



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2017
July



CELEBRATE FREEDOM

City of Heath Independence Day Parade & Patriotic Celebration In the Park - July 4 | 9 am

VETERANS FLOAT

The City of Heath invites veterans and active members from any branch of the U.S. Military to ride in the parade on the Veterans Float. The float will be parked in the fire bay at City Hall, 200 Laurence. Please arrive by 8:15 a.m. and enjoy coffee, donuts and camaraderie with fellow veterans. The City thanks John Holmsley and Bob Quimby for providing the trailer for our veterans year after year, and the National Charity League mother/daughter teams for decorating the float so beautifully.

PARADE AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best Community/Business Float
- Best HOA/Neighborhood Float
- Best Bicycle
- Best Wagon/Stroller
- Best Golf Cart
- Best Off-Road Vehicle
- Best Antique Car
- Best Costume
- Most Patriotic Pet
- Most Spirited Overall
- The Mayor's Award

PARADE ROUTE & PARKING

City staff has been working with TxDOT regarding issues involving construction and the parade route. Due to construction, no parking or viewing will be allowed on the side of Laurence opposite City Hall. A new parking area will be available off Bois D Arc (aka FM 740), adjacent to Towne Center Park.

The parade route and staging maps are available at www.heathtx.com.

TRAFFIC DELAYS

The intersection of Laurence Drive and FM 740/FM 1140 will be closed during the parade from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. To avoid inconvenience or delays, an alternate route or time frame for driving through the area should be planned.

WEATHER ALERTS

Stay tuned to the City's Facebook page or go to the emergency alert page at www.heathtx.com/emergency for weather alerts. Because many students and children participate in this event, the City will follow the Rockwall ISD's delay protocol for lightening strikes and severe weather. The parade may be delayed up to 10 a.m. only, due to traffic concerns.

For more information, please call 972-771-6228 or visit www.heathtx.com.

For a patriotic hometown American experience, join the festivities at the City of Heath's Annual Independence Day Parade and Patriotic Celebration in the Park on Tuesday, July 4.

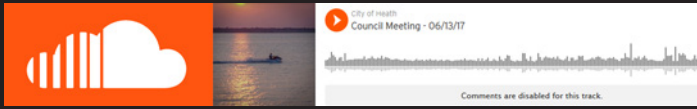
Parade entry awards will be presented during the celebration, which will immediately follow the parade in Towne Center Park and feature a live barbershop quartet, recognition of veterans and active military members, and free popsicles and pie. It's a Heath tradition presented by the Special Events Board that you don't want to miss!

PARADE INFORMATION NEW THIS YEAR: A PARADE ANNOUNCER

If you are entering the parade, please R.S.V.P. by July 1 at www.heathtx.com. This will help facilitate the judging process and traffic control. There will also be a parade announcer on a new judge's platform located near City Hall. If we have your information, he can give you a shout out!

SCHEDULE | JULY 4

- 8:00 a.m. Staging at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School, 330 Laurence Drive
- 8:15 a.m. Judging Begins
- 9:00 a.m. Parade Starts



COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS ONLINE

Recordings of regular City Council meetings will now be posted at www.heathtx.com. Each recording will be available via a link on the front page of the City website.

PARK MASTER PLAN PROJECT APPROVED

City Council approved the Park Board’s recommendation to retain Dallas-based consulting agency la terra studio, inc. to prepare a city-wide Park Master Plan at its May 23 meeting.

In presenting the Park Board’s recommendation, Chairman Mark King explained the study with an “Is, Means, Does” approach.

“This IS an action plan, not a study,” he said. “It MEANS an action plan that is demand based, needs based and resource-based. It DOES give true direction relative to parks, open space, and trails that is in line with current needs and future growth, and it will help put us on that track.

Specifically, the Master Plan will make recommendations for:

- Goals and policies
- Future land acquisitions (if needed)
- Capital Improvement items for both existing and future parks, trails and open space, with budget estimates and a prioritized timeline
- Funding options
- Review of current subdivision ordinances

“The process will involve citizens in concept and design, and will keep citizens informed through a variety of channels, such as social media, to ensure there is general awareness and transparency about the project,” King added.

Please watch future City newsletters, the website and Facebook page for updates and a schedule of citizen meetings.

OTHER PARK AND TRAILS NEWS...

The City was awarded a grant for close to \$500,000 to construct a trail segment along Hubbard Drive through the 2017 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program, which includes the Safe Routes Program. Construction should begin in late 2020.

City Council approved the purchase of a 5.8-acre parcel of land adjacent to Towne Center Park, which improves accessibility to FM 740 and offers the opportunity for the expansion of park amenities such as sports fields and parking.

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

- More than 400 people are moving into the D/FW region each day.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
- The average number of days a Rockwall County home is on the market before selling is 48.
Source: May 2017 North Texas Real Estate Information Systems, Inc.
- The median value of an existing Heath home is \$373,632.
Source: Esri
- The median household income for Heath is \$126,375.
Source: Esri
- The median age of a Heath resident is 45.
Source: Esri
- 59% of Heath residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
Source: Esri

CITY MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE/ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The City is now trapping and testing mosquitoes for the West Nile Virus on a weekly basis. You can find the results at www.heathtx.com. Please remember the 4 D’s...the best way to help prevent the contraction of mosquito transmitted diseases:

- Drain – standing water around your home and property.
- Deet – use insect repellent that contains Deet.
- Dress – wear long sleeves and pants to protect yourself.
- Dusk – mosquitoes favorite time of day, take extra precaution!

STAY CONNECTED!

The City is committed to keeping citizens informed about new projects and developments happening within the City. Here is how you can get the information you need:

- City website, www.heathtx.com.
- The monthly City newsletter, included in your hard copy utility bill, or as a link if you receive your bill via email.
- City of Heath Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Attendance at all City Council and Board/Commission meetings—dates are posted at www.heathtx.com.
- Sign up for the City’s Notify Me service to receive an email notice and link to the City Council and Planning and Zoning agendas when posted. Sign up at www.heathtx.com.
- Contact the City by phone at 972-771-6228, or email a City Councilmember or staff member. Email addresses can be found at www.heathtx.com.

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