



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2017
November



CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2017-2018 FISCAL BUDGET

During the meeting on September 26, City Council adopted a balanced budget that maintains the tax rate of 41.7311 cents per \$100 of property value for Heath citizens.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017-2018 BUDGET INCLUDE:

- General Operating Budget of \$6,683,000
- Total assessed value of \$1,544,010,760
- Equipment for Parks Department
- Upgrades to the SCADA maintenance and software system

The City's fiscal year for 2017-2018 began October 1. The final budget can be viewed at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department page.

CITY EARNS FINANCIAL ACCOLADES

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Heath by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the eighth consecutive year.

"The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," states the organization in a news release.

The City of Heath's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending September 2016 can be found at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department.

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, 2018. 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.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

FM 740

The TXDOT contractor is currently paving between Smirl (near City Hall) and the FM-740/ FM-550 intersection (Shell); and between the FM-740/FM-549/ FM-550 intersection and the FM-740/Heath Crossing (CVS) intersection. It is anticipated that four lanes will be open along the entire length of the project from Smirl to Heath Crossing (CVS) by the end of December. TXDOT will continue to install sidewalks and grass and perform clean-up after December.

Signal lights should also be installed and operational by the end of December. The traffic signals will be located at the following intersections: Hawk Drive and FM-740; FM-740 and Smirl; and FM-740 and FM-550.

RABBIT RIDGE-HORIZON ROAD PROJECT

Construction has begun on two lanes of the concrete roadway along Rabbit Ridge from Dennis Bailey to Horizon Road; and along Horizon Road, from Old Vineyard to Rabbit Ridge. It is estimated that it will take seven months to complete the project.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS

The City is committed to keeping citizens informed about new projects and developments including the Comprehensive Plan update, the Parks, Trails & Open Space Master Plan now underway, and commercial activity including the Planned Development at FM-549 and Laurence Road.

Here is how you can get the information you need:

- Go to the City website at www.heathtx.com to find the agendas, minutes and audio recordings for all City Council meetings
- Read the monthly City newsletter included in your hard copy utility bill or as a link if you receive your bill via email
- Follow the City on Facebook and Twitter
- Attend City Council and board/commission meetings; offer input during public hearings
- 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 using the form on the right of the home page.
- Contact the City by phone at 972-771-6228, or email a City Councilmember or staff member. Email addresses can be found on the website under each department page. Councilmember email addresses can be found on the Government page.

A Hometown Holiday Celebration!

Presented by The City of Heath Special Events Board

Friday, December 1, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Towne Center Park | Rain or Shine!

FOOD | FUN | SANTA



HERE COMES SANTA!

HEATH HOLIDAY IN THE PARK IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Everything is in place for another spectacular City of Heath Holiday in the Park to be hosted in Towne Center Park on Friday, December 1 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Count down with the crowd as the City “flips the switch” on its beautiful Christmas Tree at 6:30 p.m. The program will feature the Amy Parks, Dorothy Pullen and Linda Lyon 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 Artstream Mobile Art Studio, and a holiday photo booth. Be sure to get there in time to hear the Cain Middle School Orchestra serenade diners from 6:00 to 6:30 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.
- Treat yourself to a stop at the Heath Holiday Shoppe, where you can purchase the Third Edition 2017 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 and share plenty of candy canes. Be sure to bring the cameras (or phone!) and dress for the weather.

Find more details: www.heathtx.com | www.facebook.com/HeathTX

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

HOST SPONSOR



MORE TRAILS = MORE PEDESTRIAN & CYCLIST TRAFFIC

The City’s growing trail system is spurring more pedestrian and bicycle traffic as residents take advantage of increased opportunities to walk, bike and run in our community. As a recent caller to City Hall noted, this should also spur everyone to take extra care to “share the road” with each other. So here are a few tips gathered from other cities around the country:

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- Look before opening your door.
- Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow three feet when passing bicyclists.

TIPS FOR CYCLISTS

- When travelling on city streets, cyclists should follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles including stopping at stop signs; obeying traffic signals and lane markings; and using hand signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn.
- Don’t wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.
- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line.
- Be visible and wear the proper protective gear, including a helmet.
- Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there (but don’t always expect them to see you).
- Stay visible by riding where drivers are looking (i.e., do not pass on the right).

TIPS FOR WALKERS AND RUNNERS

- Use extreme caution when crossing at intersections without signals.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.

Walkers, runners and cyclists should also carry or wear identification. An internet search for “identification bracelets” will present many options.