



# CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

**PLANNED NEW FACILITIES**  
All-abilities Playground Planned for Terry Park.  
See page 3 for the details.

**FEBRUARY**  
**2020**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



Mayor Kelson Elam with daughter, Lindsey Collins, far left, granddaughter, Jade, and wife, Brenda.

### 2020 MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we ring in 2020, we celebrate a new decade of both milestones and firsts in Heath.

Founded in 1880, Heath turns 140 this year. Rush Creek Yacht Club just celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Annual Holiday in the Park was bigger and better than ever for its 25th Anniversary, with Amy Parks Honor Choir Director, Jan Stonestreet, closing out the Christmas Tree Lighting program with her current and past choir members singing *Super Santa* like they have every year since 1994.

The Inaugural Heath Farmers Market was held every Saturday in the fall, culminating with a great concert and our first official City fireworks display on November 30. Thanks to Rob Whittle and Heath Golf and Yacht Club for stepping up to sponsor the market and to the newly-formed Heath Volunteer Fireworks Committee for coordinating the show sponsored by the Heath Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The Heath EDC will be sponsoring more fireworks shows throughout the year, so stay tuned and plan to stay home for these events.

The Heath Hawks Band, Drill team and Cheerleaders assisted with the opening of the new 55,000-square-foot Tom Thumb grocery store. Although a stark contrast from the Terry General Store, Cullen Bait and Grocery and Brady's Grocery of the past, the Tom Thumb team is working hard to provide not only good products and services, but also a hometown, friendly feel.

The J.E.R. Chilton Rockwall YMCA began its first year of using our Towne Center Park fields for the youth soccer program and managing our City fields. Despite a rain-filled spring, the YMCA leadership is excited with the participation in Heath



and expects it to only increase in 2020. We look forward to building on this partnership to bring more activities to all citizens of Heath.

Parks And Trails Of Heath (PATH) was launched to engage citizens, organizations and businesses in creating a high-quality park and trail system. Thanks to our charter members and the Park Board for their vision and leadership in maintaining Heath's unique character. The council also dedicated land at Terry Park for an all-abilities playground. Please help the "Ginnies" make this happen. (You can read more about their project on page 3.)

Ed Thatcher, our 15-year City manager, moved to retirement to spend more time with his grandchildren, and we passed the reins to Aretha Adams to continue a culture of excellent service to our citizens. Heath once again ranked among the Top Safest Cities in Texas, and we are grateful to our Heath Department of Public Safety for this achievement.

We want to keep Heath a great place to raise a family or spend time with grandchildren. There are many elements to maintaining that goal, even as our City and culture continue to evolve. Community involvement is the key.

Please visit the City website at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com) to find out how you can apply for a position on a City Board, volunteer for organizations like CERT and the Fireworks Committee, support PATH and more. You really can make a positive difference in your hometown.

My Best to You and Yours in 2020,  
*Kelson Elam, Mayor of Heath*

## WEEKLY HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION **NOW AVAILABLE**

Schedule a weekly “front porch pickup” of items such as paint, insecticides, fertilizers and other household chemicals. These items are not accepted by regular trash collection services and are prohibited in landfills. You can also set out up to 50 pounds of electronic items to be recycled. This new service is provided by HHW Solutions. Learn more at [heathtx.com/trash-collection](http://heathtx.com/trash-collection).

### HOW TO SCHEDULE A FRONT PORCH PICKUP:

#### **BY 8 P.M., MONDAY**

Call 972-440-2040 or go online to [HHSolutions.com](http://HHSolutions.com) to request a pickup. There is a City of Heath tab on the website.

#### **BY 7 A.M., WEDNESDAY**

Place items to be collected on your front porch. If you have a gated property, please place your items at the curb.

This schedule will not change unless impacted by a holiday. If you have questions, contact the City at 972-771-6228.

## CITY OF HEATH HONORS STAFF:

**OFFICER ROBERT HOWARD - 2019 CITYWIDE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**



City of Heath City Manager Aretha Adams, left, and Heath DPS Chief Terry Garrett, right, presented DPS Officer Robert Howard with the 2019 Employee of the Year Award during the staff Christmas party on December 13. Officer Howard is recognized for going out of his way as a School Resource Officer to support Heath’s elementary schools and build relationships with students, staff and parents.



Named 2019 Departmental Employees of the Year were from left; Ashley Ferrell, Community Development; Officer Dallas Talley, Department of Public Safety; City Secretary Norma Duncan, Administrative Services; and Larry Dunham, Public Works.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

HEDC/HMBC WORKING FOR YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

### **SHOP LOCAL!**

NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES OFFER PLENTY OF CHOICES

With Gianni’s Italian Bistro, Manny’s Uptown Tex-Mex, Marco’s Pizza, Milano’s Pizza and Arboledo’s Mexican Grill all open, there’s no reason to leave Heath when you feel like dining out or take out. Better yet, the new South Ridge entertainment venue anchored by an expanded Standard Service Restaurant is scheduled to open by the end of January to further increase the opportunities for great food and good fun right here in Heath.

With a focus on friendly customer service and high-quality products and produce, Tom Thumb is enjoying a strong pace of business that will only grow. New services in the retail center include The UPS Store, Aria Nail Bar and Great Clips. These businesses complement long-time community partners like Heath Salon and Spa, owned and operated by Juana French with a focus on pampering clients and giving back to the City.

You can also play a big role in helping make our City better. By spending locally instead of online or in another city, you ensure that your sales tax dollars are re-invested where they belong— in Heath! Keep up with your new choices in this newsletter each month, and on the City’s Facebook page and website, [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).



## LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT ADOPT-A-PARK/TRAIL VOLUNTEER LITTER CONTROL PROGRAM

The City Council and Park Board recently approved Precision Roofing Group and APW Services as participants in the City of Heath Adopt-A-Park/Trail Volunteer Litter Control Program. The businesses have adopted the Stoneleigh Trail, and are owned by Stoneleigh residents Gary (above right) and Kellie Anderson and Justin (above left) and Shelly Ruggiano. Both the Anderson and Ruggiano families had already been cleaning the trail on a regular basis. This makes it official, and the City is grateful!

For information about the Adopt-a-Park/Trail program, contact [sbrooke@heathtx.com](mailto:sbrooke@heathtx.com).



Ginny Jackson, left, and Gini Seely

## MARSHA'S HAPPY HAVEN AT TERRY PARK: A PLAYGROUND FOCUSED ON INCLUSION

{Dictionary: ha-ven: noun a place of safety or refuge}

If you know Heath resident and former Park Board Chairman Ginny Jackson, you know that she is driven by a fierce passion to create an inclusive haven where children can play and caregivers can rest and restore.

Mrs. Jackson's vision took a big leap towards reality on August 27, 2019 when the Heath City Council dedicated a .54 acre parcel of land at the waterfront Terry Park for a privately-funded all abilities playground.

Now Mrs. Jackson and friends, including long-time Heath resident Gini Seely (AKA "the Ginnies"), are spearheading fund raising efforts for a beautiful playground designed by Robert Luna of Middleman Luna Architects. Mr. Luna designed Morgan's Wonderland, the all-abilities amusement park in San Antonio.

Luna's concept design is situated on a small footprint in Terry Park, but it packs in a ton of fun with play structures and features that are wheelchair accessible, sensory friendly and safe for all. The features also allow wounded war veterans to enjoy some of the attractions and take part in playing with their children.

Unique elements include musical instruments, a platform with more than 50 items such as periscopes, and activities that answer every kid's love for climbing. Attractive shading and gating that enhances the lakefront setting will surround the playground to ensure each child's safety and every caregiver's peace-of-mind.

"We are so grateful for the incredible support of the City and community," said Mrs. Jackson. "Marsha's Happy Haven will be a small oasis of happiness and joy in a beautiful place that all citizens can be proud of and enjoy with their own families."

"I have nothing but admiration for the tireless tenacity and hard work that both Ginny Jackson and Gini Seely have poured into this endeavor," said Mayor Kelson Elam. "This will be a unique asset to the City of Heath's parks and trails system, and we look forward to continuing our private-public partnership to bring their vision to life."

To fund construction of Marsha's Happy Haven, Mrs. Jackson is seeking \$1.2 million in private donations. Fund raising events are in the works for the spring and summer, but you can make a contribution now online at the non-profit's website, [www.marshashappyhaven.com/donate](http://www.marshashappyhaven.com/donate). You can also make donations in person at Heath City Hall, or contact Mrs. Jackson directly with questions or ideas at [jacksonvirginia615@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonvirginia615@gmail.com).

### THE INSPIRATION BEHIND MARSHA'S HAPPY HAVEN

Mrs. Jackson's passion for developing an all inclusive park in Heath began in the early 1970's, when she met Marsha Waldie, a young girl who had Spina Bifida. "Marsha was three years old and confined to a tiny wheelchair, while my own young daughter was running and playing outside. This made a lasting impression on me," said Mrs. Jackson.



Marsha was not expected to live past the age of 20, but she didn't let this prognosis be a discouragement. She went to college, where she studied radio and television, and became a film editor in Dallas.

"Nothing stopped Marsha, and she ended up living to the age of 43," said Mrs. Jackson. "Her life is a great reminder of what you can achieve with strength and positivity. For that reason, we have dedicated Marsha's Happy Haven in her honor. We believe that all people, both those with and without special needs, should be able to enjoy a day at the park without limitations."



# PARKS AND TRAILS OF HEATH (PATH)... PATH IS ON A ROLL

The new Parks And Trails of Heath fund raising program is off to a strong start with a list of charter members that is getting longer every week. You can be a part of helping to grow a great parks and trails system by simply signing up to donate \$5 or \$10 each month with your utility bill. Several support levels are also available for one-time donation, and everyone gets rewards beginning with the special charter member car decal.

## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

PATH MAKER: \$5/Per Month | PATH FINDER: \$10/Per Month  
 PATH PAVER: \$500 One-Time Donation | PATH FUNDER: \$1,000 One-Time Donation  
 PATH BUILDER: \$5,000 One-Time Donation | PATH PATRON: \$10,000 One-Time Donation

## CHARTER PATH DONORS AS OF JANUARY 16, 2020

PATH PATRON  
\$10,000 Donation



PATH FUNDER  
\$1,000 Donation



The UPS Store

PATH PAVER - \$500 Donation  
 Kathy Farrington  
 Rich Koepke  
 Rick & Kathy Spletter

PATH FINDER - \$10 per Month  
 Suzanne & Mark Brooke  
 Jim & Beatrice Chester  
 John & Katie Dyer  
 Mayor Kelson & Brenda Elam  
 Ken & Lorrie Gray  
 Robert & Dana Hensley  
 Lorrie Kasper  
 Wes & Sarah Keith  
 Councilman Rich Krause

David & Debbie Lane  
 PATH FINDER (Continued)  
 Ruth Miller  
 Bob Petka  
 Bryan Ramey  
 John & Janet Reed  
 David Roe  
 Tony & Councilmember Donna Rolater  
 Gini Seely  
 Cameron & Michelle Slocum  
 Steve & Stacy Wingard

PATH MAKER - \$5 per Month  
 Gary & Kellie Anderson  
 Randy & Lana Dodgen  
 Candy Smith

## HOW TO BE A CHARTER MEMBER OF PATH:

**VISIT HEATHTX.COM/PATH TO FIND CHARTER MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SIGN UP ONLINE, OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE.**

*All contributions to a municipality are tax deductible in accordance with Section 170(c) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code if made exclusively for a public purpose such as the City's park system.*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Heath is great place to LIVE and WORK. Keep up with employment opportunities close to home at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).