



**Rockwall County Transportation Consortium:  
Working Together for Continued Transportation Improvements in Rockwall County**



## Partnering with the County

*by Barry Brooks, Heath City Councilmember*

Our community benefits from a long history of city and county leaders and volunteers working together to create and maintain the kind of place we are proud to call home.

While we're the smallest county in Texas, we've maintained one of the fastest growth rates in the state and the U.S. Just recently, Rockwall County ranked second in the nation for job growth in *CNN Money Magazine's* annual "Where the Jobs Are" survey.

The pace of growth our county has experienced has required an intense focus on building and maintaining an infrastructure and road system that can safely accommodate a growing population.

In 2004, the County formed the Rockwall County Transportation Consortium to address this challenge as a united force. The Consortium is made up of elected officials of the County and its respective cities, which are Fate, Heath, McLendon-Chisholm, Rockwall, Rowlett, and Royse City.

The Consortium's primary purpose is to facilitate communication on transportation initiatives and countywide issues among the members to ensure each stakeholder is informed and participating in the important transportation decisions being made. Furthermore, by presenting a united front to the Texas Department of Transportation, Rockwall County is able to secure funding from the state, which is vital for the continued transportation improvements in Rockwall County.

As the City of Heath's Council representative on the Consortium since 2011, I've had the opportunity to witness the positive impact of this cooperation. With the Rockwall County Thoroughfare Plan as a guiding tool, the County has been able to achieve road and infrastructure improvements that benefit

all residents and support regional economic development. The County Commissioners Court's willingness to put significant county resources toward these much needed transportation projects greatly benefits our city in ways that would not be possible without funding from the county.

The FM 740 project through Heath is just one example of this success. Phase 1, completed in the Fall of 2012, spans from Horizon Road in Rockwall to FM 740/FM1140 in Heath. Phase 2, now underway, will be from FM 740/FM1140 to the FM 740/FM1140/Hubbard Dr. intersection. Construction is expected to begin on Phase 2 in the summer of 2014 with an anticipated 24-month construction schedule.

In last month's Heath City newsletter, investments made by our City to help obtain the FM 740 projects were highlighted. This month we want to take the opportunity to illustrate the County's significant contributions. The County is clearly the catalyst in securing both Phase 1 and Phase 2 FM 740 projects through its leadership and investment of \$8.4 million.

As an avid cyclist and runner, I'm also personally excited to share with you another big step forward in improving the quality of life in Heath and all of Rockwall County. The Rockwall County Commissioners Court recently approved a countywide Bicycle Master Plan with input from all cities in Rockwall County. Although no funding has been committed to new trails, the Master Plan paves the way for more than 210 miles of bike paths and running trails throughout Rockwall County and is the first county-wide bike plan in North Texas. The plan will soon be placed on the county's website ([www.rockwallcountytexas.com](http://www.rockwallcountytexas.com)) and you may request a hard copy from your county commissioner.

On behalf of the City of Heath, I want to thank the Rockwall County Commissioners Court for its hard work and dedication that not only improves our county, but directly affects the City of Heath. The Commissioners Court includes Jerry Hogan, County Judge; Cliff Sevier, Commissioner Precinct 1; Lorie Grinnan, Commissioner Precinct 2; Dennis Bailey, Commissioner Precinct 3; and David Magness, Commissioner Precinct 4.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the county.



## KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS IN HEATH WITH YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!

Festivities include:

- Lighting of the Christmas Tree
- Performances by Choirs from Amy Parks-Heath and Dorothy Smith Pullen Elementary Schools
- Photos with Santa Claus (parents bring your cameras)
- Complimentary Cocoa, Wassail and Christmas Cookies
- Miniature Train Rides around Towne Center Park
- Canned Food Collection for Rockwall County Helping Hands

For more information: [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) or 972-771-6228. Follow the City on Facebook for details on other Heath Holiday activities, and feel free to post your local festivities that are open to the community.

## City Sponsors Free E-Waste Collection November 9

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping 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](mailto:eco@trashbusters.org).

## HEATH BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



**A SHOUT OUT TO A HOMETOWN BUSINESS...  
HEATH SALON & SPA**

Heath Salon & Spa was recently voted Best Salon in Rockwall & Rowlett by *Lakeside Living* magazine readers. That's because not only do they do good work, but the team led by owner Juana French does good things.

Heath Salon & Spa was recently featured on Fox 4 News for offering real hair wigs at no cost to people battling cancer. The salon also generously supports local charitable organizations. When the Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall hosted its first annual Iron Chef Challenge, Heath Salon & Spa gathered a team of enthusiastic cooks for the challenge and won the "Golden Ladle" award.

For more information about the salon located at 201 Hubbard Dr., visit [www.heathsalonandspa.com](http://www.heathsalonandspa.com).

Each month the City would like to feature one of our hometown businesses in the newsletter. If you have a "good news" business story to share, please contact Community and Economic Development Director Kim Dobbs at [kdobbs@heathtx.com](mailto:kdobbs@heathtx.com).

## New Retail Development Zoning Approved

A local resident has partnered with S.C. Equities, Inc. for a planned development for local retail at the northwest corner of FM 740 and FM 1140/Heathland Crossing. The Planning and Zoning Commission spent many hours reviewing and considering the developer's request for a zoning change for the eight-acre property, and establishing stringent development standards for the Property. The zoning change requests were approved by City Council at the September 24 City Council meeting, which sets the stage for attracting high quality retail development to serve our community!

## Some Interesting Data...

As a low density community by design, Heath's population will likely never reach that of other communities competing for new businesses. Further, our community is not located along a major highway. (Both factors cited by residents as reasons for choosing Heath as their home.)

However, Heath's demographics are very attractive to quality businesses.

According to recent reports:

- \* The average household income in Heath is \$152,185.
- \* The median home sales value is \$420,500 (Zillow), making it the 6th highest in North Texas.
- \* Heath residents have attained high educational levels, with 55% holding a Bachelor's Degree or higher compared to 26% statewide.

## FDNY Rescue 4 Visits Heath DPS



On Sept. 11, 2001, nine firefighters with the Fire Department, City of New York Rescue 4 lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Today, thanks to efforts by the Remembrance Rescue Project, FDNY Rescue 4 has been fully restored and tours the country as a teaching tool and mobile memorial. Rescue 4 made a stop at the Heath Department of Public Safety this month. You can learn more at <http://remembrance.co/>.

## Terry Park Boat Ramp Gets a Cleanup

The City of Heath Public Works Department took advantage of the low lake level to do some needed cleanup work around the Terry Park boat ramp and docks. The boat ramp continues to be closed. You can check its status on the home page of [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

## ANNUAL REGISTRATION REMINDERS

**RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ALARM PERMITS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31  
RENEWAL FORM INCLUDED WITH THIS MONTH'S UTILITY BILL/NEWSLETTER**

Anyone who has a commercial or residential alarm system in the City of Heath is required to obtain an annual permit for operation of the system. All alarm systems should be registered or renewed by January 1, 2014. The permit is good for a calendar year. A penalty of \$200.00 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. A renewal form is included with this month's utility bill/newsletter. Download a form at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) under the Department of Public Safety menu or pick one up at City Hall. If you have questions, please contact Customer Service at 972-771-6228.

## DOG REGISTRATION

Dog registrations expire December 31 each year. Please bring current rabies certification to City Hall to update or obtain your dog's registration tag. The annual cost is \$10 for intact dogs and \$5 for those that have been spayed or neutered.