted by Yellow Lilly for at least 19 duplex lots along the street that is about 740 feet long.

Gambit Social House, which entered into a 380 Economic Development Incentive Agreement with the City on June 8, 2021, asked the City Council for a completion date extension due to a material shortage.

Once construction is completed, the 12,000-square-foot entertainment venue will house a beer tap room, restaurant, nine-hole miniature golf course, eight Escape Rooms, and a 400-square-foot event space.

The project will also include three outside axe throwing lanes, beach volleyball facilities plus other games and seating areas on the premises.

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# Manager: Impressed with community support

Dear residents, businesses and visitors:

Harker Heights is a great place to live, and my family and I truly consider it a gift to be here. In my time as your City Manager, I have had the distinct privilege to meet with many local groups, residents, businesses and city employees.

I continue to be impressed with the level of community support and participation from all. I am especially thankful for the commitment to service displayed by your entire City staff.

Your staff has seen an increase in responsibilities as our workforce continues to have shortages. They have met this challenge with



MANAGER'S LETTER  
DAVID MITCHELL

increased efficiencies, innovation, and a tremendous sense of pride to serve their public. The last few years have presented unprecedented challenges to our city. Through it all, we have worked hard to keep our focus on our Vision Statement: Providing public services that empower people to focus on what matters most — their goals, hopes and dreams.

Your City is moving in new

and positive directions! There are multiple major projects that are either completed, in construction, or are in the engineering process. They range from street reconstruction, drainage improvements, sidewalk projects, water upgrades, and wastewater improvements.

Our Parks and Library programs are constantly being renewed with offerings ranging all over the spectrum of learning and recreational enjoyment.

Policies and incentives put in place by the Mayor and the Council help set the direction for our City to be successful. The City is witnessing new residential development, medical facilities, restaur-

rants, hotels, and entertainment venues among other developments.

The City is encouraging these developments to bring products and services closer to residents further enhancing a sense of community for all to enjoy.

I believe that our future is indeed bright in Harker Heights!

We encourage all citizens to get involved. Attend council meetings, participate in a board or commission or volunteer in other ways throughout the community.

Get involved in your City and help write its next great chapter!

David Mitchell  
City manager

**Belinda Johnson**  
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# Heights making progress on array of projects

BY JERRY BARK  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The City of Harker Heights has a Capital Improvement Plan, better known as a CIP. The CIP is a planning and fiscal management tool used to coordinate the location, timing, and financing of capital improvements over a multi-year period.

It is critically important and one of the major responsibilities for the City of Harker Heights.

The CIP budget is prepared and presented for approval at the same time as the operating budget to assess accurately the impact of a project on operating costs.

The CIP is a working document and is reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing community needs, priorities, and funding opportunities to ensure that the infrastructure exists to preserve and enhance facility assets.

The CIP is all around us. We do not think about it every day, but it's the sidewalk we walk on, the park at which we meet your friends, even the pipes that carry water that comes out of our faucets.

These are public assets that are maintained by the City of Harker Heights, and they are part of a larger system of infrastructure that affects each person's quality of life.

## CIP PROGRESS FOR FY 2021-2022 INCLUDES: Building/Facility Improvements

Flooring updates at City Hall and new cubicles/desks for the Finance and Courts offices. Replacing the carpet within the City Council Chambers, Finance area as the Courts. Project is ongoing and anticipated to be completed by Sept. 30.

## 2021 Street Improvements (Winter Storm Uri)

**Construction Cost: \$2,752,752.51**

The City Council awarded the project to Lonestar Grading & Materials, LLC. The project includes subgrade cement stabilization with asphalt paving on nine collector streets and numerous point repairs on 19 collector streets



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Paving work on Miller's Crossing, just west of Knight's Way, is shown in this photo taken in late June. The roadway has since been completed, with the exception of the striping.

damaged from Winter Storm Uri.

Because of delays in construction material delivery, the notice to proceed was issued Dec. 1, 2021, with the final completion in August 2022.

## STREET POINT REPAIRS

### 19 high-traffic collector streets

- Amy Lane
- Beeline Drive
- Caribou Drive
- Cedar Knob Road
- Cedar Oaks Drive
- Cheetah Trail
- Fuller Lane
- Iron Jacket Drive
- Poppi Place Drive
- Harley Drive
- Helm's Way
- Lakefront Drive
- Miller's Crossing
- Modoc Drive
- Ute Trail
- Prospector Trail
- Tundra Drive
- Verna Lee Boulevard
- Nola Ruth Boulevard

PLEASE SEE **PROJECT, 8**

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# PROJECT

FROM PAGE 7

## Nine High Traffic Collector Streets – Subgrade Concrete Stabilization

### Rehabilitation with Hot Mix Asphalt Paving.

- Wildewood Drive, ongoing – Completion by August
- Crowfoot Drive, completed – Striping still required
- Pioneer Trail, ongoing – Completion by August
- Miller’s Crossing, completed – Striping still required
- Chaucer Lane, ongoing – Completion by August
- Memory Lane, completed – Striping still required
- Shelby Lane, completed – Striping still required
- Drawbridge Drive, ongoing – Completion by August
- Comanche Gap Road, ongoing – Completion by August

### 2022 Street Improvements Budget: \$820,000

Engineer is complete and the project is estimated to be awarded in September 2022.

The following streets will receive subgrade concrete stabilization rehabilitation with hot mix asphalt paving and concrete ribbon curb:

- Yuron Trace
  - Seminole Trace
  - Maya Trail
  - Sun Meadows Drive
  - Warriors Path Road
- Street Construction Project, Phase 2
- Probable Construction Cost: \$3,566,500
- Engineering & Survey Design Cost: \$452,644
- The project is currently in engineering design.
- The Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (KTMPO) has approved funding for the project. TxDOT has agreed to an Au-



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Looking west, the newly paved surface can be seen on the west-to-east turnaround bridge over Interstate 14 at Farm-to-Market 2410, as vehicles travel on the eastbound service road. The new turnaround bridge is expected to be open in August.

gust 2023 Let date. Estimated construction timeline of 9 months.

- Sidewalk – Prospector Trail to Vineyard Trail
- Construction Cost: \$509,090
- The City Council awarded the project to Choice Builders, LLC. A pre-construction meeting was held on March 30.

Once the Notice to Proceed has been issued, the contract timeline to completion is 5 months. The project is well underway, and the completion date is September 2022.

- Sidewalk – FM 3481 East side Phase I and Phase 3
- Probable Construction Cost: \$350,000

Originally broken into three phases for budgeting purposes.

Phase 2 has been completed with new development. The project is currently in engineering design. Estimating construction to begin in August 2022.

- Pinewood Drive Drainage Channel – Scour Protection Project

Construction Cost: \$185,326

The City Council awarded the project to Myers Concrete Construction, LLC on March 23, 2021. The project, approximately 400 feet in length, includes shaping the earthen channel and installing 18-inch diameter grouted rock rip rap in the bottom

and sides of the earthen channel section to prevent erosion. Approximately 250 feet of privacy fencing along the limits of the project will be removed and replaced. The project is completed.

- Drainage Master Plan

PLEASE SEE **PROJECT, 9**

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# PROJECT

FROM PAGE 8

CIP No. 1 – Goode/Connell Park Detention Facility  
Probable Construction Cost: \$992,200

Engineering design is 95% complete. Estimated construction start date: September 2022. Estimated 9-month construction timeline.

- Drainage Master Plan CIP No. 2 – Phases 2,3, and 4  
Probable Construction Cost:

- Phase 2: \$405,000
- Phase 3: \$660,660
- Phase 4: \$1,036,800

Engineering design is 90% complete. Additional drainage easements, mainly behind the homes on Cardinal Lane, will be required for the wider concrete drainage channel.

- Mountain Lion Road Drainage Flume Replacement at Pontiac Drive  
Probable Construction Cost: \$101,590

Engineering design is completed. Will bid this project and the Jorgette Drive Bank Stabilization Project with the Drainage Master Plan CIP No. 2, Phases 2, 3 and 4.

- Jorgette Drive Bank Stabilization Project  
Probable Construction Cost: \$100,000

This project will be bid with the Mountain Lion Road Drainage Flume Replacement Project and the Drainage Master Plan CIP No. 2, Phase 2.

- Fuller Lane/Tye Valley Cross Drainage Replacement  
Probable Construction Cost: \$54,470

The project includes replacing the corrugated metal pipes with a concrete box culvert. Requesting an engineering proposal from Kasberg, Patrick & Associ-



COURTESY | CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS

Work crews prepare to place a water line along the roadway as part of the Indian Trail Drainage Project, which is currently ongoing.

ates.

- Roy Reynolds Drive Bridge Abutment Stabilization Project

Probable Construction Cost: \$122,115

An alternate engineering design has been completed with a considerably lower construction cost. The project will be packaged and bid with other similar small drainage projects as one bid project.

- FM 2410 Utility Relocation Project  
Construction Cost: \$48,653

The Texas Department of Transportation will be making drainage improvements on FM 2410 from Stillhouse Lake Road to Simmons Road in Belton. The project let date is June 204.

The City of Harker Heights has one location where the existing sanitary sewer force main is in conflict and needs to be lowered.

The City Council awarded the project to McLean Construction, Inc.

- West Mechanical Bar Screen Access

Probable Construction Cost: \$40,000

The project includes saw-

ing an entry way through the concrete wall separating the two mechanical bar screens. The entry way will eliminate the need for a confined space entry when accessing

the lower level for the west mechanical bar screen.

Contractors currently working at the plant are providing quotes.

- VFW Lift Station Upgrade  
Probable Construction Cost: \$50,000

The VFW lift station is one of the oldest lift stations in the City. The rectangular concrete wet well requires rehabilitation. The project includes cleaning, preparing and epoxy coating the concrete.

The City of Harker Heights would keep the wet well dry during the epoxy coating process.

- Beeline Drive Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project  
Probable Construction

Cost: \$558,095

The project is currently in engineering design. The

PLEASE SEE **PROJECT, 10**



COURTESY | CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS

Road machinery grades the surface of Pioneer Trail last month in preparation for paving. The roadway was repaved from FM 2410 to Grizzly Trail to repair damage from Winter Storm Uri.

# PROJECT

FROM PAGE 9

limits of the project are Beeline Drive from Watson Lane to Rebecca Lane. Replacing the existing 6-inch vitrified clay sewer line with 6-inch PVC. This is the first project listed on the City's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative partnership with the TCEQ.

- Second Belt Filter Press at the Wastewater Sludge Dewatering Building

Construction Cost: \$898,500

The City Council awarded the project to Archer Western Construction on Aug. 24, 2021. Estimated completion: August 2022.

The second belt filter press provides redundancy for the wastewater sludge dewatering process. Since October 2020, the plant is averaging 22 30-yard roll-offs of dewatered sludge per month.

The current belt filter press was installed in 1991 when the plant was expanded.

- Rummel Lift Station Wastewater Capacity Expansion Project

Construction Cost: \$2,469,265

The City Council awarded the project to Black Rock Construction.

The Notice to Proceed was issued March 1 with the date of substantial completion scheduled for November 25.

The project is necessary to increase lift station and associated sanitary sewer infrastructure capacity east of Warriors Path Road to accommodate an



additional 1,000 homes. The City Council approved a wastewater impact fee for new development in this wastewater service area.

- Emergency Generator and Aeration Blower Equipment Replacement Project

Probable Construction Cost: \$1,400,000

Engineering & Survey Design Cost: \$180,000

The project is currently in engineering design. Replaces A-Plant and B-Plant emergency standby generators. Replaces B-Plant centrifugal blowers and motor control center.

- Beeline Drive Water Line Replacement Project

Probable Construction Cost: \$370,000

The project is currently in engineering design. The limits of the project are Beeline Drive from Amy Lane to Rebecca Drive. Replacing the small diameter galvanized water lines in the street and relocating the new 6-inch PVC water main behind the curb. Installing new

fire hydrants.

- Cedar Knob Water Line Replacement Project

Budget: \$406,500

The 2017 Water Master Plan recommends replacing the existing 6-inch water line with a 12-inch diameter water line. The limits of the project are Cedar Knob Road from FM 2410 to FM 3481. Once the water line improvements are completed, the street pavement section can be rehabilitated.

- Relocating the City Drop Site and Recycling Center

Engineering, Survey & Architectural Design Cost: \$79,500

The project is currently not budgeted. The project includes drainage improvements, paved surfaces for the main traffic areas, two access points on Amy Lane and architectural drawings for the sanitation attendant building to be constructed on site. The proposed site is 2.36 acres.

Crews put down a layer of hot-mix asphalt last month as work continued on the Crowfoot Drive rehabilitation project. The road has been completed, with the exception of striping.

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# Ongoing highway projects still impacting drivers

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Two major highway projects continue to impact Harker Heights commuters through 2021 and into 2022 — Interstate 14 and Farm-to-Market 2410.

Interstate 14 cuts through the city of Harker Heights in an east-to-west configuration. The first phase of Interstate 14 is complete, and the second phase continues construction into 2022.

Later this year, I-14 will also see its second turnaround from west to east, with construction nearing completion.



DAVE MILLER | HERALD

## INTERSTATE 14

This project began in the spring of 2018 at a cost of \$7.2 million for Phase 1, which stretches from the Harker Heights city limits to the west to the Indian Trail overpass on the east.

Phase 2 is well underway, and the anticipated completion date is in the late sum-

mer of 2022. Motorists travel along Interstate 14 near the Nola Ruth Boulevard overpass in Harker Heights. Work to widen the highway to three lanes in each direction continues eastward between Indian Trail and the I-35 interchange.

“The project required extensive bridgework, which had to be completed prior to any other major road construction starting,” said Harker Heights Assistant

City Manager Jerry Bark. “Just as in Phase 1, there will be traffic congestion as Phase 2 adds an inside travel lane in both the eastbound and westbound directions as well as a concrete traffic barrier between the opposing travel lanes.” Bark said.

There will be changes to entrance and exit ramps in Nolanville.

Some exit and entrance ramps will be extended with only a slight amount of negative impact.

## NEW TURNAROUND

The Texas Department of Transportation is finishing the construction of the new turnaround bridge at Interstate Highway 14 and Farm to Market 2410 in Harker Heights.

The goal for the project is to construct a similar turnaround on the east side of Farm to Market 2410 and will allow westbound traf-

fic on East Central Texas Expressway to turn around at Farm-to-Market 2410 and head eastbound.

The anticipated project completion date is late summer 2022.

The estimated project cost is approximately \$3.1 million.

## FARM-TO-MARKET 2410

The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2024 on FM 2410. The construction is designed to increase the safety standards on FM 2410 by relocating storm drain headwalls which are currently too close to the edge of pavement.

Utility relocation may need to occur to accommodate this project.

The road will be repaved from Stillhouse Lake Road to Simmons Road. The TxDOT project does not include additional lanes or sidewalks.



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Construction equipment sits on the west-to-east turnaround bridge over Interstate 14, prior to the bridge's paving last month.

# Heights water system achieves highest rating from TCEQ

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The City of Harker Heights is required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act to develop a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the public.

The 2021 Annual Drinking Water Report includes information on the water source, regulated and unregulated contaminants, special health effects language, and information on protecting water quality.

The City of Harker Heights' main concern is to provide its citizens with high-quality potable water and to deliver an uninterrupted flow of water with adequate pressure in the required quantities while protecting our health and welfare.

"We are extremely proud to be recognized as a Superior Water System by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This is the highest rating available," said Jerry Bark, assistant city manager. "Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) drinking water requirements." Bark said.

In 2021, the city used 1,690,897,000 gallons of water with an average of 4.6 million gallons running through approximately 191 miles of water mains each day.

The city can also store approximately 6.0 million gallons of water at a given time. The city's per capita use for 2021 was 135 gallons per day. Currently all the city's drinking water comes from Belton Lake and is purchased through the Bell County Water Control & Improvement District No. 1.

The full report can be viewed by visiting the City of Harker Heights website at



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

The Harker Heights City Council and city staff make their way up to the pools for a closer look during a tour of the city's water treatment plant in Belton last August.

[www.harkerheights.gov](http://www.harkerheights.gov)

### Water Loss Audit Results:

All public water suppliers are required to publish their annual water loss.

The City of Harker Heights submitted its annual Water Loss Audit to the Texas Water Development Board for calendar year 2021.

dar year 2021.

The estimated water loss for calendar year 2021 was 272,511,226 gallons of water. Water loss occurs through waterline leaks, inaccurate water meters, theft and other causes.

"Be assured that the City of Harker Heights is prepared

and is able to provide its citizens with a high quality of potable water while protecting health and welfare for many years to come. The city has passed a Water Conservation Plan to encourage efficient use of water by our residents and businesses." Bark said.

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# Harker Heights police chief retires after 7 years

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Phillip M. Gadd, who has been at the helm of the Harker Heights Police Department for three years, retired on July 15 after serving as the deputy chief of police and chief of police from 2015 to 2022. He was chief of police from 2019 to 2022.



Gadd

Deputy Chief Betiale Hawkins was named the department's interim chief.

Gadd's work resulted in the receipt of 17 grants totaling more than \$270,000 to augment his department's budget. With four of the grants, he enhanced the safety and investigative capability of HHPD.

The Harker Heights Police Department consists of 56 sworn officers plus 15 professional support staff.

The total number of major offenses recorded by HHPD between January 2021 and December 2021, included but were not limited to murder-1, rape-16, robbery-15, burglary-51, larceny-283, shoplifting-119, motor vehicle theft (include alleged joy ride)-47, and total locally stolen motor vehicles recovered-38.

In 2021, HHPD officers responded to 37,973 events of various types and they fall into one of four categories.

HHPD Administrative Assistant Lawrence Stewart said, "The priority ratings



Harker Heights Police Chief Phil Gadd, right, swears in three new officers during a September 2019 ceremony at the Harker Heights Activities Center. The chief retired from the city on July 15.

HERALD | FILE

are based on the emergency nature of a call.

When we get a dispatch that there have been shots fired ... that's Priority One. When someone calls and explains my car has been scratched ... that's Priority Four."

Response times are average and depend on several factors. For the purpose of this report, the average times and Priority

Levels are: Priority One-4.35 minutes, Priority Two- 5.23 minutes, Priority Three-8.3 minutes and Priority Four-8.3 minutes.

The HHPD is the foundation for many services and programs for residents of the City including the following and others:

- Community Services promotes awareness, teamwork, understanding and trust between HHPD and citizens.

- The Healthy Homes program links social services and community resources to help short circuit the dysfunctional trend in a home before a crime occurs.

- Blue Santa is the HHPD way of giving back to the community.

- Every December, bicycles are donated to children enrolled in the Killeen ISD Homeless Awareness Response Program (HARP).

- The Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is a free educational program conducted by Community Services and the HHPD giving citizens a greater awareness and better understanding of their local law enforcement agency.

- Neighborhood Watch encourages citizens to organize themselves and keep a careful watch over each other's homes and properties and immediately reporting any suspicious activity or persons.

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# Heights Fire Department continues to grow with city

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

From what began as a volunteer organization in 1961, the Harker Heights Fire Department (HHFD) is now a department that operates two stations.

Central Fire Station houses an engine, medic unit, battalion chief, brush truck, reserve medic unit and 21 personnel across three shifts.

Station 2 houses a quint truck, medic unit, brush truck, reserve engine, battalion chief and 18 personnel across three shifts.

Fire Chief Paul Sims shared with the City Council in March 2022 about the number of calls in 2021 that included: a total of combined fire and EMS calls of 6,040, that equals about 16.5 responses per day. Fifty-eight percent of the calls were answered from Central Fire Station. Forty-two percent were responded to from Station Two.

The call volume increase was 48% from 2011 to 2021.

Approximately 65% of the City is within a 0-5 minute response time from Central, 10% is within 7 minutes and the remaining 25% is 10 minutes or greater.

From Station 2, about 75% of the City is within 0-5 minutes response time, 10% is within seven minutes and the remaining 15% is 10 minutes or greater.

City Manager David Mitchell, said, "Construction plans for Station 3 are on hold due to budget restraints." Once all three stations are operational, about 98% of the City will be covered by a 0-5 minute response time.

The HHFD does more than



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

HHFD Firemen/Paramedics, from left, Joseph Byrne, David Ayer (Battalion Chief) and Zachary Gautheir were three of the six fireman/paramedics responding to a home in Harker Heights where the father had just delivered a daughter on his own.

fight fires and save lives. Their servant attitude is well known throughout the City. These firemen/paramedics are highly trained and use the best equipment possible. One of many examples is the Lucas 3, Version 3.1 Chest Compression System that is the latest and best available on the market, according to trainer Aaron Dunnam. Lt. Mandy Jiminez said, "During a cardiac arrest scenario, paramedics using the LUCAS can provide a constant effort of treatment for up to 45 minutes. It replaces what we would do with our hands on a patient's chest so we can focus on other probable causes as to why this person's heart has stopped beating."

Fire Department personnel are also involved in the community by sponsoring food and toy drives, raising funds for various causes and receiving donations from local businesses.

In 2019, HHFD received the Life Line EMS Recognition

Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association.



Fire Chief Paul Sims, right, assists with the food drive at Central Fire Station.

# City continues to implement Parks and Rec master plan

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, approved in 2020, remains in effect until 2030 and continues to follow an implementation plan that focuses on “Facility Improvement,” with an emphasis on outdoor improvements.

Through several public meetings, survey responses, input from the Parks Advisory Board and discussions with city staff, the four parks goals are: Accessibility, Sustainability, Maintenance and Innovation.

The City of Harker Heights owns and maintains 178 acres of parkland. The parks system includes 24 acres of neighborhood parks and 154 acres of community parks.

Several overriding themes dominated both input received from the public and the development of this plan.

Multiple references were made to “Take care of what we have” in regards to the City’s park system. There was a high level of satisfaction in the current level of park acreage and development that exists within the parks although there was also communication from residents who asked for more parkland to be added to the parks system.

Connectivity through trails is the number one priority for the city’s future park system. There has been an expressed interest to develop trail connectivity with the vision of having parks within a 10-minute walk of homes; to connect homes to parks; parks to parks; and connection to other cultural amenities within the city.

The parks currently provide venues for Community Fun Days, Fishing Days, personal exercise, baseball and

Harker Heights parks are well known as locations for events such as Community Play Day.



PHOTOS BY BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Parks and Recreation staff assist a crowd tossing dirt into the base of a tree planted on April 22 at Carl Levin Park in memory of a popular H-E-B Pharmacy staff member who died after contracting COVID. A bench was also provided by Parks & Rec at Carl Levin Park.

soccer fields, and other events large and small.

The Parks and Recreation Department, overseen by Director Jeff Achee, is also one that reaches out to the community and provides the planting of trees and the construction of benches to honor those who have received awards for outstanding service or who have passed.

At an April meeting at Carl Levin Park sponsored by the Centex Sustainable Communities Partnership, Harker Heights Mayor Spencer Smith read a Monarch Pledge followed by the presentation to several area mayors of Blackland Prairie Mix seeds that attract monarch butterflies.



## Westside Baptist Church

**Pastor: Hallie Tolbert, Jr.**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES	
Sunday School . . . . .	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service. . . . .	8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service. . . . .	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer . . . . .	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study. . . . .	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study. . . . .	6:00 p.m.
Thursday Choir Practice. . . . .	6:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning Prayers . . . . .	5:00 a.m.

Rev. Hallie Tolbert, Jr.  
Rev. Bobby Jones

Pastor  
Assistant Pastor

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COURTESY PHOTO

A big crowd turned out for the ribbon cutting for Express Chiropractic.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chamber members cut the ribbon for Elevate Fitness on Miller's Crossing.

# List of businesses partnering with the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce since July 2021

**Graham Team Realtors**  
1010 W Jasper Dr., Suite 1

**Central Texas Youth Services**  
204 N East St suite A

**SeAe Collective, Inc.**  
1751 Verna Lee Blvd

**Heights Healthy Happiness**  
905 Mountain Lion Circle, Suite 900

**The L3gacy Restaurant & Lounge**  
102 E Running Wolf Trail

**Board & Brush — Belton**

**Low Price Auto Glass of Harker Heights**

**Elevate Fitness, LLC**  
200 Miller's Crossing, Suite 104

**James L Castellano, State Farm Insurance**  
2025 Memory Lane, #300

**Transformation Title and Escrow, LLC**  
601 Quail Valley Drive, Suite 116

**Dr. Prite Family Care**  
3055 Stillhouse Lake Road, Suite 206

**Incfile**  
17350 State Highway 249, Ste 220, Houston

**Gambit Social House**  
512 S 2nd St

**Black Rifle Coffee Company**  
325 FM 2410

**Spectrum Business**  
201 E. Central Texas Expressway, STE 645

**Texas Takes Real Estate Photography**  
1120 Dark Wood Dr

**Laish Beauty & Holistic Spa**  
102 Cedar Breaks Ct

**Temper Tantrums**  
205 W Rancier Unit D

**TNK Services LLC**  
PO Box 11993

**Exit Heart OF Texas Realty**  
40003 W. Stan Schlueter, Ste 106

**Standards Home Health**  
111 W. 2nd Street

**A&W Roofing**  
3875 E University Ave., Ste. 107

**Adobe**  
345 Park Avenue

**Fire Base Brewing Company**  
6703 Old Waco Lane

**T-Mobile Home Town Expert**

PLEASE SEE **BUSINESS, 17**

# BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 16

## Shilo Inn Suites - Killeen

3701 S. WS Young

## Stephanie Martin

5103 Parkwood Drive

## Axe Monkeys Fort Hood

1707 Dubroc Drive

## Kim Van Riper-Realtor

400 E. Central Texas Expy B.

## Quit Ly "Q" Realtor

## Sidney's Home Sales

200 E Central Texas Express Way, Suite B

## Kassy Williams- EXP Realty, LLC

P.O. Box 413

## ClearSky Rehabilitation Hospital of Harker Heights

## Harbor Hospice

7800 Shoal Creek Blvd, Suite 105N

## Mill's Beauty Supply

3700 S WS Young Dr., STE 102

## Au So Natural Hair Care

5700 Drystone Ln

## BioLife Plasma Services

875 W Central Tx Expressway

## GOGO Charters Fort Hood

3340 Peachtree Road, Suite 100

## Bella Sera Italian Restaurant — Harker Heights

2330 Verna Lee Blvd, Suite 110

## Kendra Scott — Harker Heights

201 E. Central Texas Expressway, Unit#520

## FSR Roofing

321 Presa Drive

## The Benefit Group

110 E. 10th Ave

## Allied Marketing Group

2201 S W S Young Drive, Suite 300

## Shelley's

4605 Trimmier Road

## We Play And More LLC.

544 West Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 110

## David B. Mitchell, Bankers Life Securities

2019 Rain dance Loop

## Harker Heights Living

## Prophecy Media Group

6401 Cobbs Drive

## Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport

8101 S Clear Creek Road, Box C

## Mountain View Productions

3610 Barbed Wire Dr

Carmen G. Garcia, Attorney at Law  
100 W. Central Texas Expy, Suite 310

## Maru Korean & Japanese Cuisine

2020 W Stan Schlueter Loop, BLDG A

## Integrity Nail Bar

4310 Clear Creek

## Jody Nicholas

308 Bareback Trail

## TLL MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

2709 San Jacinto Rd



DAVE MILLER | HERALD

Black Rifle Coffee Company opened its doors on Knights Way this year, in the location formerly occupied by Taco Bueno.



COURTESY PHOTO

A big crowd was on hand for the ribbon cutting for Bella Sera Italian Restaurant, at the corner of Knights Way and Verna Lee Boulevard.

# Chamber of Commerce brings health care, entertainment

BY GINA PENCE

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce is a vital part of the ongoing growth that is taking place here in the Bell County area.



CHAMBER PRESIDENT  
GINA PENCE

The chamber is the backbone of the community, focused on working together to enhance the economic vitality of our members and the quality of life in Harker Heights.

With a population of over 32,000, Harker Heights is home to young professionals,

veterans, retirees, entrepreneurs, and small-to-large businesses, each with its own unique flavor and outstanding characteristics.

A recent study identifies Harker Heights as one of the fastest-growing cities in Bell County with a median household income \$75,526, which is 30% greater than Bell County.

Niche Best Places ranks Harker Heights as one of the best places to live, raise a family, and most diverse city in the Bell County.

2022 continues to bring new growth and expansion to Harker Heights with our business climate flourishing from the ground up.

A few of the recent construction projects include: ClearSky Rehab Hospital, Black Bear Diner, BioLife Plasma, and Gambit Social House.

At the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to partner in this success, ensuring that Harker Heights is the foremost location for economic development and business prosperity.

We are thrilled to have the new retail boutique stores, Kendra Scott and Crumbl Cookies in Market Heights. Target is currently undergoing a remodel and we look forward to seeing the complete project. Market Heights has several new businesses coming soon.

To learn more about the new busi-



HERALD | FILE

nesses, go to [www.hhchamber.com](http://www.hhchamber.com). Chamber officials, company administrators and other dignitaries prepare to break ground for the new ClearSky Rehab Hospital, near Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, in March.

## Harker Heights Demographic Profile

- Est. Population: 34,012
  - Median Age: 34
  - Est. Median Household Income: \$75,526
  - Retail Trade Area Est. Median Household Income: \$56,181
  - Top Industries: #1 Healthcare #2 Retail
  - Total Est. Businesses: 1,133 (Go to [www.hhchamber.com](http://www.hhchamber.com) to see full report)
- At the Harker Heights Chamber, you can meet the premier business leaders in the county and have access to a multitude of opportunities to network, further your career, hear success stories, stay up to date on community/industry news and socialize.

The Harker Heights Chamber is a catalyst between business and community for achievement. As the voice of business in our community, the Chamber strives to understand the legislative issues important to our members.

Key to this effort is building and maintaining strong relationships with our local, state, and federal elected officials.

The Harker Heights Chamber has diligently fulfilled its mission as the

advocate for business excellence in Bell County. We create, enhance, and promote the thriving economic environment in which we work and live.

Whether it is through the Tourism Division, Education, Governmental Relations, Community Resources, Business and Professional Development, Economic Development, Healthcare or Members Services we bring value to our members.

Graduates of our Vision XXI Leadership program are serving in leadership positions throughout our community.

PLEASE SEE **CHAMBER, 19**

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# CHAMBER

FROM PAGE 18

The Leadership course builds organizational effectiveness within our philanthropic community. High school students have the unique opportunity to experience how volunteerism and philanthropy coexist to serve the community in our Vision XXI Leadership program.

Our leadership program has given back over \$125,000 directly to our community thanks to our students and sponsors of the program.

Through the Harker Heights Chamber Visitor's Center, we provide our visitors and new residents resources that highlight the great amenities and attractions in the community.

Under the Chamber's tourism division, the 5K Mug Run is hosted throughout the year bringing visitors to the community for a fun healthy event that highlights Texas craft brews.

Not to be outdone and celebrating its 14th year, the HH Food, Wine & Brew Fest attracts thousands of wine and food aficionados to our area each year. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Harker Heights Community Park for the Harker Heights Food, Wine & Brew Festival.

A clock in front City Hall at 305 Miller's Crossing was a cooperative effort of the Heights Chamber of Commerce, the 2021 Vision XXI Leadership Class, the City of Harker Heights and individual sponsors.

BOB MASSEY | HERALD



HERALD | FILE

Attendees (at right) of last year's Harker Heights Food, Wine and Brew Fest inquire about more information from the booth for C&E Favors Event Preparation Team. Seventy-five vendors set up shop at the event.

To learn more, go to [www.hhfoodandwine.com](http://www.hhfoodandwine.com).

We also welcome outdoor recreational activities and tournaments throughout the year.

If you love outdoor recreational activities, then you will want to experience Dana Peak Park.

This beautiful site offers camping,

fishing, boating, hiking & mountain bike trails plus much more. Go to [www.discoverharkerheights.com](http://www.discoverharkerheights.com) to learn more about the history of Harker Heights and our outdoor recreation.

At your Chamber, we work hard to provide real benefits for you and your employees, and we hope you will continue to join us in making our community a great place to live, work and play.

Remember, membership in the Chamber is an investment in your community. We thank you for being an integral part of that future!

Sincerely,

Gina Pence  
President & CEO

Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce

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# City Hall staff and council place emphasis on reaching out

HERALD STAFF REPORT

The year 2022 has not only been a time of reinstating events and services that had been placed on hold due to the pandemic but also a chance to explore new ways of reaching out to the public with innovative communications techniques.

The easiest way to find the most comprehensive information about the City of Harker Heights is by way of the internet: [contactus@harkerheights.gov](mailto:contactus@harkerheights.gov) or on the city's Facebook page.

## Subscription information service — 'eblast.'

The city implemented a new "eblast" subscription service at GovDelivery. This new service allows the staff at City Hall to efficiently share news, action alerts, event notices, severe weather information and other updates to a resident's email inbox in a timely fashion.

With this "eblast" service, residents can determine the types of information they want to receive; password protect subscriptions and preferences, change email addresses or remove themselves at anytime by accessing their Subscription Preference page.

Sign up for this free service at [harkerheightsstayinformed.com](http://harkerheightsstayinformed.com).

For more information contact Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark at: [jbark@harkerheights.gov](mailto:jbark@harkerheights.gov).

## New community clock

As residents pass by City Hall at 305 Miller's Crossing, a new large iron two-faced decorative clock displays the time, thanks to a cooperative effort of the Heights Chamber of Commerce, the 2021 Vision XXI Chamber Leadership Class and the City of Harker Heights.

This newest landmark in Harker Heights was a service project undertaken and completed by the Vision XXI Class and officially dedicated in late March.

Circled around the foundation of the clock are bricks purchased by residents and businesses that made donations to fund the construction of the clock.



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Director of Technology Gary Bates, inside the new television control room, explains the switching of one camera shot to another while at the same time running audio for the broadcast.

## Televised council meetings

Upon the late arrival of required equipment, meetings from the Kitty Young Council Chambers at Harker Heights City Hall will be televised "live."

Council Chambers is now a transformed and modernized meeting room due to the availability of improved technology that will provide an improved sight and sound experience for residents at home and those who attend the meetings in person.

Director of Technology Gary Bates said, "The programming from City Hall will not be on a designated channel but

can be viewed on video formats such as Facebook Live, YouTube or the city website, [harkerheights.gov](http://harkerheights.gov)."

## Survey of residents gathers feedback

In May, the city conducted a survey to gather feedback about services and various community topics.

The survey was administered in two phases. The first phase of the survey was sent randomly to residents.

The second phase was opened to all residents and was completed through written form or online.

The survey measured a wide range of community issues related to the city's characteristics, quality of life and services provided by the city.

The survey data has assisted elected officials and department heads with prioritizing services and guided future budget decision-making that was reflective of the desires of the community.

## City Hall welcome desk

Coming soon to the Harker Heights City Hall is a Welcome Center. Volunteers will be wearing special vests and name tags while sitting at a table in the foyer or walking near the main entrance to City Hall. They will welcome residents, distribute printed material, answer questions and direct visitors to departments throughout the building.

City Manager David Mitchell said, "It's another way to say we're more than pleased that citizens choose to come in person and do their business with the city. There will always be someone available to be friendly and helpful."

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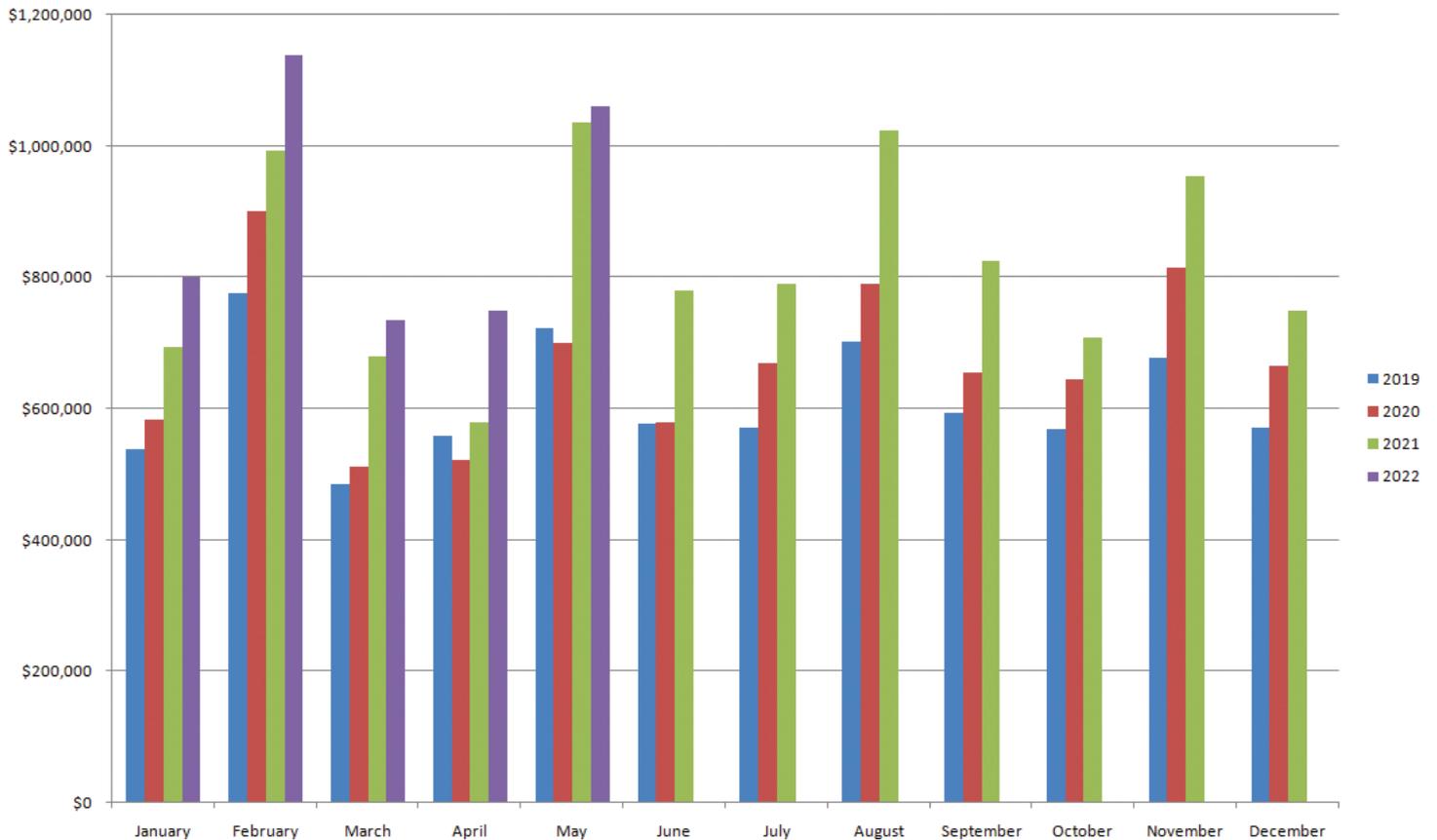
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# Local sales tax remains strong; growth slows

**BY JACK DOWLING**  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Amid supply chain shortages and rampant inflation, the city of Harker Heights' sales tax revenue has remained strong.

In total, Harker Heights managed to take home approximately \$10.2 million in sales tax revenue, according to Finance Director Ayesha Lealiiee.

"Over the past year, sales taxes have held strong and continued to rise which, after the pandemic, was something we wanted to wait and see what would be next," she said in an email correspondence with the Herald.

Lealiiee attributed commercial and residential

growth the resilient economy.

"Harker Heights is thankfully seeing additional commercial and residential growth coming out of the pandemic and that has been a great boost to the local economy," she said.

However, though inflation may have resulted in higher sales tax revenue, the finance director said that "inflation has impacted Harker Heights as a City and its residents in the same ways," pointing out that it is harder to secure goods and services when they cost more.

So where exactly does Harker Heights stand?

"Harker Heights is in good standing in what is more or less the aftermath of the pandemic. We bud-

geted sales tax revenues for FY 2022 conservatively at \$8.25 million because no one knew what may happen after the pandemic was over. We are estimating actual revenue of \$10.2 million by fiscal year end and will project future revenue off of this figure now that we have seen more consistency," Lealiiee said.

As of June 30, Harker Heights finds itself with \$501,435 more in sales tax revenue year-to-date than it did in 2021.

## NOLANVILLE

Nolanville continues to see strong sales tax revenue, though growth has slowed over the past year. So far, the city of 5,300 has received approximately \$703,370 in

year-to-date sales tax allocations, which is \$100,372 more than it had received by the same time last year.

Telling, however, is the decrease in growth in year-to-date sales tax allocations from 2020 to 2021. By May 2021, Nolanville had received \$602,997, \$184,925 more than the same year-to-date allocations of \$418,072 that it had received by May 2020.

This follows a national trend of decreasing growth in the aftermath of the 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In total, Nolanville has received approximately \$1.3 million in sales tax revenue since May 2021, which is \$300,000 or about 23% more than it did from May 2020 to 2021.

# Heights, Nolanville housing markets remain strong

BY JACK DOWLING  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Real estate remains a strong sellers' market moving into the latter half of 2022, according to data provided by the Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors and Texas A&M-Central Texas University.

Data sets provided by the organizations show that, despite a redoubling of construction efforts in the Harker Heights and Nolanville areas, home sales are closing significantly higher in Bell County than they did almost a year ago.

Moreover, Harker Heights remains a high-value market with 41.5% of all sales remaining in the \$300,000-\$399,000 range and 24.5% of sales in the \$400,000-\$499,999.

However, with 1.9% of homes listed below \$100,000, 7.6% of homes listed below \$200,000 and 18.9% of homes listed below \$299,000, Harker Heights has a wide range of available housing options, including homes ranging from \$500,000-\$749,000 which make up about 5.7% of the market.

In general, the median price



DAVE MILLER | HERALD

A home on Vesuvius Court is seen under construction recently, and as the "Sold" sign indicates, the house is already off the market. The house is in the Cedarbrook Ridge subdivision, off Stillhouse Lake Road.

of a home in Harker Heights has increased by approximately 23.4% since May 2021 to \$327,000. This is in part due to a nationwide housing shortage; however, active listings have since increased by 85.2% since last year to an

average of 50 active listings per month — the highest Harker Heights has seen since the start of 2020.

Inventory still remains low, at about eight new homes being offered every 10 months. As a result, inventory in

Harker Heights experiences a very rapid turnaround, with homes listing for about 21 days before being snapped up; this number remains unchanged since May of 2021.

What has changed is the average number of days it takes to close on a home; according to the 2022 FHAAR market report, it takes about 25 days to close on a house — eight days less than it did in May of 2021.

## NOLANVILLE

In some ways, the approximately 5,300-resident city of Nolanville remains more stable than Harker Heights with a median price of \$334,550, an increase of about 4.6% in year-over-year pricing as homes close approximately 6.5% higher than their initial listing.

Homebuilding continues in the Warrior's Legacy subdivision in Nolanville. Despite being in a higher price range, the homes have continued to sell at a brisk pace.

JACK DOWLING | HERALD



PLEASE SEE **HOUSING, 23**

# HOUSING

FROM PAGE 22

In addition, the Nolanville housing market saw a roughly 20-point decline in median home price sales in 2021 before it stabilized at around 25%. However, despite an increase in market turnaround of 21 days — 16 days less since May 2021 — it takes about 16 days more to close a home sale on average, resulting in a total transaction time of 84 days, a statistic that has remained unchanged since 2021.

In addition, at 1,973 median square feet, Nolanville's homes are 214 square feet smaller than those in Harker Heights, and 18 square feet smaller than the state average. As a result, the former town's median price per square foot is \$170.24, an increase of 21.5% higher than it was the same time last year and about \$20.41 more than that of Harker Heights. However, it is still more affordable than the state average of the \$180.90 median price per square foot.

Moreover, Nolanville continues to enjoy a diverse range of home prices



DAVE MILLER | HERALD

A line of framed-out houses awaits roof decking and interior construction in the Cedarbrook Ridge subdivision, off Stillhouse Lake Road in Harker Heights. The area has multiple homes under construction.

with 33.3% in the \$200,000-299,000 range, 25% in the \$300,000-\$399,000 range, 16.7% in the \$400,000 to \$499,000 range and 25% in the \$500,000 to \$749,000 range. No homes are listed above \$750,000 or below \$200,000.

## STATE AND COUNTY

On average, at \$287,957, the median price of a home in Bell County remains significantly lower than the state average of \$362,200. In addition, Bell County sees a lower listing time of 22 days, compared to the state average of 27 days.

Speaking on the state of the housing market moving forward, Michael DeHart of the FHAAR state that recent federal policies may affect new development.

“The increase in interest rates is going to affect new home sales as well as existing home sales,” he said.

In addition, DeHart pointed out that supply chain shortages are still affecting building costs, as well as “inflationary issues.”

“As inflationary trends continue, the housing market will be adversely affected,” he said.

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# Seton hospital celebrates a decade of care in Bell County

BY LUCY TAYLOR  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights celebrated a decade of providing exceptional healthcare in Bell County in June.

Over the past 10 years, SMCHH has positively affected thousands of lives while experiencing significant growth, now employing approximately 580 staff members.

“From the doctors and nurses who deliver world-class care to our team members and volunteers who work tirelessly to create an outstanding experience for patients, there are many who have contributed to building a strong legacy in just 10 short years,” said Patrick Swindle, chief executive officer. “We have had the honor of caring for over 400,000 patients in our ER and over 36,000 inpatients, performed more than 30,000 surgeries, and delivered over 8,000 babies. This speaks to the impact SMCHH has had in our community.”

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, an 83-bed acute care hospital, opened in 2012.

## Award-Winning Quality Care

SMCHH is one of 72 hospitals in Texas to be awarded an ‘A’ grade from the Leapfrog Group’s spring 2022 Hospital Safety Grade. This national distinction was earned for protecting patients from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

“An ‘A’ grade for safety is an elite designation, and we are proud to be recognized for giving that level of care to our patients,” said Mandy Shaiffer, RN, BSN, chief nursing officer. “The past two years have been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but SMCHH Harker Heights continues to show it is possible to keep a laser-sharp focus on the safety of our patients.”

SMCHH, an accredited chest pain center, strives to offer the newest methods and best practices in heart care. In 2021, U.S. News and World Report recognized SMCHH as a high performing hospital for congestive heart failure.

Becker’s Hospital Review recognized SMCHH among hospitals with the nation’s lowest rates of catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI).



HERALD | FILE

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights employees gather to celebrate the hospital’s 10th anniversary.

SMCHH earned a CAUTI score of zero based on data collected within the 12 months of 2019 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Only 332 hospitals in the United States received a score of zero out of 2,203 hospitals evaluated.

CMS rated SMCHH with four stars for overall quality in 2021. SMCHH is one of only 77 acute care hospitals in Texas to receive four stars. The overall rating summarizes quality measures reflecting common conditions that hospitals treat, such as heart attacks or pneumonia.

For the second year in a row, SMCHH was pleased to be named to Newsweek’s list of Best Maternity Care Hospitals. The distinction recognizes facilities that have excelled in providing care to mothers, newborns and their families.

“Receiving these local and national awards reflects the vision of SMCHH — to be the community’s premier health-care system, recognized for exceptional patient-centered care, quality services and respect for those we serve,” Swindle said.

SMCHH offers an array of services such as cardiology, emergency services, a Level IV trauma-designated emergency room, general surgery, orthopedic surgery

including total joint replacement, gastroenterology, a dedicated women’s center, diagnostic services and more. SMCHH is Joint Commission Accredited and is an Accredited Chest Pain Center and Advanced Primary Stroke Center.

## Convenience

In addition to the exemplary care SMCHH provides, SMCHH is affiliated with Wellstone Health Partners (WHP). WHP is a multi-specialty group that takes

PLEASE SEE **SETON, 26**

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# Chaparral High School to welcome Heights students

BY LAUREN DODD  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Hundreds of former Harker Heights High School students will be among the first teenagers to study at Killeen Independent School District's sixth high school — Chaparral High School — this fall.

Chaparral High School, located in south Killeen at 4400 Chaparral Road, will greet thousands of new students on the first day of school, Aug. 15.

Construction on the campus began in October 2019 just before the COVID-19 pandemic. A dedication ceremony for the new school will take place at 6 p.m. on Aug. 4.

The \$147 million new state-of-the-art high school was funded by a two-part \$426 million bond approved by voters in 2018.

Another multimillion-dollar bond election may happen as early as spring of 2023, according to Killeen ISD Superintendent John Craft; otherwise the district will need to bring back por-



COURTESY PHOTO

Hundreds of former Harker Heights High School students will be among the first teenagers to study at Killeen Independent School District's sixth high school — Chaparral High School — this fall.

table classrooms to alleviate growing pains.

Middle School No. 15, to be called Dr. Jimmie Don Aycock Middle School, the district's third middle school STEM campus, is projected to open during the fall of the 2024 on an adjacent lot south of Chaparral High School.

Come fall, former students of Killeen, Shoemaker, Harker Heights, and Ellison high schools will attend Chaparral High School.

The district's newest rezoning plan, approved by the KISD school board in 2021, effectively moved students from overcrowded KISD high schools to Chaparral High.

Students grades 9-11 will have an opportunity to request to be grandfathered in to their currently zoned high school, according to the district.

Here's a breakdown of the district's school zone changes:

- 482 Harker Heights High School (HHHS) students from zones 241-242, 264-266 and 271 would be rezoned for Chaparral High School (CHS).
- 699 Ellison High School (EHS) students from zones 222, 236, 262-263, 317, 374, 377, 380-382, 384 and 386-390 would be rezoned for CHS.
- 143 Killeen High School (KHS) students from zones 152 and 180 will move to HHHS.
- 303 HHHS students from zones 124-130 and 140-142 will move to KHS.
- 219 KHS students from zones 464-472 will be rezoned to Shoemaker High School (SHS).
- 348 SHS students from zones 318-332, 334-338 and 340 will be rezoned to EHS.
- 71 SHS students from school zone 391 will be moved to CHS.
- 198 EHS students from zones 372, 383 and 385 will be moved to CHS.
- 96 EHS students from school zone 373 will move to CHS.

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## SETON

FROM PAGE 25

pride in caring for patients during each unique phase of life, including specialties such as family medicine, ear nose and throat, OB/GYN and urology.

Urgent care provides another important access point to healthcare for patients needing immediate care that does not rise to the level of a life-threatening emergency. SMCHH continues to partner with Freedom Urgent Care, offering two convenient locations.

A third location is under construction.

### Economic Impact

In 2021, SMCHH paid over \$2 million in property and sales taxes, supporting schools, fire fighters, police, roads and other vital community services.

SMCHH's annual payroll totaled almost \$27.5 million. Over \$63,000 was contributed to local sponsorships benefiting the Killeen Independent School District, the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Killeen Community Clinic.

### Community Partnerships

The SMCHH outpatient therapy pro-

gram opened in 2016 in partnership with the Armed Services YMCA at the 54,000-square-foot wellness center in Harker Heights. The program offers patients expanded access to therapy services.

The hospital also collaborates with the Greater Killeen Community Clinic (GKCC) by providing financial support to improve the health of at-risk populations in Bell County. GKCC offers patients a chronic care management program to treat diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and asthma/COPD.

For more information about SMCHH, go to [setonharkerheights.net](http://setonharkerheights.net). To find a physician, go to [setonharkerheights.net/find-a-provider](http://setonharkerheights.net/find-a-provider).

# Heights is the latest ‘Music Friendly Community’ in Bell

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Harker Heights has been designated a “Music Friendly Community.”

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce & Visitor’s Center announced this week that the city has been awarded the designation by Gov. Greg Abbott’s office.

A celebration for the designation was scheduled for July 22 at Carl Levin Park, 400 Millers Crossing.

Harker Heights is the second Bell County community to receive the state designation.

Salado officials celebrated the village’s designation as a “Music Friendly Community” on June 14.

The designation by the Texas Music Office seeks to foster music-related economic development.

In late April, the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce hosted a workshop, attended by Chip Adams, the community relations and outreach specialist from the Texas Music Office. Adams gave a presentation to around a dozen curious members of the music industry.

Adams explained that the Texas music industry accounts for approximately 100,000 jobs and around \$8.5 billion in annual earnings.

Now that it has obtained the designation, Harker Heights joins the ranks of more than 30 other communities in Texas with the same qualification.

Other Central Texas cities that have received the designation are Austin, Waco and Round Rock.

Becoming a “Music Friendly” city essentially means Harker Heights can collaborate with other such cities in



Chip Adams of the Texas Music Office in Austin gives a presentation to members of the music industry in Harker Heights how the city can earn a “Music Friendly” designation from the state office.

THADDEUS IMERMAN | HERALD

the state to use the music industry to promote tourism, or to promote the industry by highlighting local artists.

The city of Harker Heights has hosted multiple events at Carl Levin Park and has brought in musical talent locally and from across the state to entertain as attendees mill about.

The city’s Chamber of Commerce president, Gina Pence, will be the liaison between Harker Heights and the Texas Music Office.

“This is something that the Chamber and the city has been looking at doing — supporting our artists,” she said after the April meeting.

Pence explained during the information seminar that seeking the designation has been in the works for a while.

In order to receive the designation, the city had to register with the Texas Music Office and create an advisory committee.

In Salado, Stacey Ybarra, assistant village administrator

for Salado, will take the role of liaison between the Texas

Music Office and the village to coordinate musical efforts.

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# Nolanville city manager highlights community development

BY JACK DOWLING  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Between intensive community development, infrastructure improvements and a redoubling in economic development, 2021 was one of Nolanville's busiest years to date.

Through the use of ENDEAVRide, a telemedicine and ride sharing program, Nolanville has sought to facilitate free, accessible transportation to medical care for residents.

The program began in 2020, and has received continued support ever since. To that end, the Nolanville City Council recently approved a new, larger vehicle for the ENDEAVRide service.

In addition, Nolanville maintained a free drive-thru testing and vaccination facility at the Central Bell County Fire & Rescue.

"The all-volunteer fire department was instrumental in carrying out this mission from the beginning



JACK DOWLING | HERALD

Nolanville continues to expand as new customers drive development in the city.

of the pandemic and is still operating to date," said City Manager Kara Escajeda.

Some of the more noticeable projects are the various infrastructure upgrades Nolanville completed in 2021.

Many roads across Nolanville have been repaved in the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri, while the Woodlands are in the process of receiving new wastewater lines funded by Water Con-

trol and Improvement District #3 and a Community Development Block Grant.

Several projects, including the Nolanville Park Connectivity project, a large-scale walkability upgrade, are currently in progress. Once completed, the program will bring bike paths and sidewalk access to several "legacy subdivisions." Similarly, the city has continued its neighborhood identity program, which includes creating neighborhood signs for every neighborhood.

"I think it's really important that every neighborhood has a sense of self," Escajeda said.

Other improvements to come with the connectivity project are sidewalks, a covered mailbox area and traffic calming devices. Es-

Between intensive community development, infrastructure improvements and a redoubling in economic development, 2021 was one of Nolanville's busiest years to date.

COURTESY PHOTO



PLEASE SEE **NOLANVILLE, 29**

# Nolanville focuses on natural resources, walkability

BY JACK DOWLING

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Nolanville is a small city with a large appetite.

Over the next few years, the city of about 5,300 plans to complete a slew of infrastructure and community-based improvements.

Earlier this month, Nolanville will have completed and demonstrated its “Wonderpass,” a large-scale renovation of the I-14 overpass that includes signage and lighting to make Nolanville stand out.

At the same time, Nolanville is in the process of the Nolanville Connectivity Program, a walkability improvement program that, when completed, will connect the I-14 spur to the northern tip of Nolanville.

The throughline is expected to include bike lanes, traffic mitigation and sidewalks.

City Manager Kara Escajeda said the connectivity program will also reface Avenue G, the road perpendicular to Main Street that runs alongside the railroad tracks. When asked about her vision for Nolanville in five years, Escajeda said she hopes to see Main Street and Avenue G filled with shops

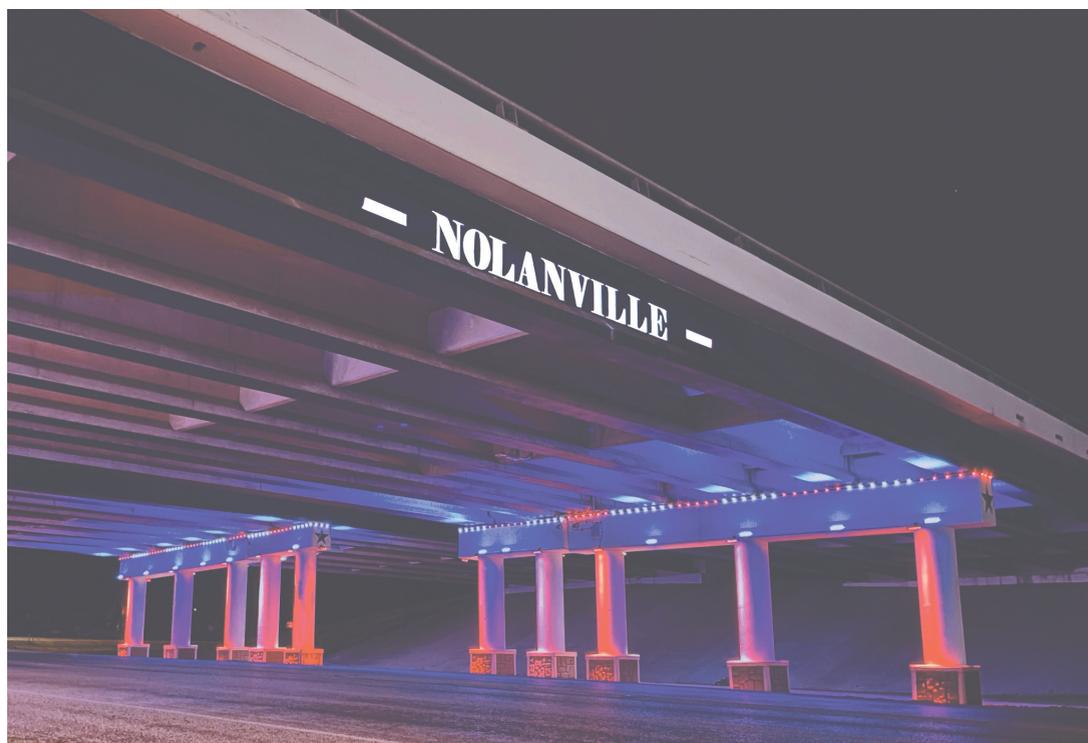


PHOTO BY JENNIFER SHIDLER | CITY OF NOLANVILLE

The beams on the underside of the I-14 bridge in Nolanville glow red, white and blue on July 4, as the city of Nolanville dedicated its new Wonderpass light display. The creation has been in the works for three years, from conception to lighting. The city also dedicated its new brush truck at the evening’s celebration.

and reasons to visit. Still, Nolanville’s “small town feeling” is important.

“I feel like when you walk down Avenue G, it’s going to keep its small-town feel,” she said.

However, Escajeda pointed out, just because Nolanville is small doesn’t mean that

it should be behind. To the contrary, Escajeda said she hopes to see Nolanville become a leader in providing community resources through the upcoming “smart museum.”

The museum is set to include virtual reality and “citizen scientist” programs

to help residents and tourists better understand Nolanville’s impact on the natural world. The museum will be located at the site of the existing community center, and will open up programming for a senior center, event

PLEASE SEE **RESOURCE, 30**

## NOLANVILLE

FROM PAGE 28

Escajeda said that the program may also have the effect of reducing the amount of commercial traffic that comes in along Avenue I.

Escajeda said she was proud to say that the food truck part near Main Street called “Meet Me At the Corner” has been a strong success.

“We are very pleased with the buzz

that the food truck park created last year and have planned an even bigger variety of events and offerings for the coming year,” she said.

In a similar fashion, the business incubator at the old City Hall has been a success, with several new business — including The Look on Main, a salon — calling the developing area home.

Finally, Nolanville has remained focused on beautification and sustainability, which Escajeda said has not gone unnoticed.

In 2021, Nolanville received the

“Gold Ranking Scenic City” award by the state of Texas, and was recognized as a Gold Star Affiliate of “Keep Texas Beautiful.” Proceeds from these grants will go toward improving Monarch Park and more such natural development programs.

Escajeda attributed the possibility of many programs to Grant Development Services, Inc. The grant writing company has secured millions in state and federal grant funding, making infrastructure, beautification and other such programs possible.

# RESOURCE

FROM PAGE 29

space and meeting rooms, in addition to sustainability exhibits.

Nolanville also hopes to continue prioritizing the outdoors as it executes its parks master plan. Monarch Park will be renovated to add restrooms, provide playground equipment and more shade; similarly, the tiny Fox Park will be renovated to include a skate park. The city's new tagline will be "Nolanville Naturally!"

Additionally, the Nolanville City Council recently approved a measure providing for the construction of two electric vehicle charging stations, making Nolanville the only city between Temple and Copperas Cove to have a charging station, according



JACK DOWLING | HERALD

Nolanville has completed a large number of infrastructure improvements to main street. A connectivity program seeks to continue that legacy while economic programs drive businesses to the area.

to city staff. This improvement, in tandem with the Wonderpass and more, should help Nolanville stand out as a desirable stop for residents travelling along I-14.

Home development also continues to boom as the city adds more homes to the already rapidly expanding market; with a median home age of just 2016, Nolanville

offers new, up-to-date housing in an area traditionally associated with older homes.

Finally, a pedestrian bridge will be installed in parallel to the Old Nolanville Road Bridge, which will be renovated with new wing-walls, railing and more protective features. Together, Escajeda said she hopes to see the completion of a connected trail.

Escajeda summed up her thoughts in a February release regarding Nolanville's plans for the coming year.

"Nolanville has always quipped that we are a 'small town with big city dreams.' Those dreams are closer to reality than we've ever dreamed before. 2022 will be a breakout year of growth making us not just a great place to live but also a beautiful place to stroll, bike, gather, wade and grow, together."

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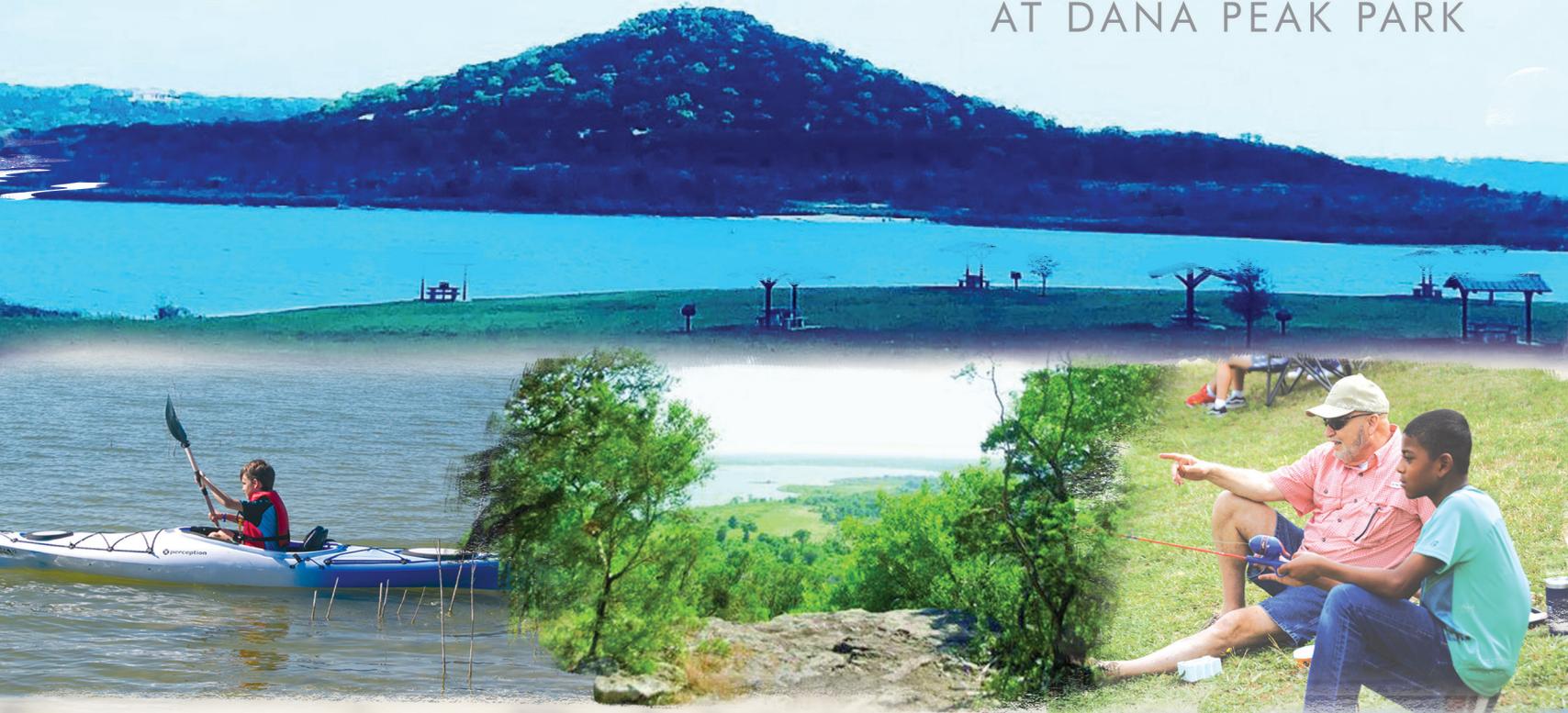
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