



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2018
NOVEMBER



HERE COMES SANTA!

HEATH HOLIDAY IN THE PARK IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Get ready for another spectacular City of Heath Holiday in the Park to be hosted in Towne Center Park on Friday, November 30 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Festivities will include:

Count down with the crowd as the City “flips the switch” on its beautiful Christmas Tree at 6:30 p.m. The program will feature the Amy Parks, Dorothy Pullen and Linda Lyon Elementary School Honor Choirs, plus the Cain Middle School Band and Orchestra.

Have dinner in the Winter Village, featuring food trucks, a cozy outdoor dining area warmed by holiday lights, rides on two miniature trains, activity booths for the kids, and a holiday photo booth. Be sure to get there in time to hear the Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band serenade diners from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Warm up with complimentary hot cocoa and coffee throughout the evening, while Mrs. Claus and her elves serve complimentary Christmas cookies, home baked and donated by the National Charity League and Rockwall Women’s League.

Treat yourself to a stop at the Heath Holiday Shoppe, where you can purchase the Fourth Edition 2018 Hometown Heath Christmas Ornament and Spirit Wear T-shirt.

Of course, the star of the evening is Santa, and he will be in his picture-perfect scene all evening to visit with each child and share plenty of candy canes. Be sure to bring the camera (or phone!) and dress for the weather. Find more details and watch for weather alerts at www.heathtx.com or www.facebook.com/HeathTX

FY 2018-2019 BUDGET APPROVED

At its September 25 meeting, the Heath City Council adopted a budget for FY 2018-2019 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 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.

HOST SPONSOR





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: NEW DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE TO BE ANCHORED BY STANDARD SERVICE RESTAURANT

The dining and entertainment venue under construction at the northwest corner of FM 740 and FM 1140 will be anchored by an expanded Standard Service Restaurant, Heath resident and project partner, Elias Pope, reported to the Heath Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) and Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation Board (HMBC) at its October 16 meeting.

The existing Standard Service in Rockwall will relocate to the site, enabling the popular restaurant to double in size and offer a full dinner menu, take away family meals, and possibly breakfast. Pope also reported the venue's distinctive name will soon be announced and that exciting amenities include:

- A weekend market with eight to 10 vendors
- A food truck court
- A public stage for live music, community events and a jumbo outdoor LED screen for family movies and sports
- Two large turf areas for gaming and relaxing with family and friends, plus a few more family-driven activities
- Five fire pits with seating for 20 each
- Over 200 parking spots

"I live four minutes away, and want to be able to enjoy it all with my own family," said Pope, who expects to open in the first quarter of 2019, weather permitting. "It's been a labor of love to create something very special for Heath."

The Heath City Council approved an Economic Development Assistance Agreement at its December 13, 2016, meeting for the project. The Council's action followed approval of an agreement by the HEDC and HMBC Board on December 7, 2016.

The mission of the HEDC/HMBC is to retain and attract distinctive economic development that meets the City of Heath's vision for a premier community, expands the City's sales tax base and enhances the quality of life enjoyed by citizens.

"We are charged with re-investing citizens' sales tax dollars to sustain our Heath lifestyle with funding generated through upscale and targeted development that retains the look and feel desired while continuing to enhance our community," said David Lane, president of the HEDC/HMBC.

RECENT PROJECTS OF THE HEDC/HMBC INCLUDE:

- Funding for a new picnic pavilion at Antigua Bay Park in its FY 2018-2019 budget.
- Funding for new lights for practice fields at Towne Center Park in its FY 2018-2019 budget.
- Continued assistance in funding upscale street signs citywide in its FY 2018-2019 budget.
- Appraisal and branding of 25 acres of land owned by the HMBC along Chris Cuny Parkway and adjacent to the 50 acres of city-owned land.
- Ground lease agreement on HMBC-owned land with the Hidden Creek Special Events venue.

ONLINE PAYMENT CHANGES

Starting December 1, 2018, processing fees for paying utility bills (\$1.25) and court fees (\$1.50) online with a credit card will be charged to the customer.

HEATH CITY COUNCIL RETAINS HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTING FIRM

The Heath City Council voted at its October 9 City Council meeting to retain the services of Usrey and Associates, Inc., a Human Resources Consulting firm specializing in public sector, private sector and non-profit entities since 2007.

The consulting firm is directed by Kathryn Usrey, an independent human resources consultant with 26 years of experience including serving as Director of the Human Resource Department for the City of Denton, Texas, and Carrollton, Texas. In both entities, she was responsible for managing all aspects of Human Resources, including the employee benefit programs and self-funded benefit plans. Recent consulting clients include the Town of Highland Park, which like the City of Heath, has a Department of Public Safety with officers who are triple-certified as firefighters, police officers and EMTs.

"I look forward to working with the employees, City Manager and the Council as we work to align the staff and Council goals to prepare for the future of Heath," said Ms. Usrey, who will assess the City's Human Resources program and consult with the Mayor and City Council to recommend new strategies.

CITY SPONSORS E-WASTE COLLECTION ON NOVEMBER 10

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping your items off at the 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 are: flat screen computer monitors; cable and satellite boxes; tablets; e-readers; laptops; printers; hard drives; fax machines; gaming consoles; VCR's; cell phones; radios; cable and cords; networking equipment; routers; servers; lab equipment; test equipment; flat panel displays; computers (CPU's); keyboards; mice; tape and zip drivers; microwave ovens; DVD players; telephones; digital cameras; stereo components; power supplies; modems; switches; printed circuit boards; video conference equipment; all ink and toner cartridges; all types of batteries; and eye glasses for the Lion's Club.

There is a \$10 fee for each television. Document shredding will be available free of charge for up to five boxes of legal-size paper. Additional boxes are \$5 each. Cash donations are accepted and memberships are available. This financial support allows e-waste collection programs to continue to be offered. For more information: 972-524-0007 or eco@trashbusters.org.

REMINDER FROM PROGRESSIVE WASTE

Please put your waste items to be recycled in the blue polycart designated for dry recyclables. Recyclable items such as paper, plastic and aluminum that are placed in trash bags end up in the land fill instead of being recycled. Also, please do not put motor oil in your trash or recycling polycart. Recently, oil was placed in a recycling bin, and the entire load of recyclables collected that day were ruined and had to go into the land fill. Most automotive retailers offer motor oil collection services.

EXPIRING DECEMBER 31 ALARM PERMITS

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 is included with this month's utility bill and newsletter mailing. It can also be downloaded at www.heathtx.com under the City Documents menu or obtained at City Hall, 200 Laurence Dr.