



**CITY OF HEATH**  
**JANUARY 2016**



City of Heath Council and Staff wish all Residents a

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



## A Message from Mayor Lorne Liechty

As 2015 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 events and accomplishments.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS

The Capital Improvement Plan adopted in January 2014 provides more than \$20 million in investments that benefit the entire city with improvements to the City's roads, trails, parks, public utilities and other infrastructure. An overview of our progress is listed on the reverse side of this newsletter, and you can view a detailed interactive CIP map at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

#### TxDOT FM 740 Project

TxDOT began the construction phase of the FM-740 widening project from FM 1140 north to FM 1140 south in July. This is an important project that will have a positive impact upon Heath. As the project has progressed, I have received questions about the timing of its completion. Although work has been slower than we would like due to weather delays and the extra time needed to acquire right of way and move utilities, the contractor continues to expect a completion date in the winter of 2017. Thank you for your patience!

#### Comprehensive Plan Update

The 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update Committee kicked off its work in October, and in November welcomed more than 70 citizens at the Community Open House. During the meeting, residents had the opportunity to share their personal vision, questions and concerns about the future of Heath. Citizen input will continue to be collected through additional online surveys that you will be reminded to take through notices in our City newsletter, and Facebook and Twitter.

The information gathered will be reviewed as the committee makes recommendations for updating the Comprehensive Plan. This important planning tool, first created in 1995 and updated in 2008, guides the City's growth and development over the next 10 to 20 years by representing the vision of what citizens want the City to become, and sets forth policies that allow the City to realize the vision.

### RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

While residential development is driven by developers, the process also involves citizen input, and we've had some lengthy Planning and Zoning and City Council meetings to reach a consensus on what is best for the future of Heath. There is tremendous demand for homes in our community, and we are fortunate to have developers, builders and citizen volunteers who are committed to guiding our City to high quality development. We will continue to welcome citizen input as we shape the growth of our community with the updated Comprehensive Plan as our guide.

### COMMERCIAL GROWTH

We are also working hard to attract distinctive commercial development that provides convenience for our residents and expands the tax base, without altering the culture of our City. This year we celebrated the Grand Opening of CVS Pharmacy, the first national retailer to open a store in Heath. CVS has provided shopping convenience for Heath residents, and has been a welcome addition to our community.

The City Council recently approved an application requesting a change from agricultural to planned development for local retail on 14.8 acres located at FM 740, FM 549 and FM 550. The developer presented a conceptual plan with a stated goal to create a "unique" shopping experience with a grocery-anchored center that features green space, a water feature and walking paths. We continue to look forward to this vision becoming a reality.

We also welcomed several new independent, locally owned businesses like Rockwall Counseling, Roli Q's Unique Boutique and Southern Belle Salon, and we celebrated the Ground-breaking for Hidden Creek, a new 8,000 square-foot special events facility located on five of the 25 acres owned by the Heath Municipal Development Corporation along Chris Cuny Parkway. Hidden Creek will be a beautiful venue to host weddings, reunions and corporate functions right here in Heath.

Last year, the Heath EDC and City Council also adopted a new Street Sign Design and awarded a contract to a sign manufacturer. Now, attractive new signs are appearing all over town. These distinctive signs contribute to the quality look and feel we want for our community.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

As always, we are very concerned about being wise and careful stewards of our taxpayer's dollars. I am pleased to note that for the sixth consecutive year, the City received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA).

We also earned the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 2015. Additionally, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CARF) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year received an unqualified opinion, which is the best of the four types of opinions that the City could have received.

### GATHERED TO CELEBRATE

Amidst all of this activity, we continued our community traditions with record participation at the annual Independence Day Parade and Patriotic Celebration in the Park; Fun & Fit in the Park, featuring the Heart of Heath 5k and Family Run; and the Holiday in the Park Christmas Tree lighting event.

As we move into 2016, I pledge that your City Council and staff will continue to work hard to make our great City of Heath an even better place to work, live and raise a family.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor in 2015; it has been a tremendous honor and privilege. I pray that God blesses each of you during your upcoming holiday festivities and throughout the New Year.

*Lorne O. Liechty - Mayor, City of Heath*



## CIP PROJECT UPDATES

### COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE:

- Shepherds Glen Force Main and Gravity Sewer
- Woodbridge Lift Station
- Country Club Drive Rehabilitation
- Amy Parks Driveway (Towne Center Park)
- Stoneleigh Pedestrian Crossing
- Water and Sanitary Sewer Relocation for Second Phase of TxDOT FM-740 Widening
- Safe Routes to School Sidewalks and Trails
- Buffalo Creek Trail Repair along Horizon Road
- New Lake Wall at Terry Park, plus 22 New Trees Planted, Improved Turf, Upgraded Parking Control and Re-stripped Parking Lot
- Multiple Utility Improvements to Facilitate Current and Future Residential and Commercial Development
- 15 Streets included in the Ongoing Citywide Street Repair Program
- Towne Center Baseball Rehabilitated at 50% Less than the Anticipated Cost; Additional Park Improvements included a New Bike Repair Station, Improved Turf and a New Wrought Iron Fence around the Front Soccer Field along Laurence Drive
- Graded and Added Electricity to Antigua Bay Park
- Improved Drainage at Locations throughout Town including Yankee Creek and The Ridge

### PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Dennis Bailey Drive/Rabbit Ridge Phase 1 - *Under Design (Adjacent to Ridge Lakes Subdivision)*
- Rabbit Ridge Phase 2 - *Under Design and Right of Way Acquisition Begun (Ridge Lakes Subdivision to FM-550 - Includes 12" Water Line)*
- McDonald Rd. Improvements Phase 1 - *Under Design (FM-550 to Stoneleigh Subdivision Connection)*
- Myers/Crisp Roadway Improvements - *Under Design and Right of Way Acquisition Begun*
- Rabbit Ridge and Horizon Rd. Extension - *Under Design (Adjacent to Cobblestone Subdivision)*
- Jeff Boyd Water Line - *Engineering Complete; Waiting For Easement*
- CIP Street Repair Project Phase 2 -- *Bids Received (11 Streets- Various Locations)*

A savings of approximately \$1 million to date from original budget estimates for 2014 CIP projects enabled the completion of previously unfunded projects including:

- Lighting for the City Hall Parking Lot
- Additional Streets in the Ongoing Citywide Street Repair Program



## 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. A record crowd enjoyed the food trucks, activity booths, miniature train rides, complimentary cocoa and cookies, photo booth and photos with Santa, and wonderful live music performed by our talented students. You can watch the highlights video and see photos at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) and [www.facebook.com/HeathTX](http://www.facebook.com/HeathTX).

The City Thanks Everyone Who Worked Hard to Present Holiday in the Park:

### Student Performers

- The Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band, Directed by Jonathon Morsinkoff
- Cain Middle School Orchestra, Directed by Marc Allison
- Amy Parks Elementary School Honor Choir, Directed by Jan Stonestreet
- Pullen Elementary School Honor Choir, Directed by Chris Ghormley

### Volunteers

- RHHS Cheerleaders, Athletes And Parents
- National Charity League and Rockwall Women's League for Home Baked Christmas Cookies

### Participants

- Artstream Mobile Art Studio for Complimentary Crafts
- Dr. Scott Quinby/North Texas Orthopaedic Specialists - Host of the Complimentary Photo Booth
- Pastor Omar Rikabi, First United Methodist Church of Heath
- Alison Grundelman, 2015-2015 National Ambassador from National American Miss

### Staff and Workers

- City Staff including Public Works and Heath DPS
- Special Project Construction Team of Cain Coaches Brad Fichtel and Chad Ashby

### The City of Heath Special Events Board...

Sarah Corrigan; Tami Hogan; Neely Holland, Jenni Knox; and Mary Luxton with Volunteer Coordinators Lisa Misheck and Julie Berg

And a Final Thank You to Our 2015 Special Events Sponsors:

### HOST SPONSOR – Lakeside Chevrolet

### Presenting Sponsors

American National Bank of Texas; Artsteam Mobile Art Studio; Atmos Energy; Chase Bank; Dental Professionals of Rockwall; Heath Salon & Spa; Horton & Archibald, a Professional Corporation; LiechtyMcGinnis, Attorneys & Counselors; North Texas Orthopedic Specialists & Dr. Scott Quinby; and Suddenlink.

### Supporting Sponsors

Juice It Up; Justin Holland, Regal Realtors; Karen Wydra, Ebby Halliday, Realtors; Oncor; Pabian Partners, Inc.; Progressive Waste Solutions; Rockwall Cycling/PlayTri; Smoothie King; Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital; and Urban Air Trampoline Park.

Watch for more details on 2016 events and sponsorship opportunities at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) or [www.facebook.com/HeathTX](http://www.facebook.com/HeathTX). Or contact Suzanne Brooke at [sbrooke@heathtx.com](mailto:sbrooke@heathtx.com), 972-658-0729.