



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

IT'S BEEN HOT...

And so has demand for water! See the insert with this month's utility bill/newsletter for more information about water consumption in Heath this summer.

OCTOBER
2019



**FALL IS A BUSY SEASON IN HEATH.
HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!**

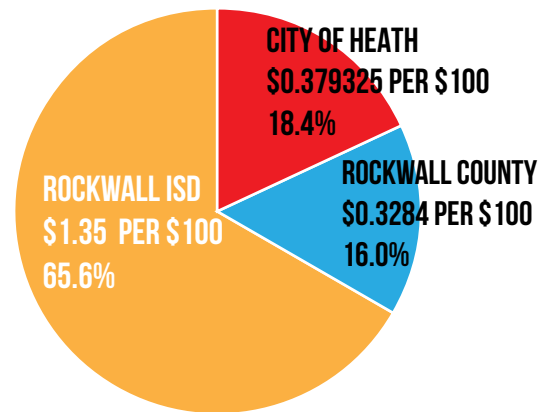
SEPTEMBER 27

TOM THUMB GRAND OPENING

The highly-anticipated opening of Heath's first full-service grocer, Tom Thumb, is Friday, September 27. Amenities will include a Starbucks; a full-scale meat and seafood department with fresh product offerings; a florist offering custom arrangements as well as pick-up-and-go choices; a wide variety of hot food offerings and salad bar; and friendly employees ready to help. Also coming to the new retail center this fall is Manny's Uptown Tex-Mex and Giovanni's Italian Bistro, specializing in dishes prepared in an authentic, traditional way.

TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX RATE

WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?



SEPTEMBER 28

HEATH FARMERS MARKET OPENS

The opening day for the new Heath Farmers Market presented by Heath Golf & Yacht Club and Whittle Development is Saturday, September 28 at Towne Center Park behind Heath City Hall. The market will be open from 2 to 6 p.m. every Saturday through November 30 and be followed each week by a free outdoor concert at 6 p.m. The market will feature a Fall bounty of locally grown, fresh produce and foods, hand-crafted goods, live music and a pumpkin patch offering an irresistible scene for fall family photos. The weekly concerts will showcase some of the area's top talent and take place on the City field adjacent to Towne Center Park. Just bring your lawn chairs, blankets, market goodies to enjoy with the great music.



OCTOBER 1

NEW CITY BUDGET IS EFFECTIVE

The FY 2019-2020 City of Heath Annual Budget becomes effective October 1. The new budget is based upon a tax rate of \$0.379325 per \$100 valuation on all taxable property in the City. This is .978 cents less than the current tax rate. Increased services in the budget include the addition of one Public Safety Officer. You can view the budget and an updated fee schedule at www.heathtx.com under the Finance Department.

OCTOBER 6-12

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

"NOT EVERY HERO WEARS A CAPE, PLAN YOUR ESCAPE"



In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy. That's why the 2019 Fire Prevention Week theme reinforces the need for an escape plan. Heath DPS officers will teach this important lesson during fire prevention programs at each Heath elementary school in October.

Here are tips for your household:

- Draw a map of your home's floor plan, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the address number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the Fire Department to find during the day and night.
- Close doors behind you as you leave to help slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

Learn more at www.nfpa.org.

OCTOBER 10

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD

WASTE COLLECTION SURVEY DEADLINE

In the past, the City of Heath has been invited by the City of Rockwall to participate in its annual residential hazardous waste collection event. The collection service was free to citizens, with the City of Heath contributing approximately \$9,700 to help the City of Rockwall host the program each year. The City of Rockwall no longer presents this collection event, but instead offers a weekly hazardous waste home pick-up service for a nominal monthly fee to its utility customers. Heath residents currently do not have such a service, but new options are available. Please let us know if you are interested in having such a service by completing a brief online survey at www.heathtx.com. Or, you may complete the print version included in this newsletter and return to City Hall by mail, fax or in person. All results are due by October 10.



DECEMBER 6

FOOD! FUN! SANTA!!

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS IN HEATH

The Annual City of Heath Holiday in the Park is Friday, December 6 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and will feature the Christmas Tree lighting, musical performances, food trucks, kids' activities, miniature train rides, Mrs. Claus' complimentary cocoa and cookies and photos with Santa! Watch for more details about this Heath tradition held in Towne Center Park.



From left, Chief Terry Garrett and Officers Trever Adams and Paul Sturgeon.

CITY WELCOMES NEWEST OFFICERS

The City welcomes Heath's newest DPS officer, Trever Adams, who was sworn in on August 27 by Chief Terry Garrett. Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, Officer Adams and his wife moved to Texas in 2014, when he was playing for the Texas Rangers. He already had his EMT and fire fighter certification, and graduated from the Police Academy on August 28 at the top of his class. Officer Adams was recruited to Heath by DPS Officer Paul Sturgeon, who had the honor of pinning a new badge on his good friend and now trusted colleague.



From left: Jamie Barkley, Vice Commodore of Education; Misty Hoyer, Secretary; Wendy Vandling, Commodore; Mayor Elam; Daniel Colonna, Vice Commodore of House; Erik Hemker, Vice Commodore of Race; George Hannan, Immediate Past Commodore; and David Hamilton, Treasurer.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT RCYC

The Heath City Council recognized Rush Creek Yacht Club's 50th Anniversary at its September 10 meeting. Founded in 1969, RCYC has become a landmark for sailing in the U.S., hosting International and National regattas as well as local competition for all ages and skill levels. RCYC has produced Olympic Medalists, World Champions, National Champions and College All-Americans and continues to train youth and adult sailors who compete worldwide. Congratulations to the oldest business in Heath and its members! Learn more at www.rcyc.org.



CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Heath joined communities across the U.S. in observing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to put a spotlight on the leading cause of death by disease in children. Accepting the proclamation from Mayor Kelson Elam was Maura Kelso of Be Bold, Go Gold, whose son is a cancer survivor. Learn more about how you can join the fight for a cure and events occurring in September at www.beboldgoldtx.com.



ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION

The 232nd Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States of America was recognized at the City Council meeting on September 10 as Mayor Kelson Elam proclaimed the week of September 17 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.

CUT ALONG DASHED LINE

CITIZEN SURVEY:

WOULD YOU LIKE THE CITY OF HEATH TO PROVIDE A RESIDENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE?

1. What is your utility billing address:
2. Would you like the City to provide a residential hazardous waste collection service? Yes No Maybe
3. Would you like this collection service provided:
 - A. Once a month from your home for no more than .89 cents per month charged with your current utility fees?
No electronics (eWaste) will be accepted. Yes No Maybe
 - B. Once a week from your home for no more than .99 cents per month charged with your current utility fees?
Electronics (eWaste) will be accepted. Yes No Maybe
 - C. Annually at a centralized collection location to which you bring your items at no charge. Yes No Maybe

Thank you for taking time to share your input on this potential city service! Please return to the City by October 10. Options are on the back.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

ABOUT YOUR CITY OF HEATH WATER & SEWER SERVICES

Q. Who is the City of Heath's water supplier?

The City of Heath's water supplier is the City of Rockwall, which is a member city of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).

Q. What is the NTMWD?

The NTMWD is a conservation and reclamation district and political subdivision of the State of Texas. NTMWD's primary mission is to meet the needs of member and customer cities, whether that is the need for drinking water, solid waste disposal or wastewater treatment. NTMWD acts as a regional wholesaler of water to its member and customer cities.

Q. How are Water Rates Set?

NTMWD is responsible for setting the rates charged to their customers. Rates are calculated annually and are based on the projected cost of providing the service. Water rates are set per 1,000 gallons. As our provider, the City of Rockwall charges Heath an administration fee of \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons in addition to the NTMWD's rate.

Each year's fee schedule is adopted annually and can be found at heathtx.com. The rates are structured to promote water conservation.

Q. How is the Amount I Am Billed Each Month Determined?

The City of Heath bills in units of water, where one unit equals 1,000 gallons. The residential base water rate includes two units of water, equaling 2,000 gallons.

Water consumption above the base rate of two units is billed at a tiered water rate in order to promote water conservation (base rates vary depending upon the size of your meter). Example: If your bill indicates six units, then the charge for two units is already included in your base water

rate, and the additional four units will be billed at the current year's fee schedule.

Q. When Is My Bill Due?

Payments are due on the 20th of each month to prevent late fees.

Q. How Can I Receive My Bill?

The City encourages you to enroll in E-billing to receive reliable delivery of your bill in an environmentally friendly method. The E-bill will include a link to the City's monthly newsletter, so you can still keep up with important information. You may also choose to receive a monthly bill by mail.

Q. Why are Rates Higher or Lower in other Communities?

In a community with a large population such as Plano, the cost of providing water is distributed over a greater number of customers, allowing for lower per-customer rates. In a low-density community such as Heath, a smaller number of customers share the cost, creating the need for higher per-customer rates.

Q. What are the Water Sources?

Lavon Lake serves as the NTMWD's main raw water supply source. The NTMWD also holds water rights for raw water supplies from Lake Texoma, Jim Chapman Lake and the wetland facility near Crandall. Additional supplies are available if needed through a water transfer to Lavon Lake from Lake Tawakoni.

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR WATER BILL

For payment options visit the Utilities Services depart page at heathtx.com and download the *Utility Services 411* pdf found under PDF Forms and Documents.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Get the latest City news, announcements and information by visiting heathtx.com and following the City on social media.



HOW TO RETURN YOUR SURVEY

In Person or By Mail:

City of Heath, 200 Laurence Drive, Heath, Texas 75032

Utility bill drop box available after normal business hours

By Fax: 972-961-4932

You can also take this survey online at: heathtx.com