



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2018
January



MAYOR'S MESSAGE: SEASON'S GREETINGS, EVERYONE!



As we wind down another year, I invite you to enjoy this photo collage that highlights a few of the memories created at the amazing kick-off to Christmas at our Annual Holiday in the Park, brought to you by our incredible Special Events Board. I would also like to personally express my gratitude to the overwhelming number of supporters that I have who continue to provide encouragement and support while serving as your Mayor. It's hard to believe that another year in this role is coming to a close!

Lastly, on the behalf of the entire City of Heath, including our hard-working City Staff and dedicated Department of Public Safety, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and cheers to a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, *Brian P. Berry, Mayor*



2017 HEATH HOLIDAY IN THE PARK DRAWS RECORD CROWD

Gorgeous weather, charming musical performances, festive activities, fabulous food trucks *and* Santa all helped draw a record crowd to the City of Heath's Annual Holiday in the Park on December 1 at Towne Center Park. The City thanks everyone who made the evening possible including: the Honor Choirs of Linda Lyon, Amy Parks and Pullen Elementary Schools; the Cain Middle School Orchestra; the Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band; Rockwall Women's League and NCL for providing over 100 dozen home-baked Christmas cookies; City staff including the Public Works Department; and a heavenly host of valuable volunteers including RHHS and PALS students and NCL moms and daughters. See more photos on the City's Facebook page.

The City also thanks the Special Events Board and 2017 Special Event Sponsors for making community celebrations like Holiday in the Park possible.

Special Events Board members: Chairman Jenni Knox, Amanda Rosander, Tami Hogan, Mary Luxton and Neely Holland.

SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS:

HOST SPONSOR – FARMERS INSURANCE OF HEATH

PRESENTING SPONSORS

American National Bank of Texas; Allegiance Title; Horton & Archibald, a Professional Corporation; LiechtyMcGinnisBerrymanBowen Attorneys & Counselors; Atmos Energy; Dental Professionals of Rockwall; Heath Salon & Spa; and Rockwall Cycling

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Juice It Up; Karen Wydra, Ebby Halliday, Realtors; Oncor; Smoothie King; Justin Holland, Regal Realtors; Shannon's Farms; and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital.



TXDOT FM 740 PROJECT

The TXDOT contractor is working to complete all paving on FM-740 and to have traffic flowing on two lanes in each direction the entire length of project from Smirl (City Hall) to Heath Crossing (CVS) by the end of December. The signal at the FM-740/FM-550/FM-549 intersection should also be operational by the end of December.

In January, the contractor will continue to work on the median, driveways, sidewalks and grass areas along FM-740. The travel lanes may be reduced during the day, but open up when contractors are not working, which is typically in the evening and on weekends. The contractor will also be installing the two remaining signals at Heath Hawk Drive/FM-740 and Hubbard Drive/FM-740.

The anticipated completion date of all work is February 2018.



PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The Park Board received an update on the progress of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan being developed by la terra studio, inc. at its November 20 meeting. Significant research has been completed and public input was gathered for the plan during a community event on August 31 attended by over 150 citizens and an online survey that received 280 responses. A draft plan is close to completion and will be reviewed by City planning and engineering staff and the Park Board for additional input. The draft plan will then be presented to citizens online, with a public hearing to be held at a Park Board meeting in early 2018. It is anticipated that a final plan will be presented to City Council for adoption and implementation in the first quarter of 2018. Your involvement is key to the success of this important initiative, so please watch for announcements regarding your opportunity to give additional input.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Comprehensive Plan Update Committee completed its work in September and a draft plan that reflected citizen input was presented by the consultant, Freese and Nichols, during a joint meeting of the P&Z Commission and City Council on September 14. Freese and Nichols then prepared a final draft that was approved by the P&Z Commission at its November 7 meeting and submitted to City Council. The City Council conducted a public hearing during the November 14 meeting, and held work sessions on November 28, December 7 and December 12 to review and discuss the draft plan. These workshops were open to the public. The City Council will continue to work on the plan during public sessions in January 2018, prior to its adoption.

HEATH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This time last year, the City Council approved an Economic Development Assistance Agreement for a new dining and entertainment venue that will be located on 2.5 acres of the retail-zoned site at the northwest corner of FM 740 and FM 1140, behind the CVS. The Council's action followed approval of the agreement by the Heath Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) and Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation (HMBC) Board on December 7, 2016. Project owners are Gus Antos, Elias Pope and Neville Govender, who also own and operate HG Sply Co. in Dallas and Fort Worth, and Standard Service, in Rockwall. Their concept for Heath is centered upon a full-service signature restaurant that is unlike anything currently in Heath. There will be an outdoor gathering space to be used for live music, covered dining and special events. Features will include fire pits, outdoor games, a farmers' market and other family/community activity areas. There were also be an adjoining office building, which will ensure ample evening parking. Site work, utilities and most of the grading and excavation for the parking lots are nearing completion. The estimated opening of the restaurant venue and office building remains on schedule for late Spring of 2018.

ROCKWALL CERT SEEKS HEATH MEMBERS

The Rockwall Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which serves the entire Rockwall County area, is planning training for Heath resident members this winter. If you have ever wanted to be of service during a disaster such as the Rowlett/Garland tornadoes in 2015, this is your opportunity. There is space for up to 15 Heath citizens in the two-day Basic Training Class that runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days to be announced. Learn more and register at www.rockwall.com/FireDepartment/cert.

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. You can 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.