



City of Heath Secures \$18.2 Million from TxDOT for FM 740 Improvements

The City of Heath has secured anticipated funding from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the second phase of the FM 740 widening project from FM 1140 South to FM 1140 North in Heath.

The 1.8-mile project was awarded to ED Bell Construction in the amount of \$12.9 million. In addition, the Texas Transportation Commission approved \$1.25 million in improvements on FM 740 in various locations within the City of Heath. Those include new sidewalks, installation of crosswalks and school zones. This contract was also awarded to ED Bell Construction.

“The City of Heath received this funding because \$4.2 million in local funding had been allocated by our City Council for Phase 2 of the FM 740 TxDOT project. If the city’s funds had not been available, the funding would have been directed to another TxDOT roadway project,” said Heath Mayor Lorne Liechty.

TxDOT funding is available only for state thoroughfare projects and not for the construction, maintenance and repair of non-TxDOT roadways such as City of Heath streets. The City contributed \$1.3 million towards Phase 1 of the FM 740 widening project, completed in the Fall of 2012.

“Through careful budgeting and the Council’s recent approval of a Capital Improvement Plan, we have been prepared to respond to this funding opportunity that continues the widening of FM 740 through Heath as well as make our own improvements and repairs to City streets and roadways,” said Mayor Liechty.

Construction start dates for Phase 2 of FM 740 will be set in upcoming meetings between TxDOT and the contractors. You can find more information about the additional City projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan at www.heathtx.com or call 972-771-6228.

ABOUT FM 740 MEDIAN LANDSCAPING...

Due to the late summer heat and watering restrictions, TxDOT and the contractor responsible for the FM 740 median landscaping have suspended any additional planting until late the weather becomes cooler.



December 6: Santa Comes to Town!

The Heath Holiday in the Park and Christmas Tree Lighting is Friday, December 6 at 6 p.m. in Towne Center Park. Mark your calendars to kick off the holiday season enjoying the sights and sounds of Christmas with your friends and neighbors at this Heath tradition.

City Council Adopts Budget for 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

The Heath City Council unanimously adopted a budget for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 at the September 10 City Council meeting.

The new budget maintains the tax rate at .3433 cents per \$100 of appraised assessed property value for the 22nd consecutive year. Of that tax rate, .2636 cents fund the City’s maintenance and operations budget of approximately \$4.97 million, and .0797 cents fund the debt service budget of \$1.2 million.

The budget includes a water rate increase due to a rate increase charged by the City’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). The rate increase in the 2013-2014 budget is 17 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used.

For FAQs about the budget and water service, view or download the September 2013 issue of the City’s newsletter at www.heathtx.com. You will also find a copy of the final budget for 2013-2014 and an updated fee schedule.



Heath Economic Development Corporations Help Fund Improvements to Retail Center on Hubbard Drive

The Heath Economic Development/Municipal Benefits Corporations recently approved an application for business development assistance to help the owners of Heath Plaza at 201 Hubbard upgrade the shopping center. The Heath EDC/MBC will contribute \$25,000 towards the \$180,000 cost of improvements by the business owners.

“Our board is very pleased to support our long-time business partners who own Heath Plaza in their efforts to improve the façade of this property,” said Heath EDC President Alma Howard. “The shopping center has been a valuable part of our community for a long time, and we believe the upgrades will attract more customers and encourage local sales tax growth.”

The project is expected to begin Fall 2013.

Rockwall County is #2 in the Nation for Job Growth

Rockwall County ranked second in the nation for job growth in *CNN/Money Magazine's* annual “Where the Jobs Are” survey released in August. Rockwall County had a growth rate of 13 percent from 2010-2012 and placed behind Number One Columbia County, Georgia.

In August 2011, Rockwall County was number one on the list when the measurement scanned the 10-year period from 2000 to 2010.

CNN/Money cited aerospace, logistics, defense and manufacturing companies that have expanded or relocated to Rockwall County as a key factor in the growth.

Rockwall is also hot on the retail front, and was named the fastest growing retail market in Texas in the *2012 Texas Retail Survey*.

Regional Job Growth Spurs Demand for Heath Homes RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS UP; NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY

Building permits for new single-family homes in Heath have increased 42 percent from Year-to-Date August 2012 compared to Year-to-Date August 2013. High demand for homes is occurring throughout the community including Stoneleigh Ph 5, Heath Crossing and Cedar Glen. New developments on the horizon include Heath Golf and Yacht Club, Woodbridge, McCrummen Estates and Sonterra Estates. The sale of existing homes in Rockwall County is up 38 percent.

City Sponsors Free E-Waste Collection Offered November 9

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping your items at the Free Electronic Waste Collection Event co-sponsored by the City of Heath on Saturday, November 9, 9 a.m. to noon at the RHHS parking lot.

E-waste is any electronic equipment that has reached end-of-life or end-of-usage in your home or office. Items accepted free of charge include: computer hardware, TV's, printers, copiers, scanners, faxes, servers, cell phones, corded phones, stereos, DVD players, small household appliances, ink and toner cartridges and batteries. Also, document shredding will be available.

For more information: 972-524-0007 or eco@trashbusters.org.

Heath Mosquito Surveillance Program Update

The City's Mosquito Surveillance Program includes the weekly trapping and testing of mosquitoes at sites throughout the City. As of September 13, no mosquitoes have been found 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.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12: FOCUS IS KITCHEN FIRE PREVENTION



Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and the National Fire Protection Association is using Fire Prevention Week to promote safe kitchen habits with stove, microwaves and other appliances. Remaining attentive while cooking and managing how close children and pets are to anything hot will help keep your family safe. Learn more at: FPW.org.

Residential and Commercial Alarm Permits Expire on December 31

Anyone responsible for the operation of or in possession of an alarm system in the City of Heath is required to obtain an annual permit for operation of such system. The permit is good for a calendar year and a penalty of \$200 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. The fee for a residential permit is \$35 per year. Any commercial or residential alarm system should be registered or renewed by January 1, 2014. For your convenience, the renewal form will be included with next month's utility bill and newsletter mailing. It can also be downloaded at www.heathtx.com from the Department of Public Safety page or obtained at City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr.

Voting Reminder: A PHOTO ID IS NOW REQUIRED!

The ID must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented at your polling place.