



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2019
JANUARY



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CITY OF HEATH! MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KELSON ELAM



As we celebrate Christmas and look to the New Year, I reflect on the events of the past and prospects for the future. I am humbled by the opportunity to represent the citizens of Heath as your Mayor. Serving my community has proven more rewarding than I could have imagined.

Our world famous 4th of July parade went to a new level this year. Not only did we maintain the ratio of more people in the parade than watching, the front of the parade caught up with the back. Guess we'll need a longer route next year.

Ground broke this year for our new Tom Thumb grocery store, which is on schedule to open in August of next year. We thank past and present councils, committees and staff who helped bring this project to fruition. The developer and Tom Thumb believe in our vision of maintaining a hometown feel, and we thank them for listening and working with us. Heath has come a long way since the old Cullen Bait and Grocery store.

Bulldozers are moving dirt, grass planting starts in the spring, and golfers begin swinging at the new Heath Golf and Yacht Club course by fall of 2019.

The JER Chilton Rockwall YMCA begins managing our fields behind City Hall in March, and will provide youth soccer and flag football league practices and games locally. New lighting, funded by our Economic Development Corporation, will add three more fields for evening use. We look forward to growing our relationship with the YMCA to better provide activities for all of our citizens.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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In 2019, Standard Service moves their restaurant operation from Rockwall to Heath, next door to the CVS. The venue, known as SouthRidge, will feature family outdoor activities, entertainment areas, food trucks and a farmers' market. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and fun should be available in the spring of 2019.

The newly-formed Heath Farmers Market Committee promises a farmers market for the fall of 2019. Location and details are still in the works, so stay tuned. With our road through downtown now complete, more services and amenities are popping up in our town center.

Heath remains committed to our Comprehensive Plan of low density housing and limited retail. The Council is working closely with the landowners in the ETJ on the south side of Heath to ensure we maintain the rural culture we all enjoy. Neighbors working with neighbors for a common goal.

This year, the chance of rain chased our Holiday in the Park celebration into the high school. The Special Events Board and City staff moved everything in less than 24 hours to make it a wonderful event. Our great school choirs, orchestra and bands put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

With the celebration inside, our Christmas Tree in the park remained unlit. More than 75 members of the City staff, Council and Boards and Commissions along with their kids and pets showed up to throw the switch and enjoy Christmas carols, cocoa and cookies. Thank you to all who serve our City and make Heath a great place to live.

Merry Christmas, and the best for all in the New Year.

TOM THUMB HOSTS GROUND BREAKING



From left, Heath City Councilmember Frank New; HEDC/HMBC Board members Sandra Doyle and Tom Johnson; Rockwall County Commissioner Lee Gilbert; Heath Mayor Kelson Elam; Heath City Councilmember Donna Rolater; Texas State Representative Justin Holland; Heath City Councilmember John Beaman; Rockwall County Judge David Sweet; and Rockwall Area Chamber President Darby Burkey.

Tom Thumb and the Rockwall Area Chamber hosted a ground-breaking on December 5 for the new store and retail center now under construction at FM 740/FM 549/FM 550. "What makes your Hometown Heath so wonderful is what makes us so ecstatic to be here," said Connie Yates, Public Affairs & Communications Director of Tom Thumb.

"This is going to be a shopable, walkable, quaint-feeling hometown grocer," added Doug Campbell, Vice President of Marketing. Amenities will include a Starbucks with indoor and outdoor seating; a full-scale meat and seafood department with fresh, flown-in products; a florist offering custom arrangements as well as pick-up-and-go choices; a wide variety of hot food offerings including a Wok bar; a salad bar; and a fresh-cut fruit and juice bar.

"We are grateful to the many people in our community who worked hard to attract a grocery store of the caliber of Tom Thumb to Heath, and then worked equally hard with the development and architectural team to ensure that the building and site designs were in line with our vision for Heath," said Mayor Kelson Elam. "This is going to be a high-quality amenity that provides convenience, enhances our quality of life, and keeps more sales tax dollars at work in our own community as we shop and dine locally."

The Grand Opening is projected for the 3rd Quarter of 2019. The Heath community will be invited to enjoy the festivities, complimentary refreshments and give-aways. You can view renderings of the new store at heathtx.com.

CITY OF HEATH TO TEST SANITARY SEWER LINES IN JANUARY

Inspection crews will be conducting a physical survey of a portion of the City of Heath sanitary sewer system in January. This survey involves the opening and inspecting of manholes and sewer lines in the streets and easements. An important task of the survey will be the smoke testing of the sewer lines to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system.

The smoke that you may see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is harmless, has little odor, and creates no fire hazard. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. If this occurs, you should consult your licensed plumber.

A map showing testing locations and additional information will be posted on the City's website in January. Homeowners and businesses in the areas being tested will also receive notification directly from the City.

HEATH CELEBRATES AT HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Even being under a tornado watch didn't stop the Heath community from celebrating at its Annual Holiday in the Park on November 30. Despite moving inside to the Rockwall-Heath High School Cafeteria due to the threat of severe weather, all of the festivities were in place including fabulous performances by the Linda Lyon, Amy Parks and Pullen Choirs; Cain Band and Orchestra; and the RHHS Jazz Band. Thank you to Rockwall-Heath Principal Todd Bradford and his RISD team and the City volunteers, staff, sponsors and Council for their hard work and support. Congratulations to the City of Heath Special Events Board for planning and presenting Weather Plan B! View the highlights video and photos at www.healthtx.com.

HEATH VOTES

Heath citizens have a consistently high record of voter participation in all local, county, state and national elections. Be sure your voice is heard on matters that affect you by registering to vote today. You can complete and submit a voter registration card at Heath City Hall during normal business hours. For additional information about voting in Rockwall County, go to www.rockwallvotes.com.

REGISTER TODAY FOR FREE EMERGENCY ALERTS AT NIXLE.COM

The primary warning system in Heath is nixle.com, which sends text alerts for severe weather, traffic incidents and other important advisories. Nixle is free and takes just a few minutes to register at www.nixle.com.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: H AND R RANCH

While Heath welcomes new businesses like Tom Thumb, we also value rural heritage and local establishments such as the award-winning H and R Miniature Herefords Ranch. Founded by Chuck and Beverly Dale in 1980, H and R Ranch recently won the Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Champion Bull Awards at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. H and R Ranch was also the Premier Exhibitor.

"Heath is the ideal location for a high-tech cattle operation that utilizes artificial insemination (AI), embryo-transplants (ET) and sexed semen," said Chuck, who moved to Heath in 1976 with Beverly. "We invite anyone interested in Miniature Herefords to learn more at www.handrminiatureherefords.com."

Named for the Dale's children, Holly and Rusty, H and R Ranch has expanded to Ardmore, Oklahoma, under the management of Holly.



Above: Grand Champion Bull "Sully" poses with the Dale's grandson, Royce Schafer (far left), daughter, Holly Schafer (third from left), and Beverly Dale (far right).