



The City of Heath Wishes

You and Your Family a Happy Holiday Season

CITY OF HEATH: 2014 REVIEW

From the launch of a Capital Improvement Plan benefiting the entire City to hosting successful community events like Holiday in the Park, 2014 was a year filled with accomplishments. Heath City Councilmembers share highlights in a new video now available at www.heathtx.com.



A Message from Mayor Lorne Liechty

As 2014 comes to a close, it's a good time to look back and reflect upon the progress we've made this year. This has been an exciting and eventful year for our City with many significant accomplishments.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The City council adopted a Capital Improvement Plan in January of 2014 following more than a year of deliberations and a process that involved multiple meetings and opportunities for citizen input. The CIP includes more than \$20 million in investments that will benefit the entire City with improvements to our roads, trails, parks, public utilities and other infrastructure. In order to finance the Capital Improvements, the City issued Bonds in April at very favorable interest rates due to our City's improved S&P debt rating.

After a year of planning we began the actual work of completing the Capital Improvement Projects, and a drive around the City of Heath makes it apparent that we are in the middle of this work. Currently, some of the CIP projects have been completed, and others are underway, including:

- Buffalo Creek Trail Repairs
- Country Club Paving
- Shepherds Glen Force Main & Gravity Sewer
- The new Towne Center Park Driveway behind Amy Parks Elementary
- The Terry Park Wall Repair
- Utility Relocations for the second phase of widening FM 740, the main corridor through our City

We will begin working on other city projects in 2015, and we expect the State of Texas to begin work on the widening of the southern section of FM 740 in early 2015. You can find a complete list of the CIP projects on the City's website and an interactive map showing project locations and details.

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

We have also made progress in continuing the high quality residential development that has been such an attraction to families living in Heath.

While residential development is driven by developers, this process has also

involved citizen input, with some lengthy planning and zoning and council meetings as we reach consensus on what is best for the future of Heath. The fact is there is tremendous demand for homes in our community, and we are fortunate to have developers and citizen volunteers who are committed to guiding our City to high quality growth.

The progress we have seen in our residential sector includes continued development of existing developments like Stoneleigh and Heathland Crossing, and the approval of new developments including McCrummen Estates, The Sanctuary, Providence, Ridge Lakes and Heath Golf & Yacht Club.

We anticipate additional residential growth in 2015, and we will continue to welcome citizen input as we shape the growth of our community with the Comprehensive Plan as our guide.

COMMERCIAL GROWTH

We are working to attract distinctive commercial development that provides convenience for our residents, without altering the culture of our City.

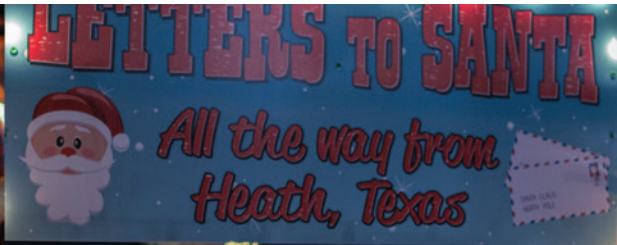
This year we approved development of a CVS Pharmacy, the first national retailer to locate in Heath. The store is located in the retail center located at FM 740 and FM 1140/Heathland Crossing and is expected to open in January of 2015. Bringing CVS to Heath is consistent with our economic development goal to secure high quality businesses that enhance our resident's quality of life and diversify our tax base.

Other commercial developments during 2014 include the Collier, *Living Magazine* and Omni buildings along Horizon Road. Additionally, a lease agreement has been finalized with Great Eventures, and we are looking forward to them building a beautiful venue to host events in Heath.

The Council adopted the Economic Development Corporation's new recommended Street Sign Design and awarded a contract to a manufacturer. The street sign program will contribute to the quality look and feel we want for our community.

The success of our existing businesses is equally important, and we enjoy highlighting our local partners in the City's newsletter and online.

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ACCOLADES

This year we have also had recognition of some of our accomplishments along the way...

- The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) for the fourth consecutive year.
- The Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 2014.
- The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year received an unqualified opinion, which is the best of the four types of opinions that the City could have received.
- The addition of the new northern water tower, upgraded water delivery infrastructure, Heath DPS resources and strong building codes and enforcement resulted in an improvement of the City's ISO insurance rating, which should result in lower insurance premiums for residents.
- Heath was ranked the 14th Best Suburb out of 63 by *D Magazine*.
- Standard & Poor's Rating Services gave Heath's bonds a rating of AA+.

HONORS

Our City would not have been able to accomplish any of these matters without the hard work of our City staff and many volunteers, and I would be remiss not to give credit to their efforts.

Outgoing City Councilmember Julie Zurek was honored for more than 20 years of dedicated service during a Farewell Reception hosted by the City of Heath on June 10. Additionally, Dennis Conder (P&Z) and Alma Williams Howard, Cyndi Pitman and Dan Bobst (EDC) were honored for their distinguished service to the City.

Councilmember Brian Berry took the oath of office to serve another two-year term, and new Councilmember Joe Chamberlain was elected this year.

Heath City Manager Ed Thatcher was named 2014 Member of the Year by the Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse. He also earned the 35-Year Service Award from the Texas City Managers Association.

Councilman Rich Krause was one of 60 elected or appointed City officials from around the State of Texas who earned the Leadership Fellow of the Texas Municipal League distinction.

CELEBRATING

Amidst all of this activity, this year we continued our community traditions with our annual Independence Day Parade; Heart of Heath 5K, with the new Bunny Dash for Easter Eggs; and the enhanced Holiday in the Park event.

Finally, it was my great honor to be re-elected as Mayor. As we move into 2015, I pledge to our citizens that I will continue to do my best to make our great City of Heath an even better place to work, live and raise a family.

I pray that God blesses each of you during your upcoming holiday festivities and throughout the New Year.

- Mayor Liechty



Heath Welcomes the Holiday Season

It was a spectacular night as the community welcomed Christmas to Heath at the City's Annual Holiday in the Park. Even a sudden rain shower that drove Santa inside to the Amy Parks Elementary Cafeteria to visit with the children didn't dampen the spirits of close to 1,000 attendees who came out to enjoy the food trucks, activity booths and live music.

The City thanks everyone who made the evening possible:

- Student Performers
 - The Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band and Infinity Pop Choir
 - Amy Parks and Pullen Elementary School Honor Choirs
- Volunteers including the RHHS cheerleaders and many students
- Atmos Energy for the complementary cocoa
- National Charity League and Rockwall Women's League for home baked Christmas cookies
- Artstream Mobile Art Studio for complementary crafts
- Special Events Board - Mike Rask, chair; Sarah Corrigan; Tami Hogan; Jenni Knox; Mary Luxton; Eliana McGrath; and Carolyn Walthers.
- City staff including Public Works and Heath DPS

Watch for more details on 2015 events and sponsorship opportunities at www.heathtx.com or www.facebook.com/HeathTX. Or contact Suzanne Brooke at sbrooke@heathtx.com.

City Updates

BRUSH COLLECTION UPDATE

Progressive, the City's waste collection service provider, has worked diligently to respond to the high volume of brush to be collected due to the October 2 wind storm, and your patience has been greatly appreciated.

The free post-storm collection offered will continue through December 31. At that time, the standard brush collection policy will resume. That policy provides free collection for up to 3 cubic yards of brush. Anything over 3 cubic yards will be charged \$10 per cubic yard. If you have questions, please contact the City at 972-771-6228.