



Annual Independence Day and Popsicles in the Park is July 4
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**Mayor's Message:
City Moving Forward with
Capital Improvements Plan**

One year ago I wrote in my first column as Mayor of Heath that there were 3 areas we needed to focus on to have a positive impact upon our community, and that *"First, we need to continue to improve our roads, trails, parks, public utilities and other infrastructure"*.

Simply put, to remain a first-class City, we must invest in the infrastructure and amenities that contribute to the high quality of life and strong property values we enjoy in Heath.

An enormous amount of work has been done by our City Council and City Staff during the last year and I am pleased to say that we have approved a Capital Improvement Plan that includes over \$20,000,000 of improvements. The projects that we have identified in the Plan benefit the entire community and will deliver positive, visible improvements throughout the City.

A complete list of the proposed projects included within the plan can be obtained by going to the City Website [www.heathtx.com] or by calling the City offices [972-771-6228]. The projects currently planned include rebuilding Crisp, Myers, White and Rabbit Ridge roads, major improvements to the sewer system serving the Shepherd's Glen subdivision, an entry feature on the north side of the City, upgrading our DPS radio systems, new trails (including a connection from Towne Center Park to Terry Park) and a new road to alleviate traffic congestion around Amy Parks School. While those items are all currently included within our plans, it is important to note that a Capital Improvements Plan is structured to allow the flexibility to respond to new opportunities or growth issues as they emerge, and, therefore, changes may be made to the Capital Improvement Plan as we proceed. I am an attorney, so I guess a disclaimer is inevitable every now and then.

One significant benefit of moving forward with this Plan now, is that the City will secure historically low interest rates when the Certificate of Obligation Bonds necessary to fund the projects are issued. The City's financial advisor has

stated that *"interest rates are at an all-time low and this is an ideal time to invest in our community"*. Just as consumers are getting more home for their money in the current financing climate, the City will do the same with our projects.

The impact the Capital Improvement Plan will have on our ad valorem tax rate is another factor that has spurred intense deliberation. I have been proud to be among the members of the City Councils that have not raised taxes for 21 consecutive years. However, my colleagues on the City Council and I recognize that we must invest in our community if it is to remain the kind of place where we are proud to own a home, raise children and grandchildren, and open a business. We are still working on the details of financing these projects, but I can assure you that your City Council is working to accomplish these improvements efficiently and with as limited an impact to our City taxes as possible.

In the weeks ahead, we will continue to discuss the projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan and our plans for financing their completion. These discussions will take place in open, public meetings, and I invite and encourage every citizen to attend and learn more about the upcoming Capital Improvements.

Meeting notices will be published on the City's website and in our social media outlets. You are also welcome to contact me, or any of my colleagues on the City Council directly, as we always want to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

After many extensive discussions, it is with excitement that the City Council presents this Capital Improvement Plan to advance a prosperous future for our city. It's hard to believe that 12 months have passed since I wrote my first column as your Mayor, but now more than ever, it is both an honor and privilege to serve you in this capacity. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lorne O. Liechty



Heath DPS Walks in Carry the Load, Memorial Day Weekend

Heath DPS entered a Walking Team in Carry the Load, an annual walking marathon that begins at West Point and crosses the country to honor the sacrifices made by fallen members of the military, police, firefighters and their families.

Carry the Load's National Relay Team came through Rockwall on May 26 at 3 a.m., where the Heath DPS team of 19 members joined the journey into Dallas. Now in its third year, Carry the Load has raised over \$2 million for five charities that assist military, police and firefighter personnel and their families. The Heath DPS team raised over \$9,600 this year for the cause.



City of Heath Volunteers Eligible for President's Volunteer Service Award

The City of Heath recently became a certified organization of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, created in 2003 by President George W. Bush to honor and encourage volunteerism.

The City's certification enables City of Heath volunteers including board, commission and council members

to earn the President's Volunteer Service Award. The award is given by the President's Council to volunteers who have accrued 100 or more hours of volunteer service within a 12-month period.

Information about how to pursue the award is available at www.healthtx.com, or contact City Secretary Stephanie Galanides at 972-771-6228 or sgalanides@healthtx.com.

Stage 3 Mandatory Watering Schedule For City of Heath Customers in Effect

(View a map showing your location and schedule at www.healthtx.com)

Neighborhood	Odd # Addresses	Even # Addresses
Stoneleigh & Buffalo Creek	Tuesday	Thursday
All Other Heath Customers	Monday	Wednesday

****NO WATERING ANY DAY BETWEEN 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.****

If you are a Heath resident and your water is furnished through Forney Lake WSC or RCH WSC, please check with your water supplier for their specific Stage 3 watering schedule.

3 Easy Ways to Conserve Water & Maintain Attractive Landscaping:

- MULCHING** — Add 4 to 6 inches of mulch to cover the soil surface around plants. Good mulch preserves soil moisture, prevents soil compaction, keeps soil temperatures more moderate and reduces weed populations.
- PROPER MOWING** — Mowing turf grass at the proper height conserves moisture. The optimum height to mow St. Augustine grass for water conservation is 3 inches. The optimum height for Bermuda grass is between 1 and 2 inches.
- PROPER FERTILIZATION** —Fertilize the lawn once in the spring and again in the fall to produce a beautiful turf without excess growth that demands frequent watering. Use a slow-release form of nitrogen in the spring and a quick-release form in fall. Apply one pound of actual nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn. By using this fertilizer schedule, no other fertilizer is needed for most shrubs and trees in the lawn area.



Annual Independence Day and Popsicles in the Park is July 4

Celebrate freedom at the Annual City of Heath Independence Day Parade and enjoy free Popsicles in the Park on Thursday, July 4!

Staging for the parade is at 8 a.m., judging and awards are at 8:30 a.m., and the parade begins promptly at 9 a.m. at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School at 330 Laurence Drive.

Best Decorated Parade Awards presented to:

- Float • Bicycle • Wagon/Stroller • Golf Cart • Off-Road Vehicle
- Classic Car • Kiddie Car

Awards also presented for:

- Best Costume • Most Patriotic Pet • Mayor's Award

Questions: call 972-771-6228.

For everyone's safety: throwing candy or trinkets along the parade route is not allowed. City of Heath offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and resume normal business hours on Friday, July 5. Please celebrate safely: The use of fireworks is strictly prohibited in the City of Heath.

PLAN AHEAD FOR BRIEF ROAD CLOSURES:

The intersection of Laurence Drive and FM 740/FM 1140 will be closed during the parade from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. To avoid inconvenience or delays, an alternate route or time frame for driving through the area should be planned. Find maps of the parade route and staging area at www.healthtx.com.

2012 Drinking Water Quality Report Published

A copy of the 2012 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report has been included with the June utility bills and is also available at www.healthtx.com. If you have questions, please contact the City at 972-771-6228.