



HERE COMES SANTA!

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK IS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2



Everything is in place for another spectacular City of Heath Holiday in the Park, to be hosted in Towne Center Park on Friday, December 2 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Count down with the crowd as the City “flips the switch” on its beautiful Christmas Tree at 7 p.m. The program will feature the Amy Parks and Dorothy Pullen Elementary School Honor Choirs, plus the Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band.
- Have dinner in the Winter Village, featuring food trucks; a cozy outdoor dining area warmed by holiday lights; rides on two miniature trains; activity booths for the kids, including a Christmas craft presented by Arstream Mobile Art Studio; and a holiday photo booth, sponsored by Milestone Electric. Be sure to get there in time to hear the Cain Middle School Orchestra serenade diners from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.
- Warm up with complimentary hot cocoa and coffee throughout the evening, while Mrs. Claus and her elves serve complimentary Christmas cookies, home baked and donated by the National Charity League and Rockwall Women’s League.
- Tis’ the season to give, so Rockwall County Helping Hands’ elves will also be onsite to collect your new unwrapped toys or cash contributions for those kiddos who could use your cheer this year.
- Treat yourself to a stop at the Heath Holiday Shoppe, where you can purchase the Second Edition 2016 Heath Christmas Ornament and Spirit Wear T-shirt.

Of course, the star of the evening is Santa. After his grand arrival during the Christmas Tree Lighting program, he will visit with each child in his vintage sleigh, nestled in a picture perfect scene. Be sure to bring the cameras (or phone) and dress for the weather.

Find more details online:
www.heathtx.com and www.facebook.com/HeathTX

City Council Approves 2016-2017 Fiscal Budget with Reduction in Tax Rate

At the regular meeting on September 20, City Council adopted a balanced budget that reduces the tax rate for Heath citizens while funding the addition of a new Public Safety Officer, a Streets and Parks Maintenance staff member and a Parks Action Plan for improving and expanding the City’s parks system.

The budget was prepared with a tax rate of 41.7311 cents per \$100 of property value. This is a reduction of 0.9289 cents per \$100 from the current rate of 42.66 cents.

“I want to thank my fellow City Council members and staff for their hard work on the budget, as well as the many citizens who gave us valuable input,” said Mayor Brian Berry. “I’m very excited that we were able to lower the tax rate, and at the same time address important needs.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016-2017 BUDGET INCLUDE:

1. General Operating Budget of \$6,289,500
2. Total Assessed Value of \$1,407,784,869
3. One Additional Public Safety Officer
4. New Streets and Parks Maintenance Position
5. Parks Action Plan for Improving and Expanding City Park System
6. Equipment for Utilities Department

“Wise stewardship of our budget combined with an investment in current and future Capital Improvements Plans is critical as we continue to oversee quality development as we manage essentially the doubling of rooftops in Heath in the coming years,” added Mayor Berry.

The City’s fiscal year for 2017 began October 1. The final budget can be viewed at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department page.



**We Got the GOLD!
CITY OF HEATH EARNS PROMINENT
SCENIC CITY RE-CERTIFICATION AND UPGRADE**

The City of Heath was not only re-certified as a Texas Scenic City in 2016, but was upgraded from Silver to Gold status.

The new designation was presented at a reception held during the Texas Municipal League's 2016 Annual Conference in Austin in October. Mayor Brian Berry (front center) along with Councilmembers Rich Krause (front left) and John Main (front right) accepted the honor presented by Scenic City representatives (back).

Scenic City Texas' certification program recognizes Texas municipalities that implement high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces. Once the certification is earned, cities must re-apply every five years and be evaluated by over 70 strict criteria ranging from sign, lighting, litter and graffiti ordinances to parks, trails and open spaces.

Other D/FW area cities earning the certification in 2016 included Fort Worth, Frisco, Fairview, Cedar Hill, Denton and North Richland Hills. Only 66 cities statewide have earned this distinction.

Veteran's Day Program
Friday, November 11, 7 p.m.
UTLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
1201 T.L. TOWNSEND, ROCKWALL
Presented by Rockwall County, Supported by the Terry Fisher American Legion Post 117

All Veterans and those who want to show their support and honor those who have served our country are encouraged to attend this program, featuring the Rockwall High School Orchestra, Rockwall Children's Choir and Rockwall Police Department Honor Guard. The program will last approximately one hour.

City Sponsors Free E-Waste Collection
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9 A.M. – NOON
Rockwall-Heath High School 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. Document shredding will also be available, and you can donate reading glasses to the Lion's Club. For more information: 972-524-0007 or eco@trashbusters.org.

HEATH BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
ELITE SUITES PET RESORT

The holidays are just around the corner, and so is a great pet care facility if you will be traveling. Located at 10 Hope Drive in Heath, Elite Suites Pet Resort promises "The Gold Paw Standard" for all of your dog's needs.

Luxurious hotel accommodations include private suites with color televisions, posturpedic beds, spacious outside exercise facilities and web-cameras so you can check on your fur baby while you're away.

Elite Suites also offers a pampered grooming salon and gourmet bakery and boutique. According to owners, the pet resort is dedicated to "quality that exceeds our pet owners' expectations at every level."

Who knows? Maybe Santa Paws will even make a stop at this premier pet getaway on Christmas Eve. Learn more at www.elitesuites.com

ANNUAL REGISTRATION REMINDERS
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ALARM
PERMITS EXPIRE ON 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 the operation of the system. All alarm systems should be registered or renewed by January 1, 2017. The permit is good for a calendar year. A penalty of \$200 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. A renewal form is included with this month's utility bill/newsletter. You can also electronically submit or download the form at www.heathtx.com under the Department of Public Safety menu or obtain a hard copy at City Hall.

If you have questions, please contact Customer Service at 972-771-6228.

DOGS

Dog registrations also 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.

THANKING OUR 2016 SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS:

