



## City of Heath's Improved Insurance Rating May Bring Premium Savings

The addition of the new northern water tower, an upgraded water delivery infrastructure, and Heath DPS resources have resulted in an improvement of the City's insurance ratings by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Residents and local businesses are advised to contact their insurance providers for a possible savings in their premiums.

The ISO's countrywide classification system reflects a community's local fire protection capabilities for property insurance rating purposes. ISO recommended a change for Heath from a Class 5 to a Class 2. (1 is the best; 10 is the worst.) The improved rating could have a significant effect on your insurance premiums, depending upon whether or not your provider uses the ISO system.

For more information, visit the Texas Department of Insurance/State Fire Marshal's Office at [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov).



### City of Heath Honors...

Heath City Councilmember Rich Krause was one of 60 elected or appointed City officials from around the state who was named a Leadership Fellow of the Texas Municipal League during an awards ceremony in Austin on August 22. Councilman Krause became a Leadership Fellow upon completing an extensive leadership development program presented during the past three months by the TML Academy.

### December 5: Heath Holiday in the Park to Feature New Surprises

The Annual Heath Holiday in the Park is Friday, December 5, with the Christmas Tree lighting and musical performances at 6:30 p.m. Santa has some new treats in store for this year, so mark your calendar now and watch for more details about this Heath tradition held in Towne Center Park and City Hall.

### Keeping Heath Beautiful...

Rain is a good thing, but it can trigger pollution due to storm water run-off.

The City of Heath is taking a pro-active approach to reduce the pollution that can occur with a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) that complies with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Part of the plan is to encourage citizens to help reduce storm water pollution around their own homes. You can find many resources and tips under the Storm Water Management section at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com). Some of the easiest things that you can do to avoid polluting our community's water sources include:

- Bag and dispose of your pet's waste.
- Don't apply pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides before it rains.
- Select native and adapted plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.
- If you change your car's oil, don't dump it on the ground or in the storm drain; dispose of it properly at an oil recycling center.
- Check your car, boat, or motorcycle for leaks.
- Don't get rid of grass clippings and other yard waste by dumping it or sweeping it into the storm drain.

If you have questions, contact the Public Works Department at 972-961-4892.



## City Sponsors Free E-Waste Collection Offered November 15

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping your items at the Free Electronic Waste Collection Event co-sponsored by the City of Heath on Saturday, November 15, 9 a.m. to noon at the Cain Middle School parking lot.

E-waste is any electronic equipment that has reached end-of-life or end-of-usage in your home or office. Items accepted free of charge include: computer hardware, TV's, printers, copiers, scanners, faxes, servers, cell phones, corded phones, stereos, DVD players, small household appliances, ink and toner cartridges, and batteries. Also, document shredding will be available.

For more information: 972-524-0007 or [eco@trashbusters.org](mailto:eco@trashbusters.org).



### Business Spotlight: A SHOUT OUT TO A HOMETOWN BUSINESS!

Heath-based GMR Protection Resource, Inc. has defined the industry standard for creating safe, compliant facilities for a broad base of clients at thousands of locations across the nation.

But when it comes to his own corporate facility, GMR Founder and President Mike Ross says there's no better place to be than Heath.

"Getting to live and work with family and friends in Heath is a little slice of Heaven," said Mike. "Customers from across the country who visit our office and hear our story would like to trade places with us. Some have even joined us through the years!"

Founded in 1999, GMR is a certified Woman-owned Business Enterprise and Christian principle driven organization. Majority owners are Linda Ross and Shirley Bailey.

The company relocated from Rockwall to Horizon Court when the commercial development opened in 2002. GMR has since grown to over 70 employees, many of whom live in Heath or Rockwall and are involved in area churches, local and global missions, and community and civic organizations.

"We feel very fortunate to be able to help create good jobs for local residents serving national clients," said Mike. "We hope to continue this for many years to come."

Learn more about GMR and how it uses research and expertise to help clients achieve a safe and secure business environment at [www.gmr1.com](http://www.gmr1.com).

## City of Heath Housing Snapshot

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 YTD
<b>NEW HOME PERMITS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>AVERAGE NEW HOME VALUE</b>	<b>\$446,551</b>	<b>\$439,637</b>	<b>\$482,603</b>	<b>\$515,634</b>	<b>\$548,984</b>



## WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13

Heath DPS Shares Steps for Preventing Fire in Your home:

- Have properly working smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly; change the batteries when you turn the clocks back on November 2.
- Place smoke alarms on each floor of your home and in each bedroom.
- Plan a family escape route and practice it once a month.
- Place fire extinguishers throughout your home and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use them.

Learn more at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) (National Fire Protection Association).

**FACT: In 2010, there were 3,100 unintentional deaths related to fire, smoke and flames.**

*-National Safety Council's Injury Facts, 2012 Edition*

## Residential and Commercial Alarm Permits Expire on December 31

Anyone responsible for the operation of or in possession of an alarm system in the City of Heath is required to obtain an annual permit for operation of such system. The permit is good for a calendar year and a penalty of \$200 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. The fee for a residential permit is \$35 per year.

Any commercial or residential alarm system should be registered or renewed by January 1, 2015. For your convenience, the renewal form will be included with next month's utility bill and newsletter mailing. It can also be downloaded at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) under the City Documents menu or obtained at City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr.



## U.S. Open Triathlon Traffic Reminder

The bike segment of the U.S. Open Triathlon will travel through Heath on October 12. The race is from 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and streets will start to be affected as early as 4 a.m. Event organizers have been in communication with Heath churches and Homeowner Associations regarding the race route and traffic patterns since late summer. You can view the route map at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) under the News menu. Please allow an extra 20 to 30 minutes to get where you need to go between 6 a.m. and noon on October 12.



The City continues to trap and test mosquitoes for the West Nile Virus on a weekly basis. You can find the results at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

