



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE
Fun & Fit in the Park, Featuring the
Heart of Heath 5k/Family Run is April 11.
View inside pages for the details.

MARCH
2020



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: SALES TAXES ARE UP IN HEATH!

Spending locally pays off! The City of Heath sales tax revenues as of December 31, 2019 were up 39.6 percent compared to the same time a year ago, which is an upward trend that should continue with Tom Thumb, Manny's Tex-Mex, Gianni's Italian Bistro and Standard Service at South Ridge now active (and very popular) members of the business community.

“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,” said David Lane, president of the Heath Economic Development Corporation and Municipal Benefits Corporation (HEDC/HMBC). “We thank leaders and volunteers present and past for their efforts to bring unique high quality opportunities for citizens to dine and shop in our city”

In the past five years, the HEDC/HMBC has invested \$687,669 of your sales tax dollars in community improvements such as the new street signs and numerous park and trails improvements. In its 2019-2020 annual budget, the HEDC/HMBC committed 25% of its annual sales tax revenue back to more community improvements. Your local spending increases the funding available for these investments in Heath, all of which contribute to our quality of life.

U.S. CENSUS 2020: BE SURE YOU REPRESENT HEATH!

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of our community. The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The data is also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts; determine where communities need new schools and new roads; and guide how billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs including Medicaid. Every home in Heath should receive an invitation to participate by April 1. You can respond online, by phone or by mail, so be sure to take time for this important civic duty.



ANNUAL WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PLANNED FOR MARCH 4 - APRIL 1

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will conduct its annual system maintenance, which includes a temporary change in the water disinfectant, between March 4 and April 1. The annual routine change has occurred for over 10 years and is necessary to maintain the regional system and year-round water quality.

Disinfection is a critical part of the water treatment process that keeps drinking water free of harmful microorganisms, such as parasites and viruses. During the temporary change, NTMWD suspends adding ammonia and uses only free-chlorine to keep water disinfected as it travels through pipes. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this temporary conversion is a common and safe practice for as many as 40% of water providers using chloramines for disinfection.

During the maintenance period, the absence of ammonia may make the chlorine disinfectant more noticeable in your water. There are simple steps to minimize the taste, odor or skin sensitivities including placing a pitcher of water in the refrigerator overnight or adding a slice of citrus to the water. Adding a crushed 1000 mg Vitamin C tablet to bath water will remove the chlorine. Information from the NTMWD about the system maintenance is available at ntmwd.com.

RUNOFF ON OUR STREETS = POLLUTION IN OUR WATERS

10 WAYS TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater pollution is one of the biggest challenges facing clean water today. Wherever there is paving, the rain can't soak into the soil as nature intended. Instead, it flows over roofs and roads, picking up oils, chemicals, litter and animal waste before it runs off into our streams and lakes with these pollutants. The City of Heath joins cities throughout the U.S. in urging citizens to do their part to prevent this pollution. Here are 10 easy ways to do your part:

1. Don't dump anything down the storm drains.

Not mop water, motor oil or car washing rinse water. This water does not get any sort of cleaning treatment before flowing into natural water bodies. And put leaves and grass clippings in the garbage so they don't clog up the storm drains.

2. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.

Nationwide, we have major problems with too much fertilizer and pesticides entering our water. Make sure your lawn fertilizers stay on your lawn and out of the gutter. Use more native plants that don't need chemicals to look good.

3. Use a car wash instead of your driveway.

A car wash has to collect and clean the wash water before discharging it. If you have to wash your car at home, do it on the lawn so the water soaks into the soil.

4. Pick up your pet waste.

Need we say more?. Nobody wants fecal matter running into the lakes where they ski and fish.

5. Throw your trash in the garbage.

Litter will make its way into the water through the stormdrain system. In addition to being unsightly, trash can harbor bacteria biofilms that encourage the growth of harmful bacteria.

6. Throw your cigarette butts away.

Cigarette butts tossed to the ground also end up in natural water bodies and contribute to the water's toxicity.

7. Fix oil leaks.

Oil drips on the driveway and road will wash into streams and lakes during the next storm.

8. Consider a rain barrel.

Capturing and reusing rainwater means less of it can carry pollutants to the streams and lakes. And your plants will love that sweet chlorine-free water.

9. Direct your downspouts back onto your landscaping.

If rain barrels are too much for you, at least direct the downspout water away from paved areas and back onto your landscaping.

10. Sweep your sidewalks and driveways clean.

Don't use a hose to wash your sidewalks and driveways. This wastes water and sends dirty water into the storm drains.

TEXAS SMART YARD:

ANOTHER WAY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE WATER

Texas SmartScape is a landscape program crafted to be "smart" for Texas. The program uses plants suited to our region's soil, climate and precipitation that thrive. You can find a wealth of resources including recommended plants at txsmartscape.com.

7 STEPS TO YOUR SMART YARD

1. Plan and Design

Consider your family's needs and desires when envisioning your perfect yard. Once you have a solid idea of what you want, look critically at what you've got. What are the permanent fixtures or restrictions? What plants do you want to keep? Prioritize your needs and create a plan.

2. Reduce Turf

Less turf means more time for you to enjoy your lawn, and more money in your pocket because you won't have to water as much. Add more flower beds with SmartScape plants. Add large, sweeping curves to the landscape to make it visually appealing. Add or widen pathways, and use groundcovers where it makes sense. Groundcovers under trees and on slopes can often give the look of grass, but you don't have to maintain them.

3. Soil

Organic matter is the key to a solid foundation to help your plants thrive. Compost helps to condition the soil, hold moisture, prevent run-off, reduce erosion and unlocks nutrients in the soil. One way to improve water absorption is to add raised beds. Raised beds also help improve drainage, reduce soil compaction and reduce weeds.

4. Planting

Use the SmartScape plant database to find native and adapted plants that are well suited to our environment. Native plants are drought tolerant as well as disease and pest resistant. This will reduce your irrigation, fertilizer and pesticide requirements. When planning your yard or garden, use a wide range of plants and plant with room for their mature size. When planting or transplanting, water the plant, water the hole and then water the plant in the hole.

5. Mulch

Regularly adding mulch to maintain about a 3-inch blanket is good for beds and around trees. Mulch helps reduce evaporation and cools soils in the summer by up to 10 degrees. Mulch also helps reduce erosion, diseases and prevents weeds from getting a foothold. Never pile mulch up around trunks or stems; instead it should be like a shallow bowl around the trunk.

6. Water-Wise

Efficient irrigation will save you money. It is best to water in the early morning when evaporation rates are lowest. Water 5-10 minutes (or until runoff begins), then water that area again 10 minutes later for another 5-10 minutes (or until 1" of water total has been applied to that area). One inch of water a week should be enough for native plants to survive even the hottest summers. Look into using drip irrigation. Also, turn off your sprinklers when it rains, because that is wasting water and money.

7. Maintenance

Regularity and moderation should guide your maintenance schedule. Avoid excessive pruning as natural beauty softens the landscape. If you chose well adapted plants for your location, maintenance should be minimal. If you do encounter problems, try cultural, organic, physical and mechanical means of pest control instead of chemicals.



FUN & FIT IN THE PARK IS EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 11:

FEATURING HEART OF HEATH 5K, 1-MILE FAMILY RUN

The City of Heath's traditional Easter Saturday celebration on April 11 features the Heart of Heath 5k and 1-Mile Family Run. Bring your family and friends to Towne Center Park to experience one of the events that help make Heath special!

What to expect:

- USATF Certified 5k course with chip-timed start and finish lines for 5k participants
- 5k awards for top 3 overall plus top 3 males and females in each age bracket
- 1-Mile Family Run—integrated into the 5k course, with same start and finish lines
- 1-Mile Family Run awards for top 3 boys and top 3 girls
- 2020 T-shirts for 5k and Family Run participants while supplies last
- Fun and games for all
- Complimentary healthy treats
- A hometown DJ and fun music
- Prize drawings for registered runners
- The Easter Bunny and friends for fun photo opps

Find more details and register online for the runs at heathtx.com.

THE CITY OF HEATH THANKS OUR 2020 SPECIAL EVENT SERIES SPONSORS!

HOST SPONSOR



COMMUNITY PARTNERS





ANOTHER EASY WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HEATH... BECOME A CHARTER PATH MEMBER!

The new Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) 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 donations, and everyone gets rewards beginning with the special charter member car decal. To learn more about the first planned project or donate online, go to heathtx.com/path

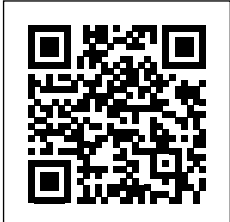
CHARTER MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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 FEBRUARY 14, 2020

PATH PATRON
\$10,000 Donation



PATH FUNDER
\$1,000 Donation



PATH PAVER - \$500 Donation

Russell & Patricia Clark
 Jon-Paul & Crystal Dixon
 Kathy Farrington
 Rich Koepke
 Mark & Lisa Misheck
 Rick & Kathy Spletter

David & Laura Gartling
 Ken & Lorrie Gray
 Robert & Dana Hensley
 Ken & Ginny Jackson
 Lorrie Kasper
 Wes & Sarah Keith
 Kathryn Klepak
 Councilman Rich Krause
 David & Debbie Lane
 Ruth Miller
 Bob Petka
 Bryan Ramey
 John & Janet Reed
 David Roe
 Tony & Councilmember Donna Rolater

Gini Seely
 Cameron & Michelle Slocum
 Justin & Jennifer Saunders
 William & Wendy Wilbanks
 Craig & Julie Zurek

PATH MAKER - \$5 per Month
 Gary & Kellie Anderson
 Randy & Lana Dodgen
 Calvin and Linda O'Glee
 Candee Smith

PATH FINDER - \$10 per Month

Councilmember John Beaman
 Mark & Suzanne Brooke
 Jim & Beatrice Chester
 Patrick & Lindsey Cummins
 John & Katie Dyer
 Mayor Kelson & Brenda Elam

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.