



## CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



July 2016



# ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AND CELEBRATION IN THE PARK IS JULY 4

## CELEBRATE FREEDOM AND HONOR OUR VETERANS

Parade entry awards will be presented during a patriotic program immediately after the parade in Towne Center Park featuring a live barbershop quartet and free popsicles and pie. Staging for the parade begins at 8 a.m., judging and awards are at 8:30 a.m., and the parade begins at 9 a.m. at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School at 330 Laurence Drive. Veterans from all branches of the U.S. Military are invited to ride in the parade on the Veterans Float.

### Best Decorated Parade Awards Will be Presented for:

• Float • Bicycle • Wagon/Stroller • Golf Cart • Off-Road Vehicle • Classic Car • Kiddie Car

### Awards Will Also be Presented for:

• Best Costume • Most Patriotic Pet • Mayor's Award

### NEW PARADE AWARD:

Best Overall Neighborhood/HOA---be sure to display your community's name!

### PLAN AHEAD FOR BRIEF ROAD CLOSURES

The intersection of Laurence Drive and FM 740/FM 1140 will be closed during the parade from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

To avoid delays plan an alternate route. Find maps of parade route/staging area at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).



## A Message from the Mayor

Having served as one of your Council members the past four years, and having spent the last year serving as your Mayor Pro-Tem, it is truly an honor and privilege to now represent our great City on your behalf as Mayor.

As you can see when driving around town, we have a lot going on! And guess what: we have a lot more coming!

For the last three years, I have spent most of my time with Council focused on our Capital Improvement Plan; specifically, working with the City staff department heads, engineers and finance director to plan for growth. As you may recall, in 2014, the City Council approved approximately \$20 million in Capital Improvement Projects that benefit the entire City, and we continue to work diligently to complete these projects. One of the most critical missions I believe that we still have in front of us is to be best prepared for the growth that is on the horizon.

Currently, we have approximately 2,700 homes on the ground. What may be concerning to some in our community is that we have approximately 2,500 more homes that have already been approved and are in some stage of the development process. These include new homes now under construction in new and expanding communities such as Heath Golf and Yacht Club, Falcon Point, Heath Crossing, Ridge Lakes, The Sanctuary, Stoneleigh and more.

As these homes go up, it is my primary objective while serving as your Mayor to assist our City leaders and staff to not just be prepared for the development, but to also see that we maintain the integrity and quality that so many of us currently on the Council and on preceding Councils have fought hard to protect.

Another primary topic of interest in our community is the numerous road projects that are currently under construction or will be so very soon. We are working closely with TXDOT and providing relative support as best we can to that see Phase 2 of the FM 740/Lawrence Drive widening project is completed just as soon as possible. We all share in the frustration of the disruption through the heart of our community, but the end result will be well worth the inconvenience.

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

Additionally, we will soon begin the expansion and improvements to Rabbit Ridge and the first phase of McDonald Road, as well as the ongoing various repairs to our roads that were also included in the 2014 Bond referendum. (While on the topic of road work, all of the rain we have received certainly slows down construction progress, but it's nice to note that we have a full lake!)

There are a number of other projects on the list of City needs that are absolutely necessary, but are not necessarily ones that everyone will enjoy to learn we must complete. Most are related to our utility side of the budget; underground; and critical to maintaining a high quality water delivery and sewer system.

As we go forward together, I want to say something I've said over and over to citizens: the very best way you can contribute to our community is to get involved. I believe this starts by making efforts to attend our public meetings. Whether it's a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, an Economic Development Corporation meeting or a City Council meeting, please take time to attend one or several of these meetings to learn more about all that is going on in our community.

As your Mayor, I am humbly committed to bringing value while working with our City Council, Board and Commission members, City staff and you to ensure that the City of Heath remains the premier, first class, high quality city that it is today.

Blessings,  
Brian P. Berry,  
Mayor, City of Heath

## Heath DPS Helps Raise More than \$33,000 for Carry the Load

Congratulations to the Heath Department of Public Safety for their success in raising \$25,384 of the \$33,479 total raised by all Rockwall County First Responders for 2016 Carry the Load. Carry the Load is a national event dedicated to restoring the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices made by members of the military, law enforcement officers, firefighters and their families.

Carry the Load activities included raising these funds to aid our heroes in need of assistance. The Rockwall County First Responders also rallied more than 250 people to come to the Rockwall County Courthouse at 3 a.m. on May 29 to greet the Carry the Load's National Relay Team walking from West Point, New York, to the 20-hour Dallas Memorial March at Reverchon Park in Dallas on May 29.

## Honoring Service



The Heath City Council, members of the City's boards and commissions, staff and the community congratulated Councilmember Justin Holland at a reception following his resignation from Place 2 on the Council at the June 14 meeting. On May 24, Holland secured the Republican nomination for Texas House of Representatives in House District #33, where he will serve the citizens of Rockwall County and portions of Collin County in the Texas Legislature.

The City thanks Councilmember Holland for his five years of service on the City Council, where he was elected to lead as Mayor Pro Tem from 2013 to 2015. He also served on the Special Events Board from 2010 to 2011 before being elected to City Council in May 2011.



Council members appointed John Main to fill the Place 2 vacancy until the next General Election in May 2017. John Main served on the Planning and Zoning Commission from 1998 to 2012, then termed out. He returned to the Commission in 2013 and was appointed Chairman. He is currently on the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee and has served on the Board of Adjustment.

THE CITY OF HEATH SPECIAL EVENTS BOARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR HELPING MAKE THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AND CELEBRATION IN THE PARK POSSIBLE:



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