



From left: Wayne Jones, Anna Smirl, Tommy Bryan, Carolyn Bryan, Mayor Liechty, First Sergeant Timothy Hardman, Denise Hendley, Theresa Lindsey and Dennis Lindsey and Clarice Isbell.

Honoring Those Who Serve On Our Behalf

The Heath City Council welcomed United States Army National Guard First Sergeant Timothy Hardman home from his recent deployment to Africa during the December 18 City Council meeting. First Sergeant Hardman is the son, grandson, nephew and great-nephew of several distinguished Heath families and is a Rowlett Police Officer.

He has served in the Army National Guard for 17 years and been stationed in Fort Riley, Fort Hood, Iraq, Africa and Afghanistan. During his military career, First Sergeant Hardman achieved Master Gunner for the M1A2 Tank and was commended for valor for actions under enemy fire.

"We honor and thank First Sergeant Hardman and his family for their service and sacrifice to protect our freedom," said Mayor Lorne Liechty.



Kick Off Easter Weekend at The Heart of Heath 5k Run/Walk on March 30

This family-friendly event is open to all ages and athletic abilities ranging from the casual walker to the elite runner.

- Run begins at 8:30 a.m. | Heath City Hall | 200 Laurence Drive.
- Experienced race management by Rockwall Running Center.
- Expanded race categories.
- Accurate & fast race results.
- Certified course.
- Every participant receives a Heart of Heath T-shirt while supplies last.
- Drawings held after the race for prizes donated by local businesses.
- All proceeds benefit the Heath parks and trails.
- Bunny Run for children ages five and under held after the 5K.

REGISTRATION ONLINE AT WWW.HEATHTX.COM

Heath City Council Meeting Date, Time Changes

Effective February 1, the Regular Stated Meetings of the Heath City Council will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Heath City Hall. Agendas and minutes can be downloaded at www.heathtx.com. Live text updates of Council actions on Regular Stated Meeting agenda items can be followed on the City's website.



New Water Tower in Operation

The City's new water tower is now in service, providing increased fire protection and water storage to meet the needs of the Heath community. The bowl of the water tower is 88 feet in diameter and holds 1.5 million gallons of water, which doubles the City's previous storage capacity.



Safe Routes To School

Maps showing the updated Safe Routes Trails can be viewed on the landing page of the website at www.heathtx.com.

NEWS FROM TxDOT:

ONE-YEAR REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR THREE OUTDATED BRIDGES CUTS CONSTRUCTION TIME IN HALF

Work is underway to build new bridges at Buffalo Creek, Long Branch Creek and Brushy Creek in southern Rockwall County between FM 740 and SH 205. Only two of the bridges will be completely closed during construction. The bridge at Brushy Creek, southwest of SH 205 is now closed for an estimated six months. Construction will begin on the Buffalo Creek bridge east of FM 740 when local schools close for the summer. This bridge will be closed through November. The bridge at Long Branch Creek, located almost midway between SH 205 and FM 740, will not be closed during construction.

The closing of the bridges and decision to allow a six-day work week for the contractor will expedite construction on all three bridges and disrupt traffic as little as possible.

SH 205 and FM 549 will be used to detour the closed sections of FM 550, and signs will be posted and clearly marked to direct traffic.

The \$2.5 million project was awarded to Ed Bell Construction Company. TxDOT thanks area drivers for their patience and cooperation as crews work diligently to complete this vital project as soon, and as safely, as possible.

MESSAGE FROM ATMOS:

Atmos Energy Corporation prioritizes safe and reliable natural gas service. As a friendly reminder during the cold weather months, please contact Customer Service at 1-888-286-6700 if you experience any issues with your natural gas service or have any concerns.

If you smell gas, leave the area immediately. Once you are safely out of the area, call Atmos Energy's toll-free emergency number, 1- 866- 322-8667 or 911. Atmos will send a trained technician to investigate. For more information, visit www.atmosenergy.com

NOTE ON TANKLESS WATER HEATERS: *If you experience issues with your tankless water heater starting, it has been recommended that the hot water be turned on and off three times in succession. Sometimes this maneuver will create a signal for the gas to the water heater to start.*



Planning for Spring Landscaping Projects?

KEEP WATER RESTRICTIONS IN MIND!

Water restrictions of increasing severity may become a way of life in North Texas due to demands placed on our water supply by a growing population and weather trends.

In fact, the word "drought" comes up frequently as landscaping experts discuss landscaping trends for the new millennium. These trends include xeriscaping, which originated with the Denver Colorado Water Department in 1981. Xeriscape landscaping essentially refers to a creating a landscape design that has been carefully tailored to withstand drought conditions.

A major premise of xeriscape landscaping is that turf grass is problematic, because it is a water-guzzler. Xeriscape landscaping does not totally eliminate lawns, but uses types of lawn grass that demand less water and cuts back on the expanse of lawn.

Relegating the lawn area to an accent rather than the dominant element of your landscape creates a void that can be filled in many attractive, low-maintenance ways including:

- Extended concrete, brick or tile patio areas and walkways
- Wood decks and arbors
- Stone walls and rock gardens
- Ground covers such as crushed granite and mulches
- Plantings such as succulents, cacti and native wildflowers and ornamental grasses

Get more information at your favorite local nursery or online by searching "Xeriscaping in North Texas".



Get Emergency Alerts and Weather Warnings from Nixle

The Rockwall County Office of Emergency Management offers the free Nixle notification system, which sends emergency alert emails and/or text messages to your computer, mobile phone or smart phone devices (message and data rates may apply). It takes just a few minutes to sign up for the alerts at: www.nixle.com. Do it today!