



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2017
December

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK... A HOMETOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:30-8:30 P.M.
TOWNE CENTER PARK

-Check www.heathtx.com for inclement weather instructions-

Come celebrate at this community gathering featuring the sights, sounds and treats of the season!



2017 HOLIDAY IN THE PARK SCHEDULE

5:30-8:30 P.M.

FOOD TRUCKS
ACTIVITY BOOTHS
MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES
CHRISTMAS PHOTOS
- *The Photo Wagon & Patriot Paws Pups*
COMPLIMENTARY COCOA & COFFEE SERVED
COMPLIMENTARY CHRISTMAS COOKIES SERVED
HEATH HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Featuring

- *2017 3rd Edition Heath Christmas Ornament & Spirit T-shirts*

6:00-6:20 P.M.

CAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA PERFORMS IN THE DINING AREA

6:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & SANTA'S ARRIVAL WITH PERFORMANCES BY:

- *Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band*
- *Linda Lyon Elementary School Honor Choir*
- *Pullen Elementary School Honor Choir*
- *Amy Parks Elementary School Honor Choir*

7:15-8:30 P.M.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

HOST SPONSOR



HEATH DPS WELCOMES NEW FIRE TRUCK TO THE FLEET

City leaders and community dignitaries joined Heath DPS in commemorating the addition of the City's new fire truck, Spartan Engine #1, with a special dedication ceremony on Veteran's Day.

The new Engine #1 will allow Heath DPS to enhance services with advanced firefighting technology that will benefit the residents of Heath as well residents throughout Rockwall County due to current mutual aid agreements.

Engine #1 was manufactured by Spartan Emergency Response through Metro Fire Apparatus Specialists and features a 750-gallon water tank and pump capabilities to 1,500 gallons per minute. Additional equipment includes updated vehicle extrication equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus and scene lighting.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ENABLES TOM THUMB-ANCHORED RETAIL CENTER TO MOVE FORWARD

City Council approved at its meeting on October 24 a zoning request by the developer that will allow the retail center at FM-740 and FM-549 anchored by a Tom Thumb grocery store to move forward. The zoning change increased the acreage of the Planned Development from 13.65 acres to just over 17.76 acres, with 10.86 acres of the property remaining in an Agricultural Zoning District.

The approval followed extensive discussions with the developer including a City Council work session that preceded the regular City Council meeting on October 24. Changes achieved through discussions were "softening" the perimeter edges with green space through features that would include a 30-foot landscape buffer containing a minimum of one large canopy tree every 100 linear feet, berming, hedges and plantings throughout the frontage.

A trail is proposed at the north boundary of the property that will connect to Chris Cuny Boulevard as future development of the property occurs. The retail center will also feature a meandering sidewalk leading from the parking lot up to the retail buildings, extensive tree canopies within the parking lot, and high quality materials and design that uphold the Council's vision for Heath.

The developer's proposal included relocating the fueling station to the northern area of the property at the approved TxDOT drive entrance, which will provide for a more efficient and aesthetically appealing site. The impervious coverage (concrete parking areas) for the future pad sites was also reduced in an effort to further soften the retail center and provide additional landscaping and trees.



BOY SCOUTS CLEANUP HEATH!

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 314, 18 bags of litter and construction materials were removed from the Highlands of Heath trail on Saturday, October 21! Twelve Scouts and 8 adults worked for more than two hours on this cleanup project. Their efforts have also spurred a new Volunteer Litter Cleanup program. If your organization is interested in getting involved, contact Suzanne Brooke, sbrooke@heathtx.com.

HEATH DPS VISITS LOCAL SCHOOLS



What do rabbits and fire escape plans have in common? Each smart one has two escape routes from home (or rabbit hole). That's what Amy Parks, Pullen and Linda Lyon Elementary School students learned when Heath DPS took its Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H.) home and fire safety training program to each school during Fire Safety Week in October. This cool, experiential learning tool was custom-built by the DPS Team!



MAYOR FOR THE DAY

City Hall welcomed Honorary Mayor for the Day, Zachery Daiker of Linda Lyon Elementary School on October 24. His "work" included a ride in a fire truck and police car, inspecting the Towne Center Park Water Tower from the inside and participating in the City Council meeting. The City contributed "Mayor of the Day" as an auction prize for the Amy Parks and Linda Lyon Elementary Schools' annual PTO Fund Raiser held in April.

HEATH MONARCHWATCH

The Monarch butterflies have made their annual fall migration through Texas back to overwintering areas in Mexico and California, where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. But as residents of a Monarch Mayor's Pledge City, Heath citizens can still take simple steps throughout the year to protect this natural wonder that is greatly threatened by habitat loss in North America.

Just by avoiding harmful pesticides on your plants and lawns and choosing organically grown foods year round, you can help create better conditions for this beautiful species to survive and thrive. And when you begin to think about spring gardening, integrate butterfly-friendly plants or go all out to create a Monarch WayStation! Learn more at: www.monarchwatch.org.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION REMINDERS

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ALARM PERMITS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31

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. 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.

DOG REGISTRATIONS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31

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.

THE ABC'S OF P&Z

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 future land use map illustrates the type of use each parcel of land should be zoned for while Heath's Zoning Ordinance contains the specific regulations governing allowed uses, parking requirements, height, setbacks, landscaping, and other items for each zoning district.

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 prepares a report indicating whether the request is in compliance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan and other applicable development regulations and forwards it to the Planning & Zoning Commission prior to the public hearing.
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 city also provides a courtesy notice to all property owners whose properties are located an additional 300 feet beyond the minimum required 200 foot notification area. All notices include 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.

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" on the home page at 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.