



# CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



August 2016



## City of Heath Celebrates Independence Day with Parade & Patriotic Celebration in the Park

The festivities may have been delayed an hour thanks to some rain and lightening on our parade, but the patriotic enthusiasm was as strong as ever once the citizen's celebration of Independence Day got underway. Despite the wet start, all of the parade favorites including the RHHS band, drill team and cheerleaders, Rockwall Sherriff's Posse and so many residents with fun and creative floats, participated in the City's annual event.

Afterwards, Mayor Brian Berry presented the parade awards and honored attending veterans; Heath First United Methodist Church Pastor Omar Rikabi led the invocation; and Boy Scout Troop 989 presented the colors and led the pledge of allegiance. A live barbershop quartet sang the national anthem and other American favorites, while everyone enjoyed free popsicles and mini blueberry and cherry pies. A highlights video can be viewed at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).

### The 2016 parade award winners are:

1. Classic Car: Don Kirkland
2. Bicycle: Riley Cook
3. Wagon/Stroller: Stella Rae Lawrence
4. Golf Cart: Richard & Holly Guest
5. Off Road Vehicle: Sienna Guissio
6. Best Float: Rush Creek Yacht Club
7. Most Spirited: HHCA Football & Cheerleaders
8. Best Costume: Rod Holland Real Estate
9. Most Creative: The Keith Family
10. Mayor's Award For Best Entry: Hot Doggin' in Heath

The City thanks the Special Events Board, sponsors, volunteers, Heath DPS and City staff who make community celebrations like the Independence Day Parade and Patriotic Program in the Park possible.



### Correction

The City of Heath newsletter of June 2016 and City blogs of June 8 and June 15 credited Justin Holland with winning the May 24 Republican Primary Runoff for House District 33 and erroneously stated that "he will serve the citizens of Rockwall County and portions of Collin County in the Texas Legislature." This statement created the impression that Holland secured the seat for the Texas House of Representatives on May 24, which he did not. He will face Democratic opponent Karen Jacobs in the November 8 General Election. Jacobs is also a long-time resident of Heath and retired Program Director from Raytheon. City communications staff extends its sincere apology for this error.

### Notify Me

The easiest way to be involved in your community is to follow Council agendas and attend meetings! Go to [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) to sign up for Notify Me. You will find the form on the front page. Once you have signed up, you will receive email notifications when agendas are posted, including those for City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission.



## Heath Rated 14th Safest Place to Live in Texas

Heath has been ranked the 14th Safest Place to Live in Texas in a survey conducted by Alarm System Reviews. The national company uses completed data available from the FBI to compile and analyze source data to identify the safest places to live in each state, including Texas.

“We are extremely proud of having a low crime rate, especially considering our proximity to larger more populated areas with higher crime rates,” says Heath DPS Chief Terry Garrett. “Our team of officers take very seriously the safety of our community. However, it can’t be done alone. We have a great partnership with the citizens in the community and rely on their input and vigilance in keeping this a safe place to live and work. As Rockwall County continues to be one of the fastest growing areas of the state, we will have to continue to look for effective ways to maintain a safe community.”

You can see the complete survey results at:  
<https://www.alarmsystemreviews.com/30-safest-places-texas-2016>

## Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Continues its Work



In October 2015, the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee began meeting to discuss updates to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Several meetings have occurred since then, including a meeting with public participation on November 12. More than 70 citizens attended to share their input to be considered by the Committee, as it plans for the next five-year period.

The Committee has met on multiple occasions since October 2015 with and without the Comprehensive Plan consultant, Freese & Nichols, to discuss and document their edits to the Plan’s goals and objectives. One of these meetings included a session with the Park Board to receive input on their thoughts regarding park planning and trails.

Additionally, a public opinion survey was prepared and placed on the City website to offer citizens, who could not attend the meeting, an opportunity to provide their input. The survey was published on the City’s website, social media and at the Heart of Heath 5k and Family Run.

The consultant is now compiling information gathered from these meetings and the citizen survey to prepare a 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update draft that will be presented to the public at a second Community Open house in September. The date and time will be published on the City’s website as soon as it is set.

Once a final, suggested plan is approved by the Committee, it will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council in a public hearing and consideration of adoption. Stay tuned on this important endeavor!

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: A SHOUT OUT TO A HOMETOWN BUSINESS!



Last fall, members of the Heath City Council, Heath Economic Development Corporation and Rockwall County Chamber celebrated the ground breaking of Hidden Creek, the 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.

Hailed as a model for private-public partnerships, and a win-win for everyone involved, Hidden Creek construction is moving towards completion in the Fall. Representatives of the business have had great interest in the facility and have already booked numerous weddings and other gatherings including reunions and meetings.

The charming Texas-style venue will be situated on manicured grounds with lush gardens and landscaping to create a Hill Country feel. A full scope of services for weddings, corporate functions and celebrations of all kinds include high-tech A/V systems, a stage for live bands and DJ’s, and large dance floor.

“With all of these amenities and flexibility, Hidden Creek can handle every type of event, large or small,” said Isaac Mathai, owner/director of Hidden Creek. “No matter what the occasion, our team is well prepared and equipped to create wonderful memories.”

To learn more about Hidden Creek, visit [www.hiddencreekevents.com](http://www.hiddencreekevents.com) or email them [info@hiddencreekevents.com](mailto:info@hiddencreekevents.com).

## TxDOT Project Update

City of Heath representatives attend meetings held periodically by TxDOT to update its stakeholders on the various projects occurring in the region, including Phase 2 of the widening of FM 740 through Heath.

The following information was shared on this project at the July meeting:

- The project contractor anticipates starting paving the section of FM 740 from the CVS to the Shell gas station in mid-September.
- Paving and clean-up of this section should take approximately three months.
- Upon completion, traffic will be moved to the new pavement, and the other side of the road will be constructed.
- All projections of work and the timing are weather dependent.

## City Mosquito Surveillance/Abatement Program

The City continues to trap and test mosquitoes for the West Nile Virus on a weekly basis. You can find the results and tips on how to protect yourself and your family at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).