



# CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2017  
March

# CITY OF HEATH GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6

## HEATH MAYOR BRIAN BERRY HOSTS OPEN OFFICE HOURS AT CITY HALL

Mayor Brian Berry will host open office hours each month, with the first session scheduled for March 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Heath City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr. If you would like to visit with the Mayor one-on-one about City matters that are important to you and your family, please make an appointment at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

The City of Heath has called an election to be held on May 6 for the purpose of electing four City Council Members - one each for Places 1, 2, 4 and 6. Terms for all elected Heath City Council Members are for a period of two years.

- The City of Heath’s municipal election will again be administered by the Rockwall County Elections Administrator, as has been done in past years. Early voting at Heath City Hall is scheduled for Monday, April 24 through Tuesday, May 2 (excluding Sunday).
- Election Day voting will be held Saturday, May 6 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Heath City Hall.
- The deadline to register to vote in the May 6 General Election is April 6.

The Elections Administrator’s Office is located at 915 Whitmore Dr., Suite D, Rockwall, TX 75087. Please direct questions regarding ballots by mail, voter registration, designated voting locations, voter identification requirements, absentee voting, precincts, etc. to the county elections office by calling (972) 204-6200 or visiting [www.rockwallvotes.com/voter-information/current-election-info](http://www.rockwallvotes.com/voter-information/current-election-info).

### HEATH FAQs: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

You can find more facts about many topics of importance to the Heath community at [www.heathtx.com/faqs](http://www.heathtx.com/faqs)

### THE PLANNING AND ZONING PROCESS - HOW DOES IT WORK?

#### What is Zoning?

Zoning designates legal areas in a municipality to permit and prohibit specific land uses. Zoning is a technique of land-use planning used by local governments in most developed countries.

There are a great variety of zoning types, some of which focus on regulating building form and the relation of buildings to the street with mixed-uses, known as form-based, others with separating land uses, known as use-based or a combination thereof.

Similar urban planning methods have dictated the use of various areas for particular purposes in many cities from ancient times.

Heath’s Land Use Map illustrates the current and future land use within the City and the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of the City, while Heath’s Zoning Map illustrates zoning districts and the Zoning Ordinance contains the specific regulations governing allowed uses, parking requirements, height, setbacks, landscaping and other items.

#### Who can Request Rezoning?

Only three entities may initiate a rezoning:

1. The property owner
2. The Heath Planning and Zoning Commission
3. The Heath City Council

#### What is the Process for Re-zoning a Property?

When a property owner submits a rezoning request to the City, several actions are taken:

1. The City places a sign on the property advertising the requested zoning change 10 days prior to the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.
2. City planning staff review and discuss the request with the applicant as to its conformance with the Comprehensive Plan, Thoroughfare Plan and other adopted guidelines of the city. Staff then formulates a recommendation to the Planning & Zoning Commission for approval or denial based on this review.
3. Written notices of the public hearing before the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council are sent to all property owners within 200 feet of the property to be rezoned, as required by state law. The notice includes a response letter that can be sent back registering the property owner’s support or opposition to the case.
4. The Planning & Zoning Commission holds a public hearing at their regular meeting, and anyone can get up and speak for or against the case. The Commission may recommend approval, denial, or to table a zoning request. If the Commission recommends approval, the case is automatically scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council. If the Commission denies a request, the recommendation is sent forward to the City Council and requires a three-fourth majority vote for approval.
5. Notice of the public hearing before the City Council is published in the newspaper at least 15 days in advance of the hearing. The City Council will hold the public hearing, and may approve, deny, or table the applicant’s request.

#### Are there Special Types of Zoning?

PD: A planned development (PD) district is most often used when an applicant’s proposal does not fit neatly into the City’s existing Zoning Ordinance. The creation of a planned development district results in special restrictions or allowances that are only applicable within that particular district.

CUP: Conditional Use Permits (CUP) are also a specialized form of zoning. A CUP allows a use that may be appropriate in some locations in a given district but not all.

## HEATH FAQs: ZONING CONTINUED...

### How can Property Owners get Involved?

Citizens are invited to attend Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, regularly scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Citizens are also encouraged to attend City Council meetings, regularly scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Sign up for "Notify Me" at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com), and you will receive an email alert when agendas are posted for these meetings.

Specific questions and concerns regarding zoning and development should be addressed to City staff at (972) 961-4875

### Tips for Presentations before the Planning & Zoning Commission & City Council

Homeowner groups should designate two or three representatives to speak on their behalf, rather than have 50 people say the same thing repeatedly. It is much more effective to ask your group to stand to show opposition or support.

## POPULATION GROWTH - WHAT'S THE PROJECTION FOR HEATH?

Heath's population is currently 8,300 - give or take a few, depending upon the data source cited. The build-out population is projected to be 25,000 residents. The term "build-out" means when the space for residential development has been depleted.

### How Does this Compare the Rest of North Texas?

- The North Texas total population will gain nearly 3 million residents between 2015 and 2030 for a 38% increase.
- Collin County will lead North Texas in population growth from 2015 to 2030 with an 80% increase to 1,712,183 residents.
- Rockwall County follows with a 76% increase from 95,829 residents in 2015 to 168,455 by 2030.
- Denton County comes in third with a 74% and Kaufman County is fourth with a 73% increase.
- Two counties in North Texas, Cottle and Foard, are projected to lose residents from 2015 to 2030.

### Data Sources:

[www.texascounties.net/statistics/regions.htm](http://www.texascounties.net/statistics/regions.htm)  
<http://osd.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP>  
[www.lawstarter.com](http://www.lawstarter.com)

## FUN & FIT IN THE PARK IS EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 15: FEATURING HEART OF HEATH 5K, 1-MILE FAMILY RUN

The City of Heath's traditional Easter Saturday celebration on April 15 includes the Heart of Heath 5k, and the 1-Mile Family Run with awards for the Top 3 boys and Top 3 girls!

### What to expect:

- USATF Certified 5k course with chip-timed start and finish lines
- 5k awards for Top 3 overall plus Top 3 males and females in each age bracket
- 1-Mile Family Run integrated into the 5k, with same start and finish lines
- Family Run awards for Top 3 boys and Top 3 girls
- Long-sleeve dri-fit T-shirts for run participants while supplies last
- Giant-size games like chess, checkers, Jenga and Connect 4
- A kids' Easter craft provided by Artstream Mobile Art Studio
- Complimentary healthy treats including mini-fruit smoothies from Smoothie King and fresh-made juice from Juice It Up
- Prize drawings for registered runners
- The Easter Bunny...bring your camera!

The fun begins rain or shine in Towne Center Park with a runners' warm up at 8 a.m.; the Family Run starts at 8:15; 5k at 8:30 a.m.; and awards and prizes at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit Heath's parks and trails. Find more details and register online for the runs at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com), where you can also find severe weather updates if needed for this event.



## CITIZENS DOING GOOD THINGS... MR. JOE FOX

Heath resident Joe Fox has been named to the Board of Directors for the North Texas Crime Commission. Formerly the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, the NTCC was established in 1950 and provides a forum for the exchange of information between local law enforcement and federal agencies such as the F.B.I., D.E.A. and the U.S. Marshals service.

With public support being critical to its success, the NTCC maintains the North Texas Crime Stoppers reward program and the North Texas Campus Crime Stoppers, which allows students to anonymously report criminal activity on their campuses. NTCC also provides support to law enforcement for advanced training equipment and community based training and intervention.

Mr. Fox is a West Point graduate and spent five years on active duty as an Army Officer. His daughter Kim, also a Heath resident, is currently on active duty as an Army Officer and veterinarian. Mr. Fox and all of his family have been personally supportive of the Heath Department of Public Safety, and we congratulate him on this service achievement!

*If you know of a Heath citizen making a significant contribution through a civic or charitable organization, let us know at [sbrooke@heathtx.com](mailto:sbrooke@heathtx.com) so that their work can be recognized.*

## ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Do your part to help Keep Heath's Waterway's Clean! Be on the lookout for pollutants that can damage our natural environment. If you see any illicit/illegal discharges into our inlets, storm sewers, lakes, creeks and streams, please report by calling 972-961-4880.

Types of Illicit/illegal discharges: Chlorinated backwash and draining associated with swimming pools, fertilizers, pesticides, lawn/landscape waste, household toxins, Industrial discharges, oil, anti-freeze, paint, cleaning fluids, sanitary sewer discharges, septic tank discharges, wash waters from commercial/industrial activities and washing machine discharges.



Learn more about the City of Heath's Storm Water Management Program on our website under Department/Public Works/Storm Water Management.

### EVENT SPONSORS



- Ebby Halliday, Realtors – Karen Wydra
- Juice It Up
- Oncor
- Progressive Waste
- Regal Realtors – Justin Holland
- Shannon's Farms
- Smoothie King
- Texas Health Presbyterian
- Urban Air