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The City of Heath Wishes You and Your Family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

It may have been one of the warmest November evenings on record, but the Christmas spirit was high as the community celebrated the season at the annual Heath Holiday in the Park on November 30.

Thank you to all the participants who made the event possible:

Honor Choir, Dorothy Smith Pullen Elementary, Directed by Chris Ghormley
Honor Choir, Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School, Directed by Jan Stonestreet
Rockwall Women's League
National Charity League
Kroger's Grocery Store

City of Heath Special Events Board- Gayle Kuhrt, Chair; Harry Heinkle, Vice Chair; Robyn Abramczyk; Mary Luxton; Eliana McGrath; Pamela Miley; Mike Rask; and Carolyn Walthers

City of Heath: 2012 Review

From completing the new water tower to hosting successful community events, 2012 was a year filled with accomplishments. Heath councilmembers share highlights in a new video now available at www.heathtx.com.

New Year's Resolution: Train for 2013 Heart of Heath - 03/30/13.

City Updates

FM 740 WIDENING UPDATE

Two lanes for northbound and southband traffic are now open on FM 740 from FM 3097 (Horizon Road) to FM 1140 (Smirl Drive). This roadway improvement adds two miles of five-foot sidewalks to the City's trail system.

TxDOT anticipates beginning construction on the southern section of FM 740 in late 2014. The road will be widened to four lanes from Heathland Crossing/FM 740 to FM 1140/Hubbard Drive. The City will gain an additional 3.1 miles of trails with 5-foot sidewalks on one side of the road, and a 10-foot trail on the opposite side. TxDOT is projecting a completion date in 2016.

City Honors Volunteers



The Heath City Council honored outgoing board and commission members John Main, left, and Ginny Jackson, right, at the November 20 City Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Barry Brooks, center, noted that John served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 14 years and on the Board of Adjustments for one year. Ginny served on the Park Board for 10 years, seven of which she was Chairman.

The City Council periodically appoints new members to the City's boards and commissions. If you would like to be considered, please complete and submit a volunteer application available at City Hall or www.heathtx.com under the Living Here menu.



City Honors Employees of the Year

Good customer service skills and a positive, proactive approach to an increased work load were common traits displayed by the City of Heath staff members honored for their outstanding performance in 2012 at the Holiday Luncheon in December. Congratulations to the following employees:

CITY OF HEATH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Larry Dunham, Utility Supervisor, Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Officer Jim Simmons

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Rick McDowell, Municipal Court Clerk/Code Enforcement Officer
Municipal Court/Public Works Department

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Scott Qualls, Building Official, Public Works Department

In addition to the employee awards, numerous City employees were recognized for their tenure of service:

15 YEARS

Kim Dobbs, Director of Community & Economic Development
John Langstaff, Public Works Operations Manager
Terry "TK" Kneeder, Public Safety Sergeant

10 YEARS

Matt Mayo, Public Safety Officer

5 YEARS

Larry Dunham, Public Works Utility Supervisor
Francisco Gonzalez, Public Works Maintenance Worker
Laurie Mays, Director of Finance
Randy Patton, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor
Jim Simmons, Public Safety Officer

Free Grease Funnels Available for Holiday Cooking

Fats, oils and grease from cooking that are washed down the kitchen sink can plug or damage sanitary sewer lateral lines and private septic and aerobic treatment systems. Repairs to these systems can be a costly expense for homeowners. Fats, oils and grease from cooking can also cause damage and costly repairs to the City's sanitary sewer system, and if dumped into the storm drain system, they can cause health hazards, environmental problems, and water quality issues to streams and Lake Ray Hubbard. To help prevent these nasty problems, the City of Heath's Public Works Department is distributing free funnels to collect used oil and grease in empty milk jugs or other containers. A free heat-proof, high-barrier bag will be included. The funnels are available while supplies last at the City of Heath Public Works Department, 200 Laurence Drive, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Expiring December 31:

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ALARM PERMITS DOG REGISTRATIONS

Please visit City Hall to renew your permits. The alarm permit renewal form can be downloaded at www.heathtx.com.

Recycling Tips

*Make recycling part of your New Year's routine! Fill up and roll your blue Recycling container to the street every week. More than 70% of all trash is recyclable material.



*Many stores, including Best Buy in Rockwall, recycle most electronics, including TVs, DVD players, computer monitors, audio and video cables, cell phones, and more. Get more information by scanning the QR code.

Fireplace Safety Tips from DPS

Now that it's finally cool enough to use your fireplace, here are some important safety tips from the Heath Department of Public Safety:

- Fireplace chimneys should be cleaned annually, preferably by a professional chimney sweep.
- Fireplaces should be equipped with a safety screen or doors, which should be kept closed at all times when the fire is lit.
- Before lighting any fire, check to see that the damper is open. Remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from the fireplace area.
- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children and avoid inhaling smoke from their flames.
- Do not burn all that Christmas wrapping paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Text Oncor

The Text Oncor Program is a 24 x 7 notification service that enables customers to use texting on a mobile phone for:

- Reporting power outages
- Receiving outage ticket confirmation, status updates and closure messages
- Checking status of service requests
- Receiving service request ticket confirmation and closure messages

Registering for this service is as simple as texting 'reg' to 66267 (ONCOR). Please have either your ESID or the telephone # listed on your account and your zip code to complete registration.