



FALL IS A GREAT SEASON FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The City of Heath Public Works Department has been putting in extra effort to get the baseball and soccer fields at Towne Center Park ready for the fall season. Reserve fields for your team practice by calling 972-961-4892. All ball fields are \$10 an hour and an extra \$10 an hour for lights. It's the best deal in town!

FALL IS ALSO A BUSY TIME IN HEATH! HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

**OCT
1**

New City Budget Effective

The City of Heath Council adopted a final budget at its meeting on September 22 that will become effective October 1. You can view the budget and updated fee schedule at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department. See more about water usage and rates on side 2.

**OCT
4-10**

National Fire Prevention Week

Heath DPS shares steps for preventing fire on page 2.

**OCT
15**

Kick-Off Meeting for the City's Comprehensive Plan Update

The City is updating its Comprehensive Plan and wants your input at the project Kick-Off Meeting on October 15 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. This planning effort will provide goals, recommendations and action items for the City's growth and development for the next 10 to 20 years. The plan will address demographics, land use, community livability, and the proposed Heath Village concept. The plan will incorporate realistic recommendations and strategies that will continue to help shape the City's growth and redevelopment. The process, led by urban planning consultants Freese and Nichols, Inc., will last approximately nine months.

Contact Kim Dobbs at kdobbs@heathtx.com or visit the project website at clients.freese.com/heath for up-to-date information to learn how you can participate in planning your City's future.

**OCT
15**

TxDOT Public Meeting on FM 740 Widening Project

TxDOT representatives and Rockwall County Commissioner Lee Gilbert will provide an update and answer questions about the FM 740 widening project now underway from FM 1140 north to FM 1140 south. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at Heath City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr. This is another good opportunity to learn more about what's happening in your community.

**OCT
18**

U.S. Open Triathlon Comes through Heath

The bike segment of the U.S. Open Triathlon will travel through Heath on October 18. The race is from 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and streets will start to be affected as early as 4 a.m. Event organizers have been in communication with Heath churches and Homeowner Associations regarding the race route and traffic patterns since late summer. You can view the route map at www.heathtx.com under the News menu. Please allow an extra 20 to 30 minutes to get where you need to go between 6 a.m. and noon on October 18.

DISCOUNTS FOR HEATH RESIDENTS

This year the event will also feature a 5k run, and Heath residents who participate in either event will receive a discount. Register at www.usopen-triathlon.com and insert the following codes:

- \$5 Discount on the 5k: HEATH5
- \$10 Discount on the Triathlon: HEATH10

Calendar continued on page 2...

NOV
11

Honoring Our Veterans

The Veteran's Day Committee that includes Heath DPS Chief Terry Garrett will present a special program honoring our veterans at the Utley Performing Arts Center from 7 to 8 p.m. More information will be published as it becomes available, or contact Chairman Tom Galli at thomasjgalli@gmail.com.

NOV
14

City Sponsors Free E-Waste Collection

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 14, 9 a.m. to noon at Maurine Cain Middle School, 6620 FM 549.

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.

DEC
4

Food! Fun!! Santa!! Holiday in the Park Kicks Off Christmas



The Annual Heath Holiday in the Park is Friday, December 4, with the Christmas Tree lighting and musical performances at 6:30 p.m. There will be food trucks, kids' activities, a miniature train ride, Mrs. Claus' complimentary cocoa and cookies, and of course, Santa! So mark your calendar now and watch for more details about this Heath tradition held in Towne Center Park.

DEC
31

Alarm Permits Expire

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, 2016. 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 under the *Newsletter Quick Links menu*, or obtained at City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCT. 4-10

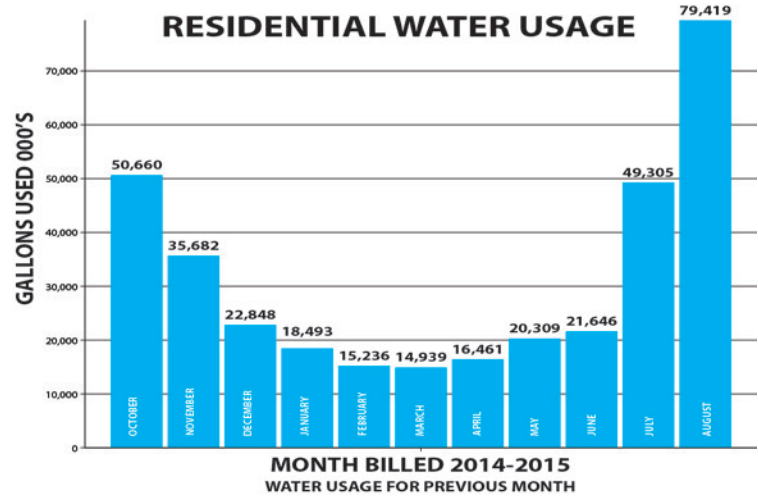
HEATH DPS SHARES STEPS FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN YOUR HOME:

- Have properly working smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly; change the batteries when you turn the clocks back on November 1.
- Place smoke alarms on each floor of your home and in each bedroom.
- Plan a family escape route and practice it once a month.
- Place fire extinguishers throughout your home and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use them.

Learn more at www.nsc.org.

CITY OF HEATH WATER CUSTOMERS:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SERVICE AND RATES



Residential water usage soared with the hot and dry weather of late summer. You can find out the major sources of water usage around your house and use an online calculator to project your water usage in the coming months by visiting www.heathtx.com/save-water.

WATER FAQs

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 budget for 2015-2016 includes an increase of 23 cents per 1,000 gallons at all water usage levels. This increase is necessary to cover the 23 cent increase being charged to the City of Heath by its supplier, the City of Rockwall, as a result of the increase by NTMWD.

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.

You can find more information about the NTMWD and its current and planned water sources at www.ntmwd.com.