



# CITY OF HEATH NEWSLETTER



2019  
MAY



## THE CITY OF HEATH IS 12TH SAFEST CITY IN TEXAS

Heath Mayor Kelson Elam and Councilmembers honored the Heath Department of Public Safety at the March 26 City Council meeting for all the officers do for the community, including helping to make Heath the 12th Safest City in Texas in 2019.

“We are grateful to Chief Terry Garrett and his officers for their dedication in serving Heath 24/7,” said Mayor Elam. “Our extremely low crime statistics place our city at the top of the 267 cities statewide that were analyzed for this safety ranking.”

The annual study conducted by SafeWise is based upon the most recent data available in the FBI Uniform Crime Report, as well as the number of violent crime and property crime incidents per 1,000 residents in each city. Heath made the Top 50 list, ranking right behind Highland Park at #10 and University Park at #11.

“I am proud of our officers for their dedication and diligence to their profession,” said Chief Garrett. “We also want to thank our citizens for being vigilant. In a community of our size, most crime is what we call a ‘crime of opportunity’ that occurs when residents leave their garage doors open or cars and homes unlocked. Simply securing your property, as well as calling 9-1-1 whenever you see suspicious activity, helps us to better serve the public.”

In the City of Heath, each DPS Officer is tripled certified as a police officer, a fire fighter and an EMT professional. That means as first responders, they are able to give the necessary care or protection needed immediately upon arrival.

### HEATH VOTES!

**CITY OF HEATH GENERAL ELECTION IS SATURDAY, MAY 4  
HEATH CITY HALL | 7 A.M. – 7 P.M.**

Early voting: April 22 - April 30

Find early voting hours at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com). Search for *Heath Votes*.

On the ballot for the Heath: City Councilmembers Place 1, 2, 4 and 6.

### CITY RECEIVES FINANCIAL ACCOLADES FOLLOWING ANNUAL AUDIT

The City’s financial statements for the 2017-2018 fiscal year once again received an unmodified opinion from independent auditors, which is the best of the four types of opinions that the City could have received.

BW&C Certified Public Accountants conducted the audit and praised the City of Heath Council and Finance Department for its best practices in consistently maintaining conservative fiscal management, policies and procedures that have resulted in a balanced budget and healthy reserve fund balance.

### PUBLIC WORKS: IT STARTS HERE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK IS MAY 19-25

The City of Heath will join communities around the country in honoring the staff members who play an important role in keeping our City safe and functioning smoothly during National Public Works Week, May 19-25.

These professionals include those who manage and maintain the streets, drainage facilities, water, sewer, public buildings and parks. In short, these often “unsung” heroes maintain and improve systems and services that are vital to all citizens’ health, safety and comfort.

Mayor Kelson Elam will issue a proclamation in honor of the City of Heath Public Works Department at the City Council meeting on May 14, and staff will be treated to a special lunch for these special team members.

### CITY KICKS OFF EASTER WEEKEND WITH COMMUNITY GATHERING

The City of Heath continued its annual Easter Saturday tradition on April 20 by hosting Fun & Fit in the Park, featuring the Heart of Heath 5k and a 1-Mile Family Run, at Towne Center Park. You can find the event video, photos and the winners at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: HEATH PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



The City of Heath welcomes Dr. Kristofer Sivanich and Heath Pediatric Dentistry to its new location at 6750 Horizon Rd.

“Dr. Kris” is a Board Certified Pediatric Dentist who is dedicated to providing high quality care in a kid-friendly environment that offers many options for eliminating dental anxiety.

“Studies have found that toothaches resulting in serious dental emergencies are the leading cause of missed school days for kids, with over 51 million hours of school time lost every year,” said Dr. Kris, who also has extensive training in treating children with special needs.

“By providing the highest quality of dental care, we hope to prevent these absences so that the children of our community can take advantage of the education they deserve,” he said.

Heath Pediatric Dentistry is in-network with all major PPO insurances as well as Medicaid. An in-house membership plan is available for patients without insurance. Dr. Kris provides free second opinions and is available for emergency appointments. Learn more at [heathpediatricdentistry.com](http://heathpediatricdentistry.com).

### TOM THUMB



It was an exciting day for Heath on March 28 when a 5 State helicopter lifted the HVAC units to the roof of Tom Thumb, where construction is moving fast for an opening in September! Mayor Kelson Elam (right) and Councilmember Paul Ruffo (left) “co-piloted” the operation organized by Susan Bitros of 5 State.

### SOUTHRIDGE/STANDARD SERVICE



Tremendous progress is also being made at the premier dining and entertainment venue of SouthRidge, which will be anchored by a 4,500 square-foot Standard Service restaurant offering a full dinner menu and take home family meals. SouthRidge will also feature an outdoor stage for live music and entertainment, two large green turf areas for fun and games, pickle ball courts, six fire pits, a food truck court and weekend farmer’s market. Crews are working hard towards a mid-summer 2019 opening. Find a “fly-over tour” of the venue in the news section at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com).

## CITY OF HEATH GOES BLUE FOR THE KIDS



Heath City Hall was glowing blue in April to join communities across the nation in recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Heath Mayor Kelson Elam also issued a proclamation at the City Council meeting on April 9 emphasizing the importance of playing a role in preventing child abuse and neglect. Accepting the proclamation was Patricia Mejia, CEO of the Children’s Advocacy Center for Rockwall County. Also present from left were Heath DPS Chief Terry Garrett, Rockwall County District Attorney and President of the CAC Board, Kenda Culpepper, and CAC Board members, Penny Maris, Cindy Lindley and Ryan Bierds. Chief Garrett is a member of the CAC multidisciplinary team. Learn more about how you can join the City in taking a stand against child abuse at [www.rockwallcac.org](http://www.rockwallcac.org).

## CITY SPONSORS E-WASTE COLLECTION ON MAY 11

Recycle your E-Waste by dropping items at the Electronic Waste Collection Event co-sponsored by the City of Heath on Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. to noon at the Cain Middle School parking lot at 6620 FM 3097, Heath. 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. These financial contributions allow e-waste collection programs to continue to be offered. For more information: 972-524-0007 or [eco@trashbusters.org](mailto:eco@trashbusters.org).

## MEET THE CITY OF HEATH PARK BOARD!

This fun and energetic group includes Chairman Mark King, Vice Chairman Eric Anderson and Jim Chester, Patrick Cummins, Katie Dyer, Evan Jarcy, Kathryn Klepak, and Mayor Pro Tem Rich Krause serving as council liaison.

The Park Board has achieved many of its goals during the past 18 months including:

- Steering the 2018 Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted by City Council in May 2018.
- Conducting an extensive review and update of the City’s Parkland Dedication ordinance. Changes were adopted by City Council in March 2018.
- Revising the Park Fees and Policies Schedule to include a resident and non-resident fee structure that was adopted by City Council in July 2018.
- Steering the launch of a new Adopt-a-Park/Trail Litter Control program approved by City Council in February 2018.
- Steering park improvement projects funded by the Heath Economic Development Corporation/Municipal Benefits Corporation. (new lights for practice fields at Towne Center Park and a new picnic pavilion at Antigua Bay Park).
- Helping facilitate a partnership with the J.E.R. Chilton YMCA Rockwall to bring youth sports to Heath fields, beginning with soccer in March 2019.

With the adopted Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan as their guide, the Park Board has also identified a list of priority projects for City Council to consider during budget and Capital Improvement Project planning.