



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

HEATH
REMEMBER TO
SHOP LOCAL
In Town & Online

MARCH
2021



HEATH RESPONDS TO WINTER STORM URI

Winter Storm Uri will go down in history as an epic weather event that brought the lows of extended power outages, severe property damage and other misery to millions of Texans. And it will go down in history as another time where the Heath community spirit shined as neighbors, friends and businesses reached out to help each other with shelter, food, water, firewood, repair resources and more.

The Public Works team kept the City water system running and prevented a boil notice while also making emergency calls to homes and businesses to shut off water to prevent further damage from burst pipes. At the same time, DPS officers made 174 emergency/EMS fire calls and 90 police calls in just 6 days.

DPS officers also helped shut off water at homes and businesses, set up and staffed the warming center at City Hall, and made door-to-door wellness checks in neighborhoods that had been without power for an extended period.

“We commend DPS Chief Brandon Seery and Public Works Director Chuck Todd and their incredible team of professionals for their service and truly keeping our city moving during this historic weather event,” said Mayor Elam.

FOLLOW UP RESPONSE

On February 23, City Manager Aretha Adams led an Executive Staff Team “winter storm debriefing” meeting to discuss the City’s successes, lessons learned and areas for improvement before, during and after the event. New ideas, resources and changes including tools for quickly reaching residents who are not on social media or online will be discussed for funding and implementation in ongoing planning sessions with staff and council.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN AND SUPPLIES

With Uri as a fresh memory and the Spring severe weather season right around the corner, now is the time to create an emergency plan and organize supplies for your home and business. Ready.gov advises being prepared to be self-sufficient for three days and offers an excellent step-by-step guide for every kind of disaster with checklists and tips. The website also includes guidelines from the CDC on additional items to have in your emergency kit to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or other viruses and the flu. Go to: [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

OTHER STORM NEWS

The City of Heath has waived permit fees for any winter storm remediation work occurring between February 16 and July 23. You can apply online through the contract portal or find application forms at [heathtx.com/departments/building-inspections](https://www.heathtx.com/departments/building-inspections). Staff has been working since the winter storm to approve and issue permits in approximately two hours or less so that work can begin as soon as possible. For more information, contact aferrell@heathtx.com.

ANNUAL WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PLANNED MARCH 1 – 29

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN WATER DISINFECTANT
CRITICAL FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER YEAR ROUND



The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will conduct its annual system maintenance, which includes a temporary change in the water disinfectant, between March

1 through March 29. The annual routine change has occurred for over 11 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 percent 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.

For more information, visit NTMWD.com/safewater and the [TCEQ at tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/disinfection/temporary-free-chlorine-conversion](http://tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/disinfection/temporary-free-chlorine-conversion).



ANNUAL HEART OF HEATH EVENT SHIFTS TO A **COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE**

While there is hope of returning to “normal” in the near future with a vaccine, spreading COVID-19 is still a current concern when it comes to large gatherings. As a result, rather than the traditional Heart of Heath 5k and Family Run event with shoulder to shoulder crowding at the start line, the Special Events Board and City staff are working with PlayTri Management to present a Heart of Heath Bike Tour on Easter Saturday, April 3 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The family-friendly bike ride will encompass a 5-mile route that begins in Towne Center Park and loops the community via FM 740/Laurence and Smirl Drive. There will also be a kid-friendly 1k route within Towne Center Park. More details and the registration link will soon be published at heathtx.com and on the City’s Facebook page, Twitter and in next month’s newsletter.

CITY OF HEATH RECEIVES **FINANCIAL ACCOLADES**

The City of Heath received an unmodified opinion for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which is the best of the four possible outcomes that could have been received. Heath received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 11th consecutive year. The 2020 CAFR will be submitted to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate. BW&C Certified Public Accountants conducted the audit and highlighted the City’s conservative fiscal management, policies and procedures that have resulted in a balanced budget and healthy reserve fund balance.



See story on Page 3: From left: Eagle Scout Kevin Harvey; Gary Fate; Mayor Kelson Elam; Councilmember Paul Ruffo; Mayor Pro Tem Frank New; and Councilmembers Brent Weaver and Donna Rolater. Not pictured: Councilmembers Rich Krause and John Beaman.



Back from left: HEDC/HMBC President David Lane; Park Board Chairman Mark King; Park Board Jim Chester; Katie Dyer; Patrick Cummins; Mayor Kelson Elam; John Curtis; and Glen Barrow. Front from left: HEDC/HMBC members Sandra Doyle; Vicki Wallace; and Justin Saunders. Not pictured: HEDC/HMBC members Tom Johnson and Cynthia Allen; Park Board member Cameron Slocum; Councilmember Rich Krause, who is Park Board liaison; and Councilmember Brent Weaver, who is the HEDC/HMBC liaison.

CITY HOSTS PATH PROJECT AND HISTORIC GRIST MILL STONE DEDICATION

It was a small and safe gathering of Heath citizens with big hearts for service at the dedication ceremony held January 28, in Towne Center Park, to commemorate the completion of the first Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) project and the preservation of a historic grist mill stone.

“We recognize the past so that we can connect it to the present. It is what creates and brings communities together,” said Mayor Kelson Elam as he welcomed members of the City Council, Park Board, Heath Economic Development/Municipal Benefit Corporations and Boy Scout Troop 314.

PATH PROJECT AND CONTRIBUTORS

During the program, Park Board Chairman Mark King explained that the PATH program was developed by the Board to provide citizens an opportunity to help expand amenities in Heath’s parks.

“We have wonderful parks, but need to enhance the amenities,” he said. “PATH offers a way for citizens to participate in this effort financially. We’re very pleased to have raised enough funding to complete our first project within the program’s first year.”

The Phase 1 PATH project involved increasing the shade in Towne Center Park, which was a request by citizens during the community engagement process of developing the 2018 City of Heath Parks and Trails Master Plan. Twenty-five mature shade trees were installed along with high quality park benches. A water bottle filler with a pet bowl is also being installed.

Instrumental to the success of PATH are the major contributors, which include the HEDC/HMBC and Impact Selector International (ISI), a global company headquartered in Heath. David Lane is the president of the HEDC/HMBC and the CEO of ISI.

“The mission of the HEDC and HMBC is to expand our local sales tax base and to re-invest those sales tax dollars into Heath’s quality of life,” Mr. Lane explained. “PATH is a great way to involve local companies, citizens and the City of Heath in creating a public and private partnership together for our City’s future. Hopefully this is a model to be replicated to endorse such a great collaborative effort.”

Mr. Lane’s firm, ISI, also supports the program as a \$10,000 PATH Patron contributor. “This program speaks to the vision of our company,” he said. “We are based here, we live here and we want to be a part of helping Heath continue to be the wonderful hometown that it is.”

See page 4 for more information about becoming a PATH member.

HISTORIC GRIST MILL PRESERVATION

Towne Center Park now also features a historic grist mill stone that was brought to Heath by one of its earliest settlers in the 1800s, the James Kyser family, who had a hand-driven grist mill that they shared with fellow settlers to grind corn and other grains into flour.

The grist mill stone was discovered by Heath resident, Gary Fate, in a pile of concrete rubble at the intersection of FM 740 and Laurence Road near the location of the old Brady’s Country Store during the FM 740 widening project in 2014.

Mr. Fate brought the stone’s attention to the City, and Public Works rescued it and stored it at the department’s facility. The grist mill stone remained at the Public Works facility until Mr. Fate wrote Mayor Elam about the stone last year, and his belief that it is important to share this historical artifact with the community.

The Mayor assigned its preservation to the Park Board. At the same time, the City was in communication with Boy Scout, Kevin Harvey, who was seeking an Eagle Scout project. To make a long story short, the two projects were married together.

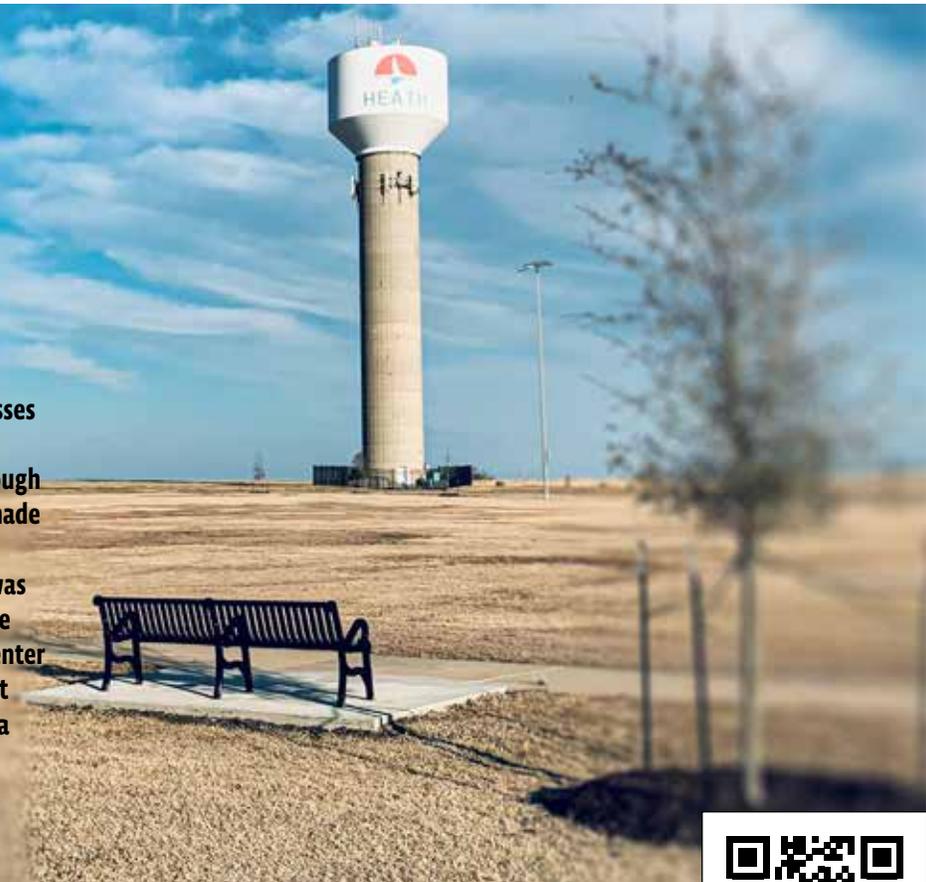
Harvey designed and installed an iron display for the stone behind City Hall; Public Works moved it over; and the City installed a sign telling the grist mill stone’s story.



THANK YOU PATH MEMBERS

Thank you to all of the Heath residents and businesses who supported the new Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) fund raising program its inaugural year. Through your support, the first PATH project of increasing shade in Towne Center Park with 25 new trees, plus new park benches and a water bottle filler and pet bowl was completed in 2020. The Park Board has specified that the next PATH project will continue to focus upon Towne Center Park improvements, such as new playground equipment and the specifics are being defined in conjunction with a master design project for the park that is underway.

Be a part of this progress in 2021 by signing up at heathtx.com/path!



CHARTER PATH DONORS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2021

PATH PATRON
\$10,000 Donation



PATH FUNDER
\$1,000 Donation



RHONDA HOLLOWAY
BILL & BARBARA BOTTORFF
MAGNUM HOME SERVICE

**HEATH FLAG SERVICE/
BURROW FAMILY**
VICKI WALLACE

PATH PAVER
\$500 Donation

Larry & Mary Bush
Ernie & Becky Burkett
Chris & Angela Cass
Russell & Patricia Clark
Dennis Close
Renee & Scott Clover
Colley Family
Tom & Margaret Davidson
Dennis
Jon-Paul & Crystal Dixon
Kathy Farrington
Neal & Mary Fondren
Grinnan Family
Mike & Amanda Karner
Rich Koepke
Mark & Lisa Misheck
McCutcheon Farms, LLC
Kevin & Susan Smart Family
Rick & Kathy Spletter

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION
Tom & Charlene Norris (\$250)
Gary & Tracy Allen (\$100)

PATH FINDER - Recurring \$10 per Month

Gary & Tracy Allen
Councilmember John Beaman
Anthony & Julie Berg
Dean & Christine Brand
Mark & Suzanne Brooke
Ernie & Becky Burkett
Jim & Beatrice Chester
Patrick & Lindsey Cummins
John & Janie Curtis
Ralph & Mary DeMott Family
John & Katie Dyer
Mayor Kelson & Brenda Elam
Kevin and Tracy Enoch
Ryan & Ashley Farha Family
David & Laura Gartling
Mark & Toni George
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Ken & Lorrie Gray
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Shawn & Misty Helms

Robert & Dana Hensley
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Lorrie Kasper
Wes & Sarah Keith
Kathryn Klepak
Councilman Rich Krause
David & Debbie Lane
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Troy Parker
Bob Petka
Bryan Ramey
John & Janet Reed
David Roe
The Farha Family
Charles & Malette Reed
Tony & Councilmember Donna Rolater
Gini Seely
Tom & Diane Smith
Cameron & Michelle Slocum
Justin & Jennifer Saunders
Councilmember Brent Weaver & Lillian Weaver
William & Wendy Wilbanks
Jeff & Cathy Wicker

Brian Wiley
Steve & Stacy Wingard
Michaela Wood
Craig & Julie Zurek

PATH MAKER - Recurring \$5 per Month

James Albrecht
Gary & Kellie Anderson
Randy & Lana Dodge
Chris & Jenni Knox
Calvin and Linda O'Glee
Jeff & Claudette Overfield
R.E. (Bob) Shaw, Sr.
Candee Smith
Tony & Janet Tiseo

If you would like to participate anonymously, please indicate that under publicity, when signing up.

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