



## City Holds Town Hall Meeting to Present Capital Improvement Plan and Receive Citizen Input

The City of Heath held a Town Hall Meeting in conjunction with the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 13. Mayor Lorne Liechty presented an in-depth look at the goals, projects and funding sources for the Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the City Council earlier this summer to address needed repairs and improvements throughout the City. Following the presentation, citizens were able to ask questions and share their input. Below is an overview of projects; you can view the complete Town Hall presentation at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

### PROJECTS & FUNDING OVERVIEW

#### 2013/2014 PROJECTS-

- Towne Center Park Driveway to alleviate traffic congestion around Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School
- Safe Routes to School trails
- Terry Park Seawall Repair
- Stoneleigh Pedestrian Bridge/Trail Connection
- Entry feature on the north side of the City
- FM 740 Phase 2 Utility Relocation
- Heathland Crossing Water Line
- Jeff Boyd 12" Water Line
- Shepherds Glen Force Main & Gravity Sewer Improvement
- Townsend (Rockwall) Pump Station Improvement

#### FUNDING:

- \$2.9 million existing funds
- \$8.175 million proceeds from August 8 bond sale
- \$1.2 million Safe Routes to School Grant

#### 2014 – 2015 PROJECTS:

- Rebuilding Crisp and portions of Myers, White, Yankee Creek and Rabbit Ridge roads
- Upgrading the Department of Public Safety radio systems
- New trails (including connection from Towne Center Park to Terry Park)

#### FUNDING:

Anticipated funding through future bond issuances.

## City of Heath Water Customers: Important Information about Your Service and Rates

### WHO IS THE CITY OF HEATH'S WATER SUPPLIER?

The City of Heath's water supplier is the City of Rockwall, which is a member city of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).

### WHAT IS THE NTMWD?

The NTMWD is a conservation and reclamation district and political subdivision of the State of Texas. NTMWD's primary mission is to meet the needs of member and customer cities, whether that is the need for drinking water, solid waste disposal or wastewater treatment. NTMWD acts as a regional wholesaler of water to its member and customer cities.

### HOW ARE WATER RATES SET?

NTMWD is responsible for setting the rates charged to their customers. Rates are calculated annually and are based on the projected cost of providing the service. Water rates are set per 1,000 gallons. As our provider, the City of Rockwall charges Heath an administration fee of 10 cents per 1,000 gallons in addition to the NTMWD's rate.

The rates charged to the City of Heath's customers are based on a rate study performed by Willis, Graves and Assoc., Inc. The study takes into account the City's cost of providing water, including debt service and administrative costs in addition to the actual cost of the water. The study also structured the rates to promote water conservation. Once water usage exceeds 10,000 gallons per month, the fee rises with the biggest spike occurring at 30,000 or more gallons used per month.

The City of Heath's proposed budget for 2013-2014 includes an increase of 22 cents per 1,000 gallons at all water usage levels. This increase is necessary to cover the 22-cent increase being charged to the City of Heath by its supplier, the City of Rockwall.

All water revenue retained by the City of Heath goes into the City's Utilities Fund; none goes into the General Fund.

### WHY ARE RATES HIGHER OR LOWER IN SOME COMMUNITIES?

In a community with a large population such as Plano, the cost of providing water is distributed over a greater number of customers, allowing for lower per-customer rates. In a low-density community such as Heath, a smaller number of customers share the cost of water delivery, resulting in the need for higher per-customer rates.

### WHAT ARE THE WATER SOURCES?

Lavon Lake serves as the NTMWD's main raw water supply source. The NTMWD also holds water rights for raw water supplies from Lake Texoma, Jim Chapman Lake and the wetland facility near Crandall. Additional supplies are available if needed through a water transfer to Lavon Lake from Lake Tawakoni. The raw water supply from Lake Texoma is currently unavailable due to efforts to prevent the spread of zebra mussels, which have invaded the lake.

## 2013-2014 Budget Process Underway

The City of Heath Council and staff have been working hard to prepare a budget for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Budget discussions have been held in open City Council meetings, which residents are encouraged to attend.

You can also participate in the budget process by attending the public hearing on the 2013-2014 proposed budget Tuesday, August 27. A final budget is currently scheduled to be adopted by the City Council at its meeting on September 10 to become effective October 1. You can view the proposed budget at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

### BUDGET FAQs

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CITY'S BUDGET?

The City's budget is one of the most concrete expressions of public policy, as it sets forth the City's priorities for the upcoming year. The City Council makes decisions about the City's budget based on what it hopes to accomplish during a given fiscal year. After the budget has been adopted by the City Council, it serves as a road map for where funds are to be allocated and as a check and balance system to make sure City funds are spent as intended.

#### WHAT ARE THE FUNDING SOURCES OF THE CITY'S BUDGET?

Approximately 66 percent of the City's general fund revenue comes from ad valorem property taxes. Additional sources of general fund revenue include sales taxes, franchise fees, building permits and interest on City funds. Water and sewer fees and charges for trash collections make up the largest portion of revenue in the Enterprise Funds.

The proposed budget includes a water rate increase (See Water information, also in this newsletter). The proposed increase is necessary to meet the cost of providing water, which includes debt service and administrative costs in addition to the actual cost of the water. The proposed rate increase in the 2013-2014 budget is 22 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used.

#### HOW ARE THE FUNDS ALLOCATED?

General Fund operations encompass approximately 40 percent of the total budgeted expenditures in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014. Services provided by the General Fund include Public Safety, Public Works (street maintenance, parks, code enforcement) and Administration.

The Enterprise Fund includes both operations and debt service and is close to 44 percent of the total budget. The Enterprise Fund provides utility and trash collection services to the Citizens of Heath. The remainder of the budgeted expenditures are distributed among the Debt Service Fund, which pays the debt issued to finance general government capital improvement projects such as street improvements, the Solid Waste Fund, and the Economic Development Corporation and Municipal Benefits Corporation Funds.

#### HOW ARE MY PROPERTY TAXES DISTRIBUTED?

Your total property taxes are distributed among the City of Heath, Rockwall County and Rockwall Independent School District as follows: 15.6 percent of your total annual payment goes to the City of Heath; 17.6 percent to Rockwall County; and 66.8 percent to Rockwall ISD.

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is available at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) under the Finance Department.

## Heath Mosquito Surveillance Program Update

The Heath City Council approved a Mosquito Surveillance and Abatement Program at the April 23 City Council Meeting. While the West Nile Virus was not found in Heath last year, the City continues to be pro-active during the prime mosquito breeding season of spring and summer. The City's surveillance includes the weekly trapping and testing of mosquitoes at sites throughout the City. As of August 16, no mosquitoes have been found in the Heath test sites to be carrying the West Nile virus.

Additional information about the City's Mosquito Surveillance program, the latest trapping reports, and tips on how to keep your family safe are available at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

## Heath is Cooking!



The City of Heath team won Best Cooks of the County at the Iron Chef Challenge benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall County on August 10.

The Heath participants displayed both culinary and musical talent at the event as they performed a special rendition of *Hello, Dolly* dedicated to Boys & Girls Club Director Misti Potter, written by Mayor Lorne Liechty, and showcasing the vocals of the Mayor and City Manager Ed Thatcher. Also participating were Councilmember Rich Krause, his wife, Heather, and City staff members with John Langstaff of the Public Works Department serving as Head Chef.

## Need a Ride?

You may have seen the maroon buses labeled "Star Transit" running around town. This is a federal and state funded transportation service available to all Rockwall and Kaufman County residents. To schedule a ride, call 214-771-0023 the day before you need to travel to receive the lowest price.

Transportation within Rockwall County is as low as \$5 each way; or \$3 for residents over 60. Out-of-County trips into Dallas for medical appointments are \$15 each way.

## School Bells are Ringing Again



Please drive with extra caution (and patience) as students and parents get back into their pick-up and drop-off routines!

Remember, cell phone use is not permitted within active school zones.

## Terry Park Boat Ramp

The boat ramp at Terry Park is temporarily closed until further notice due to low water levels within Lake Ray Hubbard.