



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2018
OCTOBER



HEATH IS SOLID GOLD!

As a certified Gold Level Scenic City, Heath joins an exclusive group of Texas municipalities that have been recognized for implementing high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces.

The certification process is conducted by Scenic City Texas and includes an evaluation of more than 70 strict criteria ranging from sign, lighting, litter and graffiti ordinances to parks, trails and open spaces.

2018-2019 BUDGET PROCESS CONTINUES

As this newsletter went to print, a final budget was scheduled to be adopted by the City Council at its September 25 meeting to become effective October 1. Budget discussions have been held in open City Council meetings, which residents are always encouraged to attend. A public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed budget was held at the September 11 City Council Meeting.

The balanced proposed budget is based upon on a tax rate of \$0.389105, lower than the effective tax rate of \$0.390761, and lower than last year's tax rate of \$0.417311. This is the first time the City's tax rate has been at or below the effective rate in five years. The proposed budget includes two additional Public Safety Officers; one additional School Resource Officer (partially funded by the Rockwall ISD); and two additional Public Safety vehicles with equipment. You can view the final budget at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department.

WHAT IS AN EFFECTIVE TAX RATE?

The effective tax rate is a property tax rate that provides the same amount of revenue from property taxes as the previous year. The effective tax rate for a municipality will vary depending upon the increase or decrease in appraised values of the same properties since the previous fiscal year. The City's proposed budget is based on a tax rate that is lower than the effective rate that could be levied. Simply put: home values have gone up overall; but City of Heath taxes have not.

LAST YEAR'S TOTAL ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAXES	÷	CURRENT YEAR'S TOTAL ADJUSTED PROPERTY VALUE	=	EFFECTIVE TAX RATE
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IS YOUR CIVIC-MINDED GROUP LOOKING FOR A GOOD SERVICE PROJECT?

If you are looking for a way to make a difference in our community, the City of Heath Adopt-A-Park/Trail Volunteer Cleanup Program is an excellent place to start! The program, approved by City Council in February 2018, offers local organizations an opportunity to help keep our parks and trails attractive and safe by "adopting" a specific trail segment or park area. Participating groups are approved for the program by City Council and will be responsible for a general cleanup of the adopted area quarterly. To receive a sign promoting the organization's cleanup efforts onsite at the adopted area, a commitment of at least 12 months must be made. You can view a map of available sites and learn more at www.heathtx.com under the Living Here >> Parks and Trails menu.

CITY SPONSORS FREE E-WASTE COLLECTION ON NOVEMBER 10

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping your items off at the Free Electronic Waste Collection Event co-sponsored by the City of Heath on Saturday, November 10, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Cain Middle School parking lot at 6620 FM 3097. 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. Document shredding will also be available, and you can donate reading glasses to the Lion's Club.

For more information: 972-524-0007 or eco@trashbusters.org.

CITY HONORS



The 230th Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States of America was marked at the September 11 City Council meeting as Mayor Kelson Elam proclaimed September 17-23 as Constitution Week. Becky Burkett, Heath resident and member of the Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, represented the National Society of DAR in accepting the proclamation.



Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt attended the September 11 City Council meeting to ask how Heath City Manager Ed Thatcher ended up on the cover of Rockwall's Comprehensive Plan. (Hint: Mr. Thatcher is a member of the Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse, which rides in Rockwall parades). Joking aside, Mayor Pruitt then graciously proclaimed September 11, 2018, as Ed Thatcher Recognition Day in Rockwall. Mr. Thatcher has served as Heath's City Manager for 13 years and will be honored later this month for his service in city management by the International City Management Association at its annual conference.

FOOD! FUN!! SANTA!! HOLIDAY IN THE PARK KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS IN HEATH



The annual City of Heath Holiday in the Park is Friday, November 30 from 5:30-8 p.m. and will feature the Christmas Tree lighting, musical performances, food trucks, kids' activities, miniature train rides (2 trains to accommodate all the kiddos), Mrs. Claus' complimentary cocoa and cookies, and of course, Santa! Watch for more details about this Heath tradition held in Towne Center Park.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

LAKESIDE LIVING MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Since we started *Lakeside Living Magazine* in the quiet community of Heath 20 years ago, our focus has always been to serve the community with uplifting, informative content that supports the community's lifestyle interests through topics like staying healthy, keeping connected with faith, making a comfortable home, and crafting unique cuisine.

Just like Heath, *Lakeside Living* has gone through its share of changes over the years, and is sure to go through many more in the future! One thing that you can be sure will never change is our dedication to creating a unique, family-friendly magazine filled with articles and features that everyone can enjoy. We hope we're always able to offer a little something special for every person that picks up a copy and flips through our pages.

Thank you for being a loyal reader!

Clint Pittman and Jesse Ladd | Co-Founders, Living Magazine

THE U.S. OPEN TRIATHLON COMES THROUGH HEATH OCTOBER 14

The bike segment of the U.S. Open Triathlon will travel through Heath on Sunday, October 14. The race is from 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and streets will be affected as early as 4 a.m. Event organizers have been in communication with Heath churches and homeowner associations regarding the race routes and traffic patterns since late summer. You can view the route map at 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. To register for the event, go to www.usopen-triathlon.com.

ALARM PERMITS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31

Any one 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. For your convenience, the renewal form will be included with next month's utility bill and newsletter mailing. The fee can also be paid online. Find the link on the Heath DPS page of our website. A hard copy of the form can be obtained at City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr.

HEATH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDS YOU THAT OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH



NATIONAL CRIME
PREVENTION COUNCIL
Crime Prevention Month

Each October, Americans of all ages, incomes, walks of life, and fields of expertise celebrate Crime Prevention Month. It's a special time of year when everyone engaged in crime prevention recognizes the past year's crime prevention successes and starts laying the groundwork for next year's activities.

Everyone can contribute to crime prevention. There are big and small ways to do it: from cleaning up graffiti to providing extracurricular activities for at-risk youth or keeping an eye on an older person who lives alone. These are all ways to practice crime prevention. Crime prevention keeps people and their communities safe. It helps ensure individuals live up to their potential no matter their way of life or where they live. It's all about helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime.

Download the Crime Prevention Month Kit, provided by The National Crime Prevention Council, from the homepage at www.heathtx.com and learn about safe firearm practices, the dangers of counterfeit electronics and bullying prevention.