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HARKER HEIGHTS HERALD

# PROGRESS

2019



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**Heights Progress 2019 | Killeen Daily Herald**

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# Mayor: 'Harker Heights will achieve wonderful things'

Dear Residents,  
The City of Harker Heights has made great progress during the past year. We have continued to expand with residential and commercial development.



Smith

Our city has earned a favorable reputation in our region, as well as statewide, for the amenities and quality of life that the residents and visitors have experienced.

Former citizens have carried the message of our excellence to other states and countries.

The city staff and the city council have been dedicated in their continuous service in meeting the needs of the community. We have seen significant improvements with our roads and sidewalks with the recent completion of numerous projects.

Public Works has continued to provide safe and reliable service through ongoing water and waste treatment initiatives.



Harker Heights Mayor Spencer Smith says a few words at a Memorial Day ceremony at the Harker Heights City Hall on May 25.

HERALD FILE PHOTO

Parks and Recreation and the Stewart C. Meyer Library have provided a myriad of programs for all ages in various locations throughout the year. The planning for Dana Peak Park and Comanche Gap Park holds promise for a future with an increase in outdoor recreation for everyone.

The Planning Department has worked diligently in the development and execution of the Comprehensive Plan in the creation of overlay areas, which have positively contributed to the appeal of Harker Heights for business-

es. Our personnel with the Police Department and Fire Department have been recognized statewide for their exemplary achievements in the line of duty and during professional training. We can rest comfortably knowing that they are on the job.

The Pet Adoption Center has provided a great service for our residents and their furry friends. It represents the best in animal care.

The citizens who serve on our boards and commissions as well as the numerous individual volunteers who provide thousands of hours

of support to the city are greatly appreciated.

Going forward, Harker Heights will achieve wonderful things. Our mission is to take care of our people, to do the right thing, and to make sound decisions with the facts available.

The city does have challenges in providing the services and maintaining the quality of life which our citizens deserve and expect, but Harker Heights will continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,  
**Spencer Smith**  
Mayor







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# Population of Harker Heights continues to grow

BY JERRY BARK  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The latest estimated population for the city of Harker Heights is 30,378. This is calculated by the active residential water accounts and then multiplied by 2.96.

That figure of 2.96 is the latest U.S. Census Bureau's estimate for the occupancy rate in Harker Heights.

The city of Harker Heights continues to grow at a modest rate.

The land encompassing the original city of Harker Heights was utilized in the 1940s for its agricultural benefits. On Sept. 24, 1960, voters approved the incorporation and the town of Harker Heights was born.

The city has grown from 945 acres (1960) to its current size of 9,046 acres. The population growth and dynamics of Harker Heights have been shaped by various factors from the natural beauty of the area to the military installation, Fort Hood.

As far as subdivisions, The Grove at Whitten Place and Tuscan Meadows are substantially completed.

The subdivision at Stonewall Ridge Phase 1 is also substantially completed and most of Phase 2 has already been issued building permits.

The last large tract of land being developed (Cedar Brook Ridge) is nestled between Stillhouse Lake Road and Cedar Knob Road.

The construction began early this year with over 400 homes planned. There are approximately 85 new building permits for Cedar Brook Ridge as well as an amenity center and park for those homeowners.



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

New homes are under construction off of Nola Ruth Boulevard in Harker Heights, as the city continues to grow.

There is also additional interest in the area were the installation of a sewer interceptor that goes to the Rumble Road Lift Station.

The city has seen a plat approval for Pecan Ridge, a subdivision with 26 large residential lots along with 2 commercial lots.

The Planning and Development Department is currently reviewing and analyzing the impact of a number of laws that were enacted by the 86th Texas Legislative Session.

A few of those could potentially hinder the type of growth that could be regulated within city ordinances/policies.

Planning for residential growth is a cooperative effort of Joseph Molis, Planning and Development director; Courtney Peres, Senior Planner/GIS Coordinator; and Dan Phillips, GIS Analyst/Planner.

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# Manager: 'Harker Heights has a bright future'

Dear Harker Heights residents, businesses and visitors,

Your City is striving every day to reach our Vision, which is providing you with services that empower you to focus on what matters most to you — your goals, hopes and dreams.



Mitchell

Our Mission is that we will advocate for your public service needs, through a trained, ethical, responsive, empathetic and enthusiastic staff.

Recently, I tasked a number of our very best front-line staff members from across all City departments to develop a set of Core Values for the organization.

I simply asked, what are their expectations of those they work alongside as we serve our citizens?

This team of employees met for a number of weeks and developed a list of the Core Values that I.N.S.P.I.R.E. myself and their fellow City employees. They presented the following Core Value commitments as necessary for your City workforce:

**Integrity** — Integrity is the foundation of the City of Harker Heights. As employees, we strive to uphold our organizational values with our decisions and actions. We are proud of our profession and will conduct ourselves in a manner that merits the respect of all people.

**Nobility** — As stewards of public resources, we desire to be honorable, ethical, and transparent in our fiscal decisions and in the performance of our public duties.

**Safety** — With vigilance and commitment, we can ensure zero harm to people and property by practicing safe behaviors to avoid risk, injury and damage.

**Professionalism** — We strive to hire quality employees who match up with our vision, mission, and core values. While job descriptions lay out the core functions of what we do, we are willing to do what it takes to selflessly serve our community.

**Innovation** — We desire to meet the



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Lindsay Kothmann, left, is congratulated by City Manager David Mitchell upon being named Employee of the First Quarter, during an employee recognition ceremony in June.

ever evolving expectations of our citizens through the use of new and emerging training, services, and systems. To this extent, all employees have the obligation to look for new and innovative ways to improve service in their daily job duties. The end goal being that we anticipate and provide service at a level that is yet to be expected by our citizens.

**Respect** — With fairness, dignity and compassion, we strive to value, support, and celebrate all cultures and beliefs within our staff and our community.

**Empowerment** — By providing frequent and quality-focused training, as well as collaborating with other departments and outside entities, we can provide a greater level of service for our citizens than what we could achieve on our own.

We know you have a choice in where you live, work and shop. We want to honor your choosing Harker Heights by providing outstanding service to you. Harker Heights has a bright future and we are glad you are a part of it with us!

Sincerely,  
**David Mitchell**  
City Manager

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# Police Chief Gadd says transition has been smooth

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Phil Gadd, chief of the Harker Heights Police Department, says his transition from deputy chief to the top cop position was fairly smooth during last year.

Gadd said, "I've been around a while and through working projects with officers, they had a chance to see my management philosophy and leadership style and that took the sudden surprise reaction out of the move to a different part of police headquarters."

One of the major changes in the department has been a transition to law enforcement technology. HHPD has applied for more than 12 grants to enhance the safety and investigative know-how available to officers.

Some of the items



Harker Heights Chief of Police Phil Gadd, left, swears in new Harker Heights police officer Eric Woodruff during a June 3 ceremony. Woodruff graduated from the Central Texas College Police Academy on June 1.

ANGELA SIMS | HERALD

received have included equipping each officer with rifle resistant body armor, body cameras and Tasers, in addition to a recon scout microbot "throwbot" that further advances safety.

During the next budget cycle, HHPD will receive a drone; throw phone for negotiations and a Crime Scene Reconstruction System for major vehicle accidents and crime scenes.

Angel Carroll is the

new Victim Witness Counselor in the Healthy Homes program for HHPD. She provides assistance to victims of crime with shelter, counseling and crisis intervention.

Gadd said, "We're hopeful for additional funding and equipment for Angel's program. This will assist her in working with other community outreach programs to provide, shelter and assistance to those

who need a little help."

The department was also successful in securing multiple Walmart and Target grants to continue and expand its Community Services Division outreach program such as the Kiddo Card that provides child ID information in case an Amber Alert is issued.

These grants also support Neighborhood Watch Group, the Blue Santa program, Citizen's Police Academy and National

Night Out.

"We will also obtain overtime funding for a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program that will allow our officers to address specific areas in the city to reduce accidents," Gadd said.

The number of officer positions has increased by three and two civilian staff for an evidence technician and records clerk. At one point, the department had been down by 11 officer positions but now there are only three officer vacancies.

Earlier this year, Gadd received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 100 Club of Central Texas.

Gadd refused to take all the credit for the award, thanking City Manager David Mitchell, Police Commander Hawkins and Commander Clay and his wife, Lynne.

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# Heights continues to improve infrastructure

BY JERRY BARK  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

In a developed and growing community, it can be easy to take infrastructure for granted.

The City of Harker Heights recognizes, understands and invests its resources to benefit the community.

Infrastructure is defined as the fundamental facilities and systems serving a city, such as roads, water, sewer and buildings.

To ensure that those items are continually maintained and planned, the City Council has committed funding to a variety of capital improvement projects.

## PROJECTS COMPLETED:

(Note: Subgrade stabilization means that it's strengthened with Portland cement and then overlaid with 1.5 inches of hot mix asphalt)

- **Clore Road** — included subgrade cement stabilization, concrete valley gutter construction and asphalt paving.

- **Wampum Drive** — included subgrade cement stabilization, concrete valley gutter construction and asphalt paving.

- **Boulder Run** — included subgrade cement stabilization, concrete valley gutter construction and asphalt paving.

- **Forest Drive** — included subgrade cement stabilization, concrete valley gutter construction and asphalt paving.

- **Moody Circle** — included subgrade cement stabilization, concrete valley gutter construction and asphalt paving.

- **Commercial Drive Continuous Flow Roundabout** — includes a one-lane traffic roundabout at the intersection of Commercial Drive and Heights Drive. Reduces the traffic congestion and provides easy access to the surrounding businesses by allowing continuous movement. The city was awarded Category 7 funding from the Texas Department of Transportation for the project.

- **Ground Storage and Pump Station Rehabilitation** — cleaned, sandblasted, and recoated the inside and outside of the Cedar Oaks 1 million-gallon stand pipe, Cedar Knob 100,000-gallon ground storage tank, Verna Lee 1.5 million-gal-



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

The Verna Lee Boulevard sidewalk project stretches all the way to Indian Trail in Harker Heights.

lon ground storage tank (inside only).

## CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS:

- **Aztec Trace** — includes subgrade cement stabilization, ribbon curb and asphalt paving.

- **Oakridge Boulevard** — includes a concrete valley gutter, French drain system, subgrade cement stabilization ribbon curb and asphalt paving.

- **Verna Lee Boulevard** — sidewalk is completed, which connects the Harker Heights High School sidewalk all the way to Indian Trail. The Verna Lee road reconstruction is currently underway.

- **Warrior's Path Wastewater Interceptor Line** — extension of the FM 210 Phase 1 trunk sewer past Warriors Path to Pueblo Trace. The sanitary sewer interceptor will serve the new KISD middle school, which will open in 2020. The project also eliminates the use of the Pueblo Lift Station.

- **Bathrooms at Carl Levin City Park** — Project consists of new restroom facility and adjoining sidewalks. The

PLEASE SEE **INFRASTRUCTURE**, 9



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# INFRASTRUCTURE: Many still in progress

FROM PAGE 8

project location is near the community garden and playground in Carl Levin City Park.

## • Turn Lane on FM 3481 at Fuller Lane

— Constructing a left turn lane on FM 3481 for Gomer Lane, Fuller Lane and Del Rey Drive. This is a Texas Department of Transportation-funded project and is anticipated to be let for construction by September. Traffic signal lights will be installed at the intersection of FM 3481 and Vineyard Trail.

## • Ground Storage and Pump Station Rehabilitation

— cleaned, sandblasted, and recoat the Evergreen 150,000-gallon elevated tank (spot repair only).

## • Drainage Master Plan CIP #1

— This project was identified in the FEMA Phase 2 study to reduce storm water flooding in the north part of the City. The project includes constructing a larger regional storm water detention facility at the Goode-Connell Park.

## • Fire Station #2 Renovation



tion built in 2000 was initially designed for a small number of personnel. While the location is ideal for the growth of the city, the addition of 2,200 square feet is required to accommodate additional living quarters. The existing 2,500 square feet of living area will be transitioned into a weight room, tool, storage and laundry room. The renovation will include a new exterior to the front of the building and the addition of a generator.

## • Trimmer Creek Lift Station Iron Chloride Dosing System

— This is a project to combat the seasonal odor control problems with the Trimmer Lift Station force main. Iron Chloride is used to neutralize hydrogen sulfide gas in the force main. The dosing system includes a bulk chemical tank and feed pumps.

**JERRY BARK** is director of Public Relations for the city of Harker Heights.

Aztec Trace is undergoing a facelift, with subgrade cement stabilization, ribbon curb, and asphalt paving—one of many street improvement projects underway in the city.

JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

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# Construction continues on I-14, FM 2410

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Two major highway projects impacting Harker Heights neared completion in 2018 into 2019. Farm-to-Market 2410 is a state highway that coils through the center of the city of Harker Heights and is now complete. Interstate 14 cuts through Heights in an east-to-west configuration.

The first phase of Interstate 14 is also near completion.

## INTERSTATE 14

This project began in the spring of last year 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.

Ken Roberts, public information officer for the Waco District of the Texas Department of Transportation said, "Our projected time of completion is late summer during the month August." Roberts added that the project is on schedule.

Phase 2 will begin soon and continue to the top of Nolanville Hill.

"We plan to begin that part of the project in September," Roberts said. Extensive bridgework

will first be done before major construction begins. Just as in Phase 1, there will be congestion, but the Nolanville area may be less difficult to navigate due to lighter traffic and that may speed the construction process.

When all phases are complete, the widened Interstate 14 will connect with Interstate 35 at Belton.

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.

"We've talked



PHOTOS BY JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

Motorists drive on the newly completed section of I-14 in Harker Heights. The project widened the highway to three lanes in each direction in the city.

with Nolanville leaders about these changes and they are on board with us, just as Harker Heights has been," Roberts said.

## FARM TO MARKET 2410

The FM 2410/Knights Way widening project

began at Commercial Drive, including the bridge over Interstate 14, and then from the bridge to the Killeen city limits.

The cost of the project was \$6.8 million and included a center left-turn lane and two traffic lanes plus sidewalks on each side. There's an additional turn lane going back toward Killeen at Market

Heights. The bridge also has a new turn lane.

"There are two sound walls. One is along Redwood Circle. The other is at Highland Oaks," said Mark Hyde, Harker Heights' director of public works. "The project was completed about two weeks ago and opened to traffic after being launched in January of 2017."



A concrete sound barrier was erected along FM 2410/Knights Way between Highland Oaks and Roy Reynolds drives in Harker Heights.

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# City completes first roundabout near Walmart

BY JERRY BARK  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The city's first roundabout is completed and operational on Commercial Drive on the east side of the Walmart parking lot. The roundabout was officially opened for vehicle traffic on April 19.

The concept of the roundabout was approved by the Harker Heights City Council on June 12, 2018.

Director of Public Works Mark Hyde, said, "Construction on the project began on July 26, 2018."

The project was plagued many times with rain, freezing cold then rain again.

This caused a number of delays and increased the cost of the roundabout project.

From the first discussion about this project to completion was about three to four years.

A roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection where traffic flows counterclockwise around a center island. Yield signs are utilized rather than traffic lights to control vehicles entering into the intersection. There are some key points to remember when driving in a roundabout.

1. Slow down as you approach the intersection.
2. Yield to traffic already in the circle.
3. Enter the circle and follow the loop in a counter clockwise direction.
4. Utilize your signal light when making the right turn to exit the roundabout.

The city of Harker Heights received federal and state grant funding to assist with the construction of the roundabout. The city also had to apply funds to the project as a match and they will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance, now that it's open.

Federal funding for the project was \$391,399. State funding totaled \$5,000. The contribution by the City came to \$128,426.

Roundabouts are very efficient from a traffic operations perspective and for a given volume will typically have



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Vehicles approach the roundabout at the intersection of Commercial and Heights Drive in Harker Heights in this April 30 photo. The completed project has been well received, city officials say.

less delay time than a signal or stop controlled intersection.

It promotes a continuous flow of traffic through the intersections. A roundabout intersection design only has eight potential conflict points, as opposed to a traditional "four-way" signalized intersection which has 32 potential conflict points, as stated in a fact sheet published by the Texas Department of Transportation.


"We have received positive responses since the opening of the roundabout. Once they have experienced the intersection it's not what they expected," Hyde said.

The city plans an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the site of the

roundabout on July 31 at 9 a.m.

**JERRY BARK** is Public Relations director for the city of Harker Heights.

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# Fire Department shares renovation plans

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Harker Heights Fire Department not only provides daily fire protection and emergency medical service for the city, but also are involved in outreach to the community.

One of those projects is the district's partnership with the Texas A&M Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers to protect subdivisions around the perimeter of Stillhouse Hollow Lake through a program known as the "Fuels Project."

Victoria Cruz, a Wildland Urban Interface II with

the forest service, explained to the Herald that the project is funded by the state and has to do with any city property that is public and not private that has overgrown vegetation (fuel) that either needs to be trimmed up or maintained to create a defensible space of 25 feet wide or enough for an emergency vehicle to defend homes.

Fire Chief Paul Sims said, "Phase 1 of the multi-phase fuels reduction program has been completed and we learned that the environment was rather saturated which created daily challenges."



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Deputy Chief Glen Gallenstein, right, of the Harker Heights Fire Department, talks with crews from the Texas A&M Forest Service prior to starting work on removing excess underbrush on public lands in order to lessen fire danger. The initiative is part of a two-phase Fuels Project that began in January.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

One of the new battalion vehicles sits in front of the Harker Heights Central Fire Station.

The project is on a planned hiatus due to the mating season of an endangered bird species. Crews are expected to return to begin Phase 2 in September.

Outreach projects that HHFD is involved throughout the year include fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets and the Santa Pal program that provides gifts for those in need.

Approval has been granted to move forward on the renovation at HHFD Station No. 2. Contractors

have been hired and the project is in the design stage. "We hope to break ground sometime in August," Sims said.

For its class project, Vision XXI 2019 selected a location at HHFD to place a statue in honor of first responders.

Sims said, "My attitude from the beginning was that it be viewed as a mechanism that is used to remember those that have not only served but also those who continue to serve. I'm very pleased with this project and the renderings that have been provided."

"At a conference, I happened to meet the man who has been selected to be the sculptor and he is a firefighter."

In the HHFD organization, there are 44 total positions, including two administrative staff. Thirty-nine are assigned to suppression,

with 13 on each shift.

Sims said, "We are one year into the adding of four "battalion chief" positions. They've improved our on-scene service to residents, strengthened the organization and prepare us for a line of succession."

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HERALD FILE PHOTO

Harker Heights City Council members and other city officials took a tour of the Water Treatment Facility on Feb. 5. The city's water system was recognized as "superior" by the TCEQ.

# Harker Heights recognized as 'Superior Water System' by TCEQ

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The city is required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act to develop a Consumer Confidence Report for the public.

The 2018 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 avail-

able," said Jerry Bark, public relations director for the city. "Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) drinking water requirements," Bark said.

In 2018, the city used 1,619,569,000 gallons of water with an average of 4.4 million gallons running through approximately 184 miles of water mains each day.

That is an increase of 58,258,000 gallons of water used compared to the previous year.

Currently all of the city's drinking water comes from Belton Lake and is purchased through the Bell County Water Control & Improvement District No. 1.

"The city has passed a Water Conservation Plan to encourage efficient use of water by our residents and businesses," Bark said.

# Harker Heights

*The Bright Star Of Central Texas*

## PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

307 Miller's Crossing

Harker Heights, TX 76548

Office: 254.953.5657

Fax: 254.953.5658

[www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/parks](http://www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us/parks)

#BenefitsareENDLESS

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"Creating community through people, parks, and programs."*

## RECREATION CENTER HOURS

Monday – Friday	8:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Sunday & Holidays	CLOSED

## 2019 OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Good Friday	April 19
Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2

\*Dates are subject to change. Please check the City website for any changes to the observed holidays and additional closures.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Activities Center	254.953.5466
City Hall	254.953.5600
Fire/ EMS (non-emergency)	254.699.2688
Pet Adoption Center	254.953.5472
Police (non-emergency)	254.953.5400
Public Library	254.953.5491
Recreation Center	254.953.5657
Sports Line	254.953.5660
Water	254.953.5630
Water After Hours Emergency	254.681.6779
In case of Emergency call 911	



# New, existing businesses partner with Harker Heights

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

New businesses have been cropping up across Harker Heights throughout the past year, and more and more keep coming.

While only 13 new businesses have received permits for new construction since July 2018, many more businesses are opening new doors at existing locations, while many others have officially partnered with the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce in the past year.

From July 2018 to June 2019, 13 new businesses submitted permits for new construction in the city, worth a total value of \$3.54 million.

One of the newest businesses to open its doors in Harker Heights is Raising Cane's, a Louisiana-based fried chicken

restaurant chain that specializes in chicken finger meals.

With a permit valuation of \$1.4 million, the business is at 335 Knights Way, just south of Central Texas Expressway, near Starbucks.

## LIST OF BUSINESSES PARTNERING WITH THE HARKER HEIGHTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SINCE JULY 2018

*(Based on ribbon cuttings by the Chamber of Commerce)*

Cup of Joe Coffee Shop  
600 Indian Trail #101

### Eagle Express Mailing & Business Services

108 East FM 2410 Road, Suite F

### Palmeras Tex — Mex Con Sabor

201 E Central Texas Expy  
Suite 1460



### Raising Cane's

335 Knight's Way

### Wholesale Bargains

105 Cox Dr

### Top Notch Roofing

1300 Farm to Market 2410

### Aycock Construction, Inc.

1300 Farm to Market 2410

### Colonial Real Estate Property Management

580 E Central Texas Expy



ANGELA SIMS | HERALD

Ann Nguyen, owner of A+ Salon and Suites in Harker Heights, is seen outside of A+ Salon Suites on Jan. 23. A+ Salon Suites took up shop in Harker Heights on FM 2410 and is open for business.



Burger King opened late last year on FM



# Hts Chamber of Commerce for support, promotion



Raising Cane's in Harker Heights. The business opened in December 2018 on Knight's Way. The Heights location is the sixth in the Killeen/Temple/Waco area.

JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD



COURTESY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Palmeras Tex-Mex Con Sabor in Harker Heights had its ribbon cutting last fall..

**Allegiance Solar**  
903 S Amy Ln

**Burger King**  
680 E Knight's Way

**Tropical Smoothie Cafe**  
300 E Central Texas Expy  
suite 400

**Aztec Pet Hospital**  
104 W FM 2410 RD

**AT&T Mobility**  
201 E W Central Texas Expy  
#600

**Central Texas Property Management**  
455 E Central Texas Expy  
Suite 100



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

M 2410 / Knights Way in Harker Heights.

**Cajun Boiling Crab**  
572 E Central Texas Expy

**Fusion Dental & Braces**  
360 W Central Texas Expy  
Suite 203

**Harker Heights Recruiting Station**  
201 E Central Texas Expy  
#680

**PT Solutions Physical Therapy**  
980 Knight's Way ste 210

**A+ Salon Suites**  
301 E Knight's Way

**Healthy Addiction**  
716 Indian Trail Suite 170

**Juicy Joy Deli & Coffee**  
110 Farm to Market 2410  
Suite B

**Church's Chicken**  
680 E Knight's Way

**Wong's Chinese Kitchen**  
420 East FM 2410 Rd

**Ecoblu Spa and Salon**  
3045 Stillhouse Lake Rd

**Krugman Notary**  
2503 Leatherwood Drive

## OTHER BUSINESSES HOME-BASED OR ONLINE ONLY

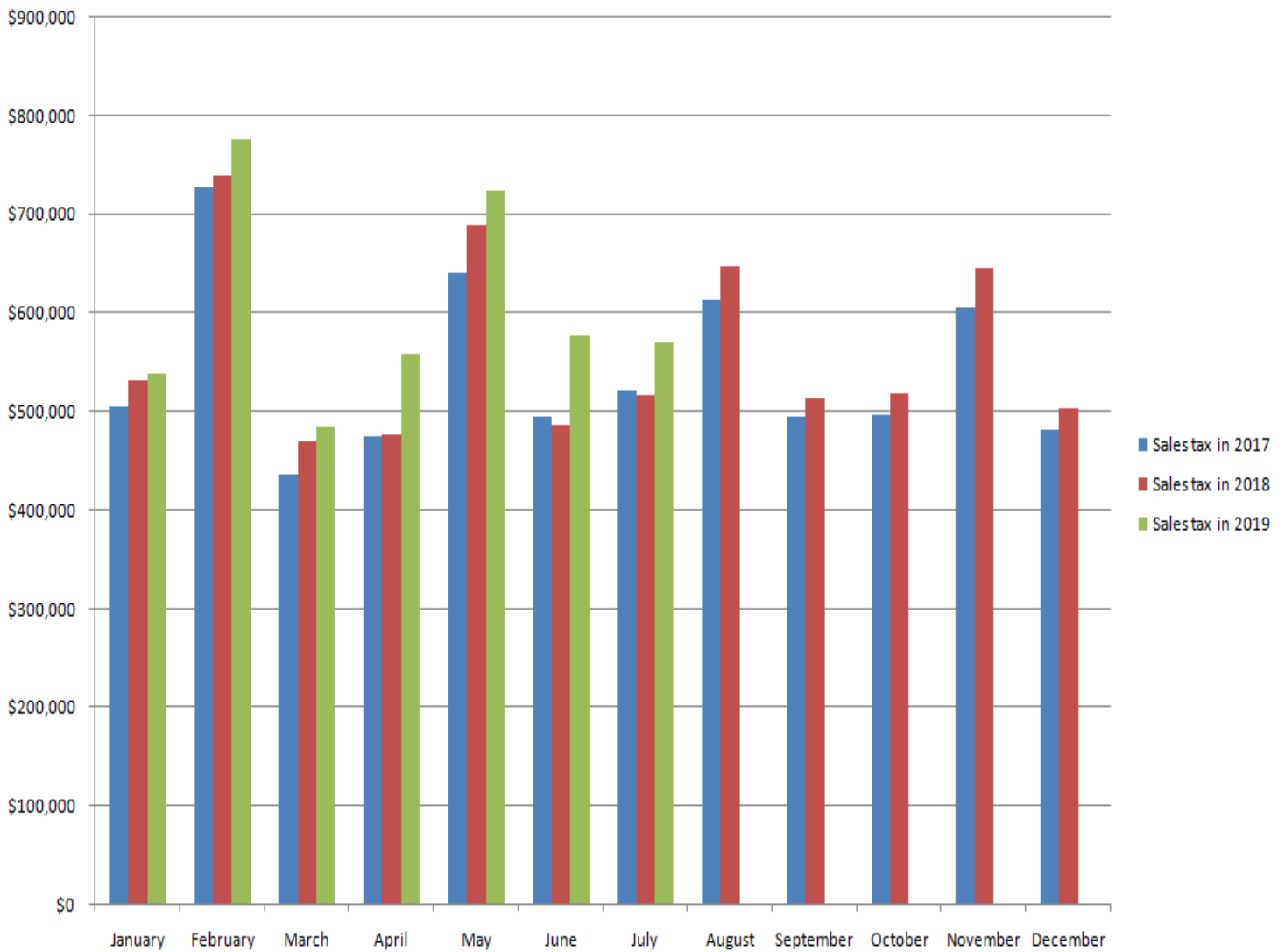
**Bush's Chicken**  
250 Commercial Dr

- Aye Aye Bookkeeping & Tax Services
- Folkerson Communications
- Siala Vaifala Hawaiian Mocktails
- Barks & Rec Pet Sitting & Dog Walking
- Candid Images Photography
- CyberNerd Texas

**Massage by Sarah**  
600 Indian Trail suite 206

**S.W. LAMBARD D.A.V. Chapter 29**  
607 E Veterans Memorial  
Blvd





# Sales tax figures for city continue to climb

**BY ARTIE PHILLIPS**  
HARKER HEIGHTS HERALD

The city of Harker Heights has collected a little more than \$4.23 million in sales tax so far since the start of 2019, slightly more than the \$3.9 million received by July 2018, which amounts to roughly \$330,000 more sales tax revenue than this time last year. This is a 8.46% increase from last year's sales tax revenue to date.

In August 2018, the city received \$648,120, a 5.45% increase from August 2017.

The city also saw a slight

increase in sales tax in September over the previous September. Harker Heights received \$514,296, an increase of 3.98%.

In October, the city received \$518,203 in sales tax, year, a 4.47% increase from October 2017.

Harker Heights also saw a sales tax increase in November, receiving \$646,511 for 6.65% increase.

In December the city received \$503,792 in sales tax allocations for a 4.6% increase.

Month-by-month sales tax revenue allocations in 2019 show increases in the \$1,000

to \$30,000 range compared to correlating months in 2018.

In January the city of Harker Heights received \$538,768, a 1.12% increase from January 2018's \$532,791.

The city also saw a slight increase in sales tax in February. Harker Heights received \$775,532, a 4.84% increase from February 2018's \$739,715.

The trend of increasing sales tax allocations continued in March, when Harker Heights received \$484,964, a 3.1% increase from last year's \$470,373.

In April, Harker Heights

received \$559,145, a 17.26% increase from April 2018's \$476,845.

In May, sales tax allocations continued to climb, with Harker Heights receiving \$723,866, a 4.93% increase from May 2018's \$689,872.

The city also saw a large increase in sales tax in June, when Harker Heights received \$577,348, a 18.71% increase from June 2018's \$486,338.

July saw a sales tax percentage increase, as Harker Heights received \$570,540, a 10.52% increase from July 2018's \$516,202.



# Vision XXI classes encourage community growth, fellowship

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Vision XXI is a hands-on, interactive experience where leaders join emerging leaders, enhance their professional and personal skills, gain a deeper understanding of community dynamics and build a network of colleagues and associates throughout the Harker Heights area.

For the past seven years, classes have begun in March and meet the first Thursday of each month through September.

Vision XXI graduation is in October.

For the fourth year, the class teamed up with Harker Heights School to involve local teens in Vision XXI.

The class of Vision XXI 2019 has followed prior groups in focusing on themes and the field trips that go along with them including: Fort Hood Day, Education Day, Medical Day, Quality of Life Day,

Soaking up Vision XXI information during the March 7 orientation session are, from left to right, Samantha Dreibelbis, Liz McDaniel and Matt Dick. The 2019 class has of Vision XXI has 32 members who will meet monthly to learn about various aspects of the community, with graduation in October.

PHOTOS BY BOB MASSEY | HERALD



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

The 2016 Vision XXI class presents a check to the Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery. The funds raised by the class totaled over \$16,000, which was the largest single donation received by the "Wreaths for Vets" group.

Retail/Economics Day and Legislative Day.

Class members divided into several committees to plan the activities of each day. Many residents believe that the class spends a lot of time traveling here and there across the local area.

What they may not

realize is that at the core of the curriculum is a class project. These projects have literally raised tens of thousands of dollars as a public service to the community.

The major change in the past seven years is how class projects are selected. The Vision

XXI steering committee decides on three projects that the class votes on at its first meeting.

The project in 2019, which could stretch into 2020, is an honorary sculpture for first responders that will be on display at Central Fire Station on Indian

Trail. The class is currently selling commemorative bricks to fund the project.

The projects through 2018 have raised a grand total of \$58,000.

A listing of the past projects follows:

2013 — Heights Food Pantry

2014 — Homeless Awareness Program in the Killeen ISD

2015 — Streetscape Banners

2016 — "Wreaths for Vets"

2017 — the establishment of Anderson Arbors

2018 — Smart Mart for students in the five elementary schools that are within the city limits of Harker Heights.

The Smart Mart/Star Project will be launched on Aug. 21.





# Housing sales plateau in 2019 in Heights

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS  
HARKER HEIGHTS HERALD

The Harker Heights housing market is showing that prices have been going up while closings have been going down over the past year. All the while, monthly inventory remains mostly unchanged, at least according to the June housing report, the most recent numbers available.

The median home price for new houses in the city is currently hovering around \$235,500, which the Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors says is a 10.8% increase from the median home price in June 2018.

The number of closings has also dropped by a similar percentage, dropping 9.4% compared to June 2018.

The city also has a housing inventory of 2.8 months, the same housing inventory as June 2018. Housing inventory is defined as how long it would take before all active listings are sold if housing prices remained static.

Housing developers in the city are still working on Cedarbrook Ridge, a subdivision located



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

New single-family homes are being off of Nola Ruth Boulevard in Harker Heights.

off of Stillhouse Lake Road. Construction on the 400-home subdivision began earlier this year, according to public relations director Jerry Bark. “There are approximately 85 new building permits for Cedarbrook Ridge as well as an amenity center and park for those homeowners,” Bark said.

Speaking to other subdivisions in the city, he said, “The Grove at Whitten Place and Tuscany Meadows are substantially completed. The subdivision at Stonewall Ridge Phase 1 is also sub-

stantially completed and most of Phase 2 has already been issued building permits.”

Beyond those subdivisions, Bark said the city has seen plat approval for Pecan Ridge, which is expected to be a subdivision with 26 large residential lots along with two commercial lots.

In addition to new single-family housing units, the city has recently increased its offering of multi-family units, namely with the addition of the Stillhouse Hollow Flats apartment complex in 2017.





# Armed Services YMCA has shown real growth over the last year

BY STEPHANIE RATTS GRISSOM  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Civil rights activist, senator, and federal judge Constance Baker Motley. Olympic swimmer and actor Johnny Weissmuller (“Tarzan”). Actress Chloe Sevigny. Musician Matt Skiba of Blink 182 fame. All of these famous, successful people were once members of the YMCA.

Even Nirvana’s Kurt Cobain spent his summers at the YMCA teaching swimming lessons.

Permanently established in the United States in 1889, today’s ASYMCA continues to strive to achieve “... healthy spirit, mind and body for all.” And with the constant addition of resources, programs, and classes, the people at the ASYMCA Wellness Center in Harker Heights, 110 Mountain Lion Road, continue to do their best to serve military and their families, as well as civilians, in the community.

The proof is in the numbers, as membership totals are at an all-time high.

Marketing director Amanda Carlson said, “We just hit a new record of 4,500 members (which we’ve already now surpassed).” The number of total members as of the end of June was 4,547.

Much of the draw to the Wellness Center has to do with the amenities such as the full gym, indoor track, heated pool, and a smaller therapy pool. There is also a teaching kitchen and even a café with a revamped menu and free coffee for seniors.

Much of the draw, too, is the programming, such as the children’s waiting rooms.

Carlson said in an interview earlier in the year,



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Carey Stites, a registered dietitian with Wellstone Seton, sprinkles cheese on a tray of chicken parmesan that she just pulled out of the oven at the Armed Services YMCA Test Kitchen in Harker Heights. She gave a Italian cooking demonstration to a small group of seniors who gathered for the monthly luncheon, co-hosted by the YMCA and Seton.

“This is for military families, free of charge, where they can bring their child while they attend doctors’ appointments.”

The first children’s waiting room was opened in Copperas Cove last September.

A second was opened in Harker Heights on Beeline Lane in February of this year, with the third opening at Darnall Army Medical Center on Fort Hood in June.

Programs at the Wellness Center have been added, as well. There are currently 218 seniors registered for senior programs, with 117 who routinely come for the monthly Senior Lunches and 101 who go on the monthly senior field trips.

“The most drastic growth is in children’s programs,” Carlson said. Right now there are 592 children registered in children’s programs, a remarkable increase from last year’s enrolment of 175. Children’s sports programs currently have 251 enrolled.

Some of the new classes that were implemented recently include children’s cooking classes and a science class, and three new programs were added to the YMCA’s summer lineup: speed clinic, the recess program, and girl’s yoga.

“We’re trying to grow with the community,” Carlson said. “As we add programs we welcome feedback from the community because we want to make sure we’ve been meeting the needs of the people we serve.”

It’s due to this sincere desire to serve the community that the people at the ASYMCA have several more new programs and events coming in the fall months.

Upcoming children’s programs include indoor soccer, which will be offered beginning in September, will be offered to three different age groups, ages 3 to 4, ages 5 to 6, and ages 7 to 9. Coed volleyball will also begin in September for ages 8 to 12.

There is a Halloween Zumba Party that will be held in October for ages 13 to adult. Adults-only programs will include two different “Healthy Holiday” classes that will feature hands-on cooking lessons and nutritional guidance. Healthy Holidays begins in October with classes held in the morning and evening to better suit every need.

For more information about current and future programs and classes, call the ASYMCA at 254-690-9622 or visit the website at [www.asymca.org/killeen-wellness](http://www.asymca.org/killeen-wellness) and follow the links provided.

“The incredible growth that we’ve seen this past year means that we are better able to provide for our military community,” Carlson said. “By supporting the Armed Services YMCA Killeen through memberships and general programming you are also helping us in our mission of “Supporting Our Military Family.”



# Seton continues to set standard for excellence

BY ANGELA SIMS  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, a partnership between the Seton Healthcare Family in Austin and Ardent Health Services in Nashville, Tennessee, is a Joint Commission accredited, Catholic hospital proudly serving the Greater Fort Hood area.

The hospital, located at 850 W. Central Texas Expressway, has seen a lot of growth since its doors opened in 2012 with a staff of 269 employees.

Now, with a staff of approximately 500, Seton is continuing to provide the highest quality of care to its patients.

Within the past year, Seton was named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by IBM Watson Health.

The Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals® study found that the top-performing hospitals in the country achieved better risk-adjusted outcomes while maintaining both a lower average cost per beneficiary and higher profit margin than non-winning peer group hospitals.

The annual study spotlights the best-performing hospitals in the U.S. based on a balanced scorecard of publicly available clinical, operational and patient satisfaction metrics and data. The study has been conducted annually since 1993.

"To be recognized among the best in the nation is a reflection of Seton Medical

Center Harker Heights' ongoing commitment to continuously improve health care outcomes while providing outstanding care and controlling costs," said Zach Dietze, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights CEO, in a previous article. "I want to thank our associates and physicians whose intense focus and hard work makes recognition like this possible. They are an exceptional team and I'm honored to work beside them."

Additionally, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights received an "A" rating from the Leapfrog Group for patient safety, was named as one of Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work and a 2019 Top Achiever for Women's Care by



Melissa Jones, left, who works in Seton's radiology department, stands with Seton CFO George Fayer during a lunch in March celebrating Seton being named a Top 100 hospital

ANGELA SIMS | HERALD

Healthgrades.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights has also expanded its partnership with Freedom Urgent Care, with a new location open in Killeen.

In partnership with the Armed Services YMCA at the 54,000-square-foot wellness center in Harker Heights, Seton's outpatient therapy program opened in 2016, and continues expand access to therapy services.

Another area of growth for the medical center is the Wellness Works program — a program that services more than 70 companies and thousands of employees throughout Bell County. The service coordination team along with a corporate health consultant, work together in building and maintaining employer relationships through a variety of wellness activities such as blood pressure screenings, flu-shot clinics, scheduling annual wellness exams and assisting with appointments for x-ray or laboratory services. In addition, Well-

ness Works offers on-site complimentary awareness presentations to support occupational health and safety. Approximately 1,000, inquiries, and or requests are coordinated monthly through the program.

The Wellness Works program continues to gain momentum.

A partnership between the hospital and Freedom Urgent Care now provides a venue for occupational medicine services for on-the-job injuries, vaccinations, physicals and routine medical testing and OSHA-mandated exams for employees working in an industrial environment.

With quality patient care as a priority, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is now an accredited chest pain center and offers the newest methods and best practices in heart care, according to the hospital administration.

Additionally, as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center, the hospital provides best practice driven stroke care.

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A calculator with the number 152 on its display and a logo that says 'wdt' in a stylized font.

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# AdventHealth updates MRI technology at Heights location

BY LISA DAVIDSON  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

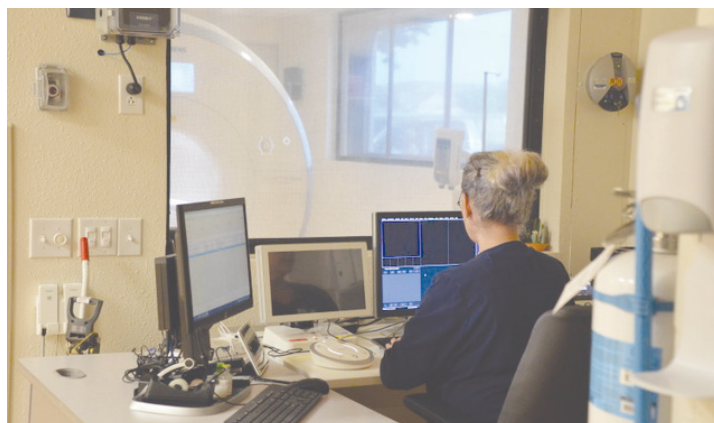
Patients at the AdventHealth Imaging at Harker Heights are receiving an even higher standard of treatment thanks to new medical equipment.

The facility updated its former Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine in June with a MAGNETOM Skyra's large 70cm open bore to provide advanced patient care.

"Our MRI machine in Harker Heights has a 3 Tesla, or 3T, magnet which is the technologically advanced and powerful magnet in our area," said Erin Riley, spokesperson for AdventHealth Central Texas. "It provides non-invasive diagnostic images of soft tissues, bone, fat and muscles with excellent clarity which is important in the detection and diagnosis of a variety of health conditions."

These conditions include orthopedic injuries, various cancers as well as neurological disorders and cardiac diseases.

Unlike the CAT scan or



LISA DAVIDSON | HERALD

AdventHealth Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist Mary Willis takes medical images with the new 3 Tesla MAGNETOM Skyra's large 70cm at AdventHealth Imaging and Wound Care Harker Heights, located at 5610 E. Central Texas Expressway #5 in Killeen.

computed tomography scan, which produces a combination of many X-ray measurements, MRI does not involve radiation but a powerful magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images.

"Of all the imaging tests in routine use, MRI provides the clearest pictures of the brain and head," Riley said. "It can also be used to examine the liver, heart, bowel, blood vessels and other parts of the body."

A typical exam at Adven-

tHealth Imaging at Harker Heights takes about 30-60 minutes. AdventHealth provides two additional MRI units that differ in magnet strength and model type, located within the AdventHealth Central Texas hospital in Killeen.

While the hospital machines are used for both inpatient and outpatient tests, the MRI in Harker Heights is for outpatient tests only.

"The images are also digital which means they can be

read by doctors sooner and patients can receive their results faster," said Riley.

Due to the size and special configuration of the 3 Tesla MRI, patients who experience claustrophobia, excessive pain or limited mobility benefit especially from the new model.

While an MRI is an important part of medical diagnosis, the test is not suggested for every patient.

"People with certain implanted devices such as many pacemakers and some stents may not be able to get MRI exams," Riley said. "Also, undergoing MRI requires lying still inside the scanner. Some people find this challenging, but there are often ways to make the experience easier."

AdventHealth Imaging at Harker Heights originally opened its doors in 2002. It has been sharing the facility with AdventHealth Wound Care Harker Heights since 2016.

The facility is located at 5610 E. Central Texas Expressway #5 in Killeen, just west of the Harker Heights city limits.

## Westside Baptist Church

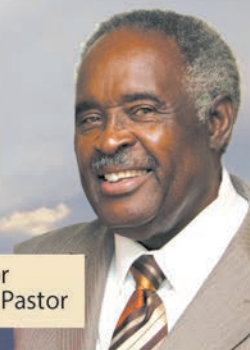


### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 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



711 Stagecoach Rd, Killeen, TX 76542 (254) 628-1004



# Chamber of Commerce supports more than 800 members

**BY BOB MASSEY**  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center not only advocates for the local community but provides services to its more than 800 members.

When a business, organization or individual joins the Chamber, they are free to use various tools such as meeting space, business workshops/forums, web-based marketing, a job board, website, social media exposure and learn how to start and expand a business.

The Chamber staff of four supports and maintains three websites promoting the Harker Heights Community, [www.hhchamber.com](http://www.hhchamber.com), [Discoverharkerheights.com](http://Discoverharkerheights.com) and [HHFoodandWine.com](http://HHFoodandWine.com).

They also co-share a regional tourism site: Destination Central Texas at [www.destinationcentraltexas.com](http://www.destinationcentraltexas.com).

The chamber welcomed three new staff members in the past year: Ava Jayne, office manager; Jennie Burton, retention specialist; and Toni Leijsa, director of business



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Harker Heights Firefighter of the Year Clint Chudej, left, poses with Fire Chief Paul Sims during the 2019 Chamber of Commerce banquet on Jan. 28 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

development.

Ribbon cuttings and open houses keeps the Chamber busy and their Ambassadors occupied. These events have proven to generate excitement for the businesses and residents plus giving these establishments a boost in the early days of promoting their goods and services.

One of the more recent ribbon cuttings was at Cajun

Boiling Crab, which drew a large crowd and a full restaurant of people staying for dinner at the new business.

The Heights Chamber focuses its efforts on:

1. Education/Workforce Development — leadership, internship program, job fairs, high school workplace programs.
2. Public Policy — provides state and local legislative updates, city informational sessions, military updates and special events.
3. Economic and tourism programs — local, regional and state level.
4. Marketing the City of Harker Heights — benefiting the City, business community and residents.
5. "Keepin' it Local" Program — educate and drive home the importance of shopping local. "Keeping tax dollars local boosts the economy."

A great deal of energy was spent on tourism during 2019.

Gina Pence, president and CEO of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce said, "The partnership between

the City, Parks and Recreation and the Chamber is bringing new people to Harker Heights and it's growing every year. The special tourism events that we bring to town increases sales tax and creates an economic impact."

The chamber is currently busy planning its largest yearly event, the 11th Food, Wine and Brew Fest, scheduled for Sept. 14 at Harker Heights Community Park.

The estimated economic impact of the Visitors Center for 2019 was \$3.1 million.

From January to May of 2019, 900 Harker Heights Chamber Visitor Center welcome bags showcasing the city's businesses were delivered to hotel events, conferences and special events.

"The Chamber thrives through the support of the City Council and staff, partners, sponsors, volunteers and a supportive group of board members. Most of them repeatedly make these donations of time and monetary contributions for a majority of our events and we're thankful," Pence said.

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# New middle school coming to Warriors Path

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

The city of Harker Heights will be gaining a new middle school on Warriors Path in the fall of 2020, and funding for improvement of the road is the top priority for the city through the Killeen Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization, or KTMPO.

Warriors Path was constructed according to county standards prior to the city limits extending to the area that includes the Warriors Path roadway.

Growth and travel have put a strain on the road, and now a new Killeen ISD middle school is being constructed along Warriors Path.

In addition, further subdivision of land is planned on both the Harker Heights and Nolanville sides of the roadway.

Improvements to the road will be needed, and the city has entered into discussions with Killeen ISD and the City of Nolanville about improving a section measuring approximately 2,400 feet in length from the northern boundary of the school site to just south of Pontotoc Road.

Once this project is completed, it will allow a necessary detour route using Pontotoc as southern portions of Warriors Path are completed in future years.

The roadway section in this area will be a three-lane road with a deceleration lane in front of the school, as well as an 8-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side.

The project will provide for safe traffic stacking, passing and pedestrian travel especially for students in the area of the school.

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$3 million. Killeen ISD is asking the cities of Heights and Nolanville to agree that the school district's part of the funding will not exceed \$1.5 million. Nolanville will participate in the agreement for the amount of \$25,600 for improvements to head walls on the east side of the roadway to accommodate a future sidewalk.

The Harker Heights portion of the participation will be approximately \$1.5 million.

The funds will come from projects



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

This aerial view shows the new middle school under construction on Warriors Path in Harker Heights.

incorporated in the Texas Department of Transportation's FM 3481 project that the city will no longer have to fund. That included a turn lane at Fuller Lane and a traffic signal at Vineyard/Cedar Knob Road.

The council earlier this year voted

to authorize the city manager to sign a joint participation agreement with KISD and the City of Nolanville.

KISD's board of trustees has already approved the agreement and Nolanville's City Council has given its OK as well.

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# Library's progress over the last year shows commitment to excellence

BY STEPHANIE RATTS GRISSOM  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Louise Capizzo, the youth services manager at Scarborough Public Library in Maine, once said, "Librarians are committed to promoting lifelong learning in order to create a community of well-informed individuals."

She might very well have said this of Harker Heights Public Library director Lisa Youngblood and her staff, whose own commitment to excellence can be measured by the progress the library has continued to make over the last year.

The library just received its 15th executive Excellence in Libraries Award, given by the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association. With all that the library continues to do, it's easy to see why.

For starters, the library has increased its in-house content. Last year, there was over 52,000 in-house materials alone, which included books, audio books, magazines, and DVDs.

This year, that number has jumped to more than 58,000. And while last year's electronic materials totaled around 23,000, that number has increased slightly over the past year to a little over 23,000.

This means that while the material available to library patrons last year totaled about 75,000, a significant number in its own right, this year patrons have access to more than 81,000 materials, a gain of over 6,000 materials available to patrons now.

"We also have access to a lot of online (educational resources)," Youngblood said.

This includes the TexShare Databases, electronic



GABE WOLF | HERALD

A giant Lego display sits in the Harker Heights Public Library where visitors could look for characters within the display during the STEAM DREAM Art and Science Festival at the Harker Heights Public Library and Activities Center on April 13.

resources where library patrons can get homework help, information on health and business, academic journals, popular magazines, genealogy, and even job and career development.

The library also provides access to World Book Online and Britannica Online, and thousands of popular magazines through the Zinio digital magazine service.

There have been a lot of program additions over the course of the last year, as well. "Our newest programs are health-related. We added this year a lot of new health programs to include stress relief for adults and children ... We've been focusing on whole health," Youngblood said. "We really want holistic health in our programs, to look at it in many ways."

PLEASE SEE **LIBRARY, 25**

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# LIBRARY: Multiple health-related programs

FROM PAGE 24

“Destinee (Barton, youth health and program coordinator) has been able to do a lot of the programming and working with Amanda (Hairston, children’s librarian) to add health-related activities to most of the children’s programs.”

Just one instance of the health-related children’s programs that were instituted by the library was the “Out of this World Wellness” program that was introduced this summer; every Tuesday afternoon during the month of June, the program brought classes and lessons in fitness to children ages 5 to 12.

Examples of stress-relieving programs for adults are the book reading socials, informal gatherings during which discussions of books by genre are held while giving adults to socialize.

“The spa programs have (also) been very, very successful,” Youngblood added. The library also hosted the first Women’s Health and Wealth conference in June.

In addition, the library worked with the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department to bring activities and programs to the community for National Parks and Recreation Month in July, and, “The is the first year we have done a broad STEM camp and chess camp,” Youngblood added.

“We’re constantly re-evaluating our programs,



STEPHANIE GRISSOM | HERALD

Parents wait in line with their children, who are eager to get into the cab of the backhoe loader. This vehicle was one of several at the Big Truck Show at the Heights library in June, part of the library’s Summer Reading Program.

tweaking where we need to.”

The library also received the Texas State Library and Archives Commission Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement grant. This grant reimburses much of the postage used in interlibrary loans.

“The Friends of the Library (also gives a lot of materials for the children’s programs and for the Friends and Family Learning Center,” Youngblood said. “And we continue to get donations from the community.”

And that’s not all. The library also received recognition from the American Library Association for the indoor games program they held during Spring Break in March.

“It was about getting

active in the library,” Youngblood explained. The program proved to be so successful that the same program was held every Tuesday in July and will be featured again in August.

“We are getting the most that we can out of all of our resources,” said Youngblood. “People want quality educational programs and that’s what we provide.”

As for what’s coming down the pike, Youngblood said to expect, “More health-related programs, more programming with other libraries, working to showcase what our community has to offer, and building our e-collections. And the (Harry Potter) Yule Ball in early December!”

“It’s a real pleasure to work for this city,” she said.

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# Parks and Rec begins work on 10-year master plan

BY JERRY BARK  
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

“It’s been a big year for Harker Heights Parks and Recreation, so far,” said Jeff Achee, Parks and Recreation director for the city of Harker Heights. “We have many exciting projects in the works: from purchases that make our parks safer and more sustainable, to facility upgrades, to new visionary plans and massive land acquisition.”

The Parks and Rec Department is excited to venture into new territory in the near future. Staff has begun work with Luck Design Team, a consulting firm based in Austin, to develop the 10-Year Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan.

This comprehensive facility plan will establish a vision for the Parks and Recreation Department’s next steps in offering high quality facilities and recreation opportunities for its citizens.

“This is a vital step towards success for departments across the country, and we are very excited to get feedback from our community throughout the process,” Achee said.

Parks and Recreation staff, in addition to various additional city officials, have been in talks with the U.S. Army Corps



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Andrew Rossi offers Isis O'Connor a hand as she climbs the boulder on Jan. 29 during an adaptive sports rock-climbing session at Boulders Rock Climbing Center in Harker Heights.

of Engineers regarding the potential acquisition of Dana Peak Park in 2020.

The city has developed operational plans to submit to the USACOE and has begun researching potential financial and community impacts. Staff looks forward to continuing the dialogue with Stillhouse Hollow Lake management in finding out how we can best serve our residents while playing an important role in local land conserva-

tion efforts.

In response to years of requests,

PLEASE SEE **PARKS, 27**



ANGELA SIMS | HERALD

Angelia Albert, 15, left, and Shaylin Romero, 14, take a short break from swimming June 7 during teen night at the Carl Levin Park Pool in Harker Heights. Albert and Romero were one of about 100 teens who attended the annual event.



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# PARKS: New upgrades at public facilities

FROM PAGE 26

the Department has begun construction on a second restroom facility at Carl Levin Park. The restroom, which will be fully ADA accessible, will be located near the Community Garden and playground. Please excuse our mess during this process; the project is slated to be completed by October.

As for park upgrades made over the past year, the department has installed new high-tech projectors at the Activities Center, purchased two new mowers and a new gator in order to replace aging equipment in our grounds fleet, and installed three new water fountains.

The new water fountains are located at both Community Park and Carl Levin



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

Work continues at the site of new bathroom facilities in Carl Levin Park.

Park, are filtered, and all include a bottle filling station which is aimed at promoting sustainability to our park users.

The department will also replace City Hall and Recreation Center signage and begin to phase in new signage within park facilities this year, as well. Security

cameras will be installed at Carl Levin Park by the end of this year.

Some Parks and Recreation programming has also benefitted from updates this year. Starting with our adaptive programming, the Superhero Adaptive Sports program for children with special needs has been re-

branded as "Harker Heights Ability Sports" in an effort to make the program easier to find for families that are new to the area.

The program also added tennis through a partnership with the Central Texas Athletic Club, and will host a Special Needs Pool Party this year with assistance from Central Texas Behavioral Solutions.

"Our staff have made it their goal to create facilities and programs that help to create community," Achee said. "We are always looking for ways to improve our programs and facilities to accommodate this mission and we look forward to what the future has in store."

**JERRY BARK** is Public Relations director for the city of Harker Heights.



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