



CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2019
FEBRUARY



HEATH VOTES

CITY OF HEATH TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTION MAY 4

The City of Heath is scheduled to call an election to be held on Saturday, May 4 for the purpose of electing Council Members for Places 1, 2, 4 and 6 to serve two-year terms each. Polls will be open at City Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting at Heath City Hall begins Monday, April 22 and runs through Tuesday, April 30. A candidate packet is available for pick up at Heath City Hall. The period for submitting for a place on the May 4 ballot is Wednesday, January 16 through Friday, February 15. The City of Heath's municipal election is contracted with the Rockwall County Elections Office.

REGISTER TO VOTE BY APRIL 4

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

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

TXDOT FM-1140 (SMIRL DRIVE) OVERLAY PROJECT

This TXDOT roadway improvement project includes the extension of storm sewer culverts, the addition of 2-foot shoulders, the removal of the existing asphalt pavement, and the installation of a new asphalt surface.

- The project is from FM-740 (at CVS) to the FM-1140/FM-740/Hubbard Drive intersection.
- Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of January.
- The first phase of the construction is the extension of the storm sewer culverts.
- Once the culverts are extended, construction of the new shoulders and removal of the existing asphalt will begin.
- During the roadway construction, the road will be reduced to one lane. Flagmen and pilot cars will be used to move traffic through the construction zone. Please anticipate and plan for traffic delays throughout the project.
- The anticipated completion date is early 2020.
- This is a TXDOT roadway project. The TXDOT office phone number is 972-962-3617. The contractor is Ed Bell Construction, 214-358-6581.

If you have any questions, please contact TXDOT or Chuck Todd, P.E. at the City of Heath Public Work's Office: 972-961-4885 or by email at: ctodd@heathtx.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

Fun & Fit in the Park, featuring the Heart of Heath 5k & Family 1-Mile Fun Run is Easter Saturday, April 20. Watch for more details next month and at www.heathtx.com

CERT SEEKS HEATH MEMBERS

The Rockwall Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which serves the entire Rockwall County area, is seeking Heath residents. The next two-day Basic Training Class will be held on February 2 and 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The curriculum includes indoor and outdoor training on disaster preparedness, fire safety, controlling utilities, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, introduction to the incident command system, disaster psychology, and terrorism response. Class space is limited and available on a first-come basis. To find out if space remains for this class or to get your name on the list for future training opportunities, email Jennifer Jeffus, CERT Planning Officer, at certrockwall@gmail.com.

CITY COUNCIL TO APPOINT CITIZENS TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

If you are interested in serving the City of Heath, the new Architectural Review Board (ARB) may be the place for you! The purpose of the ARB is to assure high standards for the aesthetic quality of development and/or redevelopment in commercial and multi-family housing areas of the City.

The board will consist of seven members who are citizens of the City and not currently serving on the City Council, the Board of Adjustment or the Planning & Zoning Commission. Each member of the ARB will be appointed by a simple majority vote of the City Council and will serve for terms of two years, or until reappointed or replaced by action of the City Council. The City Council will also appoint a chairperson of the ARB to serve concurrently with the term of the Mayor. Ideally, four members of the Board should be professional architects, landscape architects, engineers, or the equivalent in training for executing the purposes of the Board.

Appointments will be made at the February 12 City Council meeting; applications should be submitted by February 4. The volunteer application form can be found at www.heathtx.com or by contacting City Secretary Norma Duncan at nduncan@heathtx.com or 972-961-4876.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:



WELCOME, MARCO'S PIZZA!

Now open at 110 Smirl Dr., Marco's is the nation's fastest-growing pizza chain and only pizza chain in the U.S. that was founded by a native Italian. The new store is owned and operated by LJ Topalovic, who has lived in Heath for 15 years. "A lot of great

things are happening in Heath, like the new grocery store and all of the beautiful new homes," he said. "We are excited to be a part of this growth by serving great pizza to the great people of Heath."



TOM THUMB

Weather has affected many construction projects in North Texas, but crews are working tirelessly to stay on track for opening the new Tom Thumb at Laurence Road/FM 740 and FM 549 by the third quarter of 2019. The Malouff Group, the developers representing Tom Thumb, are also working hard to recruit ideal tenants for the additional space within the retail center.



STANDARD SERVICE RESTAURANT TO ANCHOR SOUTHRIDGE VENUE

The developers of the SouthRidge dining and entertainment venue at the northwest corner of FM 740 and FM 1140 are also working hard to open this summer. SouthRidge will be anchored by an expanded Standard Service restaurant offering a full dinner menu, take away family meals, and possibly breakfast. Other SouthRidge amenities include: a weekend market with eight to 10 vendors; a food truck court; a public stage for live music, community events; a jumbo outdoor LED screen for family movies and sports; two large turf areas for gaming and relaxing with family and friends; five fire pits with seating for 20 each; and 220 parking spots.



SPEND IN HEATH - INVEST IN HEATH

The Heath Economic Development Corporation/Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation and Heath City Council approved an Economic Development Assistance Agreement in 2016 for the SouthRidge project. 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. Simply put, HEDC/HMBC is re-investing your local sales tax dollars back into our community. So shop, dine and do business locally whenever you can!

CITY HONORS 2018 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The City of Heath honored employees for their outstanding performance in 2018 at the Annual Awards and Holiday Celebration Luncheon on December 12 at Hidden Creek Events Center in Heath.

Kevin Martin was named 2018 Citywide Employee of the Year in recognition of his exemplary work as Code Enforcement Officer. Additionally, he took on the added role of assisting as a Planning Technician in 2018. Departmental Employees of the Year were also recognized and include Katie Poteet, Administrative Services; Steven Parker, Public Works; Leisa Price, Community Development; and Officer Keven Rowan, Department of Public Safety.

"We are pleased to honor these employees today for their excellent work ethic and commitment to serving our customers, the citizens of Heath," said Interim City Manager Bill Shipp as he assisted in presenting the awards. "I am impressed by the entire staff team here, and I want each of you to know you are valued by your Department Directors, the Mayor and the Council."



From left, Citywide Employee of the Year, Kevin Martin; Katie Poteet, Administrative Services Employee of the Year; Leisa Price, Community Development Employee of the Year; Steven Parker, Public Works Employee of the Year; and (inset) Officer Keven Rowan, DPS Employee of the Year.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

Pipelines carry natural gas around the clock to more than 74 million homes and businesses in the United States. Because they are underground, you seldom notice these energy superhighways. In fact, pipelines are one of the safest forms of transportation. They are involved in far fewer serious incidents than trucks, railroad, ships or airplanes.

Even so, it's critical that you and your family follow these safety tips and know how to recognize and respond to a gas leak:

1. Call 811 before digging - State law requires calling 811 to have any buried utility lines located and marked before digging. Striking a utility line can disrupt neighborhood utility services, result in large repair costs and fines, and cause injuries or loss of life.
2. Use all senses to detect leaking natural gas - SMELL the distinctive odor; LISTEN for a hissing or whistling sound near a gas appliance or a roaring sound near a pipeline; LOOK for blowing dust, bubbling water or dead vegetation near a gas line.
3. Smell gas? Act fast! - If you suspect a leak, leave the area immediately. From a safe distance, call 911 and Atmos Energy's 24-hour emergency toll-free number 1-866-322-8667. Learn more at: atmosenergy.com.

FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM WASTE CONNECTION

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 or paint in your trash or recycling polycart. Recently, oil and paint have been placed in a recycling bin, and the entire load of recyclables collected that day were ruined and had to go into the land fill.