



# CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

**INDEPENDENCE DAY IN HEATH**  
★★★★ JULY 3RD ★★★★★  
**PARADE RETURNS**  
Information on Page 2

**MAY**  
**2021**



## **NEW CITY INITIATIVE LAUNCHED: DESIGN HEATH TOWNE CENTER AND TOWNE CENTER PARK**

The City of Heath has launched an exciting new project: the design of Heath Towne Center, also known as the Towne Center Overlay District, and a plan for Towne Center Park.

### **THE DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT DESIGN**

Located generally on all four sides of the intersection of FM 740/Laurence Drive and Smirl Drive, the Heath Towne Center (HTC) received special attention during the 2018 Comprehensive Plan process including significant citizen input expressing the desire to retain a unique semi-rural feel by concentrating future commercial development within the HTC.

“The design project is our next step in creating the type of town center atmosphere at the heart of our community that citizen’s have made clear they want,” said Mayor Kelson Elam.

“This is the ideal location for current and future restaurants, shopping, and gathering spaces, as well as trails and shaded amenities that complement the existing Towne Center Park, City Hall and other development in the vicinity.”

A major goal of this project is to provide a proposed circulation plan and urban design scheme that is based upon current standards and zoning. This is not a process to change what has previously been adopted through the 2018 Comprehensive Plan.

The project is funded and directed by the Heath Economic Development Corporation/ Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation (HEDC/HMBC) with a stakeholder committee that includes HEDC/HMBC Board members, City Council liaisons, City staff, HTC property owners and HTC businesses.

“Our mission as a board is to expand the City’s sales tax base in order to ease the reliance upon property taxes and increase the quality of life citizens enjoy,” said David Lane, president of the HEDC/HMBC.

“While a certain level of commercial development is important to a community, we are all united in retaining what makes Heath special, including its small town warmth and charm. We are pleased to have a working group with representation from all key stakeholders in this initiative and look forward to keeping citizens up to date,” he said.

### **TOWNE CENTER PARK PLAN**

A parallel project to the HTC design is a separate plan for the Towne Center Park that is also funded by the HEDC/HMBC in support of the Park Board’s long-term park planning budget. Towne Center Park is a key event and recreation space in Heath, and therefore an important asset to HTC.

Future programming areas, multi-functional event space with essential infrastructure (ex. locations for power hookups, a stage), ballfields and play areas will all be mapped out in a plan with a corresponding phased cost estimate for future consideration of funding. This jewel of Heath needs upgrades, and the plan will be a roadmap to help make them happen. Watch for the Citizens Survey coming soon so that you can provide input.

Both the Towne Center Overlay District Design and Towne Center Park Plan are being developed by the consulting firm of Kimley-Horn. Anticipated completion is Fall 2021. A digital hub has been launched at DesignHTC.com to help keep citizen’s informed and involved.



## CELEBRATE FREEDOM IN HEATH: ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE IS JULY 3

A beloved tradition returns for 2021 as the City of Heath and Special Events Board present the Annual Independence Day Parade on Saturday, July 3 at 9 a.m. Staging begins at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School, 330 Laurence Drive. After the parade, enjoy pie and popsicles in the park! You can find more information and the parade route and staging maps at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com).

### VETERANS FLOAT

The City of Heath invites veterans and active members of the U.S. Military to ride in the parade on the Veterans Float. The float will be parked in the fire bay at City Hall, 200 Laurence. Please arrive by 8:15 a.m. and enjoy coffee, donuts and camaraderie with fellow veterans and military members. The City thanks John Holmsley and Bob Quimby for providing the trailer for the Veterans Float year after year.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE: FM-740 MEDIAN TREES & IRRIGATION - SPRING 2021

The City of Heath has been at work to beautify the main corridor through the City within the FM-740 medians from CVS to the Tom Thumb retail center. A bid for 88 trees, including Cedar Elms, Red Oaks, Shumard Oaks and red and pink Crepe Myrtle trees, was awarded in March for planting this spring in those medians. Once the trees are planted, an irrigation system will be installed. Additionally, improvements to the existing landscaping in the FM 740 medians north of CVS has been underway. The City has cleaned out the old landscaping, repaired and upgraded the irrigation system, and will be planting new landscape plants and grass sod. This will be completed by the end of June.

### BACKGROUND

The widening of FM 740, from the CVS intersection to FM 1140/FM 740 by City Hall, was constructed by TxDOT. However, the TxDOT project did not include funding for median landscaping and irrigation.

Since that time, the City has budgeted for this important work soon to be completed. The funding has come from the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget directed by City Council, the City Tree Mitigation Program funds, and Park/Community (CIP) funding generated by local sales tax that is remitted to the Heath Economic Development Corporation/Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation (HEDC/HMBC).

During the past three years, the HEDC/HMBC has dedicated 25% of its sales tax revenue to be invested into the community through projects such as the median landscaping that are identified and prioritized by the Park Board.

## CITY COUNCIL TO APPOINT NEW BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Are you interested in serving your City? The City Council will soon be making appointments to fill seats that have become available on the Park Board and Heath Economic Development Corporation/Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation Board. If you would like to be considered, please submit a completed volunteer application. You can download a copy from [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com) (located on the home page) or contact City Secretary Norma Duncan at [nduncan@heathtx.com](mailto:nduncan@heathtx.com) or 972-961-4876.

## HEATH GOES BLUE FOR NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Heath Mayor Kelson Elam joined mayors throughout the nation

in recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month by issuing a proclamation at the March 23 City Council meeting. The proclamation highlights the importance of communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

“Heath City Hall will join others across the nation in *glowing blue* all month to promote awareness and action to prevent child abuse and neglect,” noted Mayor Elam. You can help by remaining vigilant and reporting suspected domestic abuse to: 800-252-5400.







## INAUGURAL HEATH CITIZENS ON PATROL (COP) CLASS UNDERWAY

Meet the first-ever Heath Citizens On Patrol (COP) class, who qualified for the new advanced training program by graduating with the 3rd Class of the Heath DPS Citizens Academy in Spring 2020.

Upon completion of the 6-week COP program, the citizen volunteers will assist the Department of Public Safety in many important ways including traffic control and safety during city events and other departmental and community outreach activities. To learn more about the Citizens Academy and COP programs, contact Captain Michael Morgan at mmorgan@heathtx.com or 972-961-4895.

*Pictured Above: The inaugural Heath Citizens On Patrol class members are from left: Marco Longoria; Sherry Gillespie; Jacklyn England; with DPS Captain Michael Morgan-program coordinator; Ernie Burkett; City Councilwoman Donna Rolater; Tony Rolater; and Carl Whitbeck.*



## BIKE PATROL UNIT LAUNCHED AT HEART OF HEATH BIKE TOUR

The Heart of Heath Bike Tour on April 3 was the perfect opportunity for Heath DPS to debut its new Bike Patrol Unit. This unit will consist of 7 trained officers and focus on community engagement while patrolling pedestrian oriented areas such as City parks, business centers and neighborhoods.



## NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP INITIATIVE COMES TO HEATH

Heath DPS joins a nationwide mission to break down the barriers between law enforcement and the civilians they serve by hosting Coffee with a Cop on May 1, 8am to 10am at the Hawks Nest Sandwich Co., 207 Laurence Dr. So please plan to drop by and enjoy a free cup of coffee and friendly conversation with your Heath DPS officers!

## HEATH VOTES!

**CITY OF HEATH GENERAL ELECTION**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7 A.M. – 7 P.M.**  
**HEATH CITY HALL, 200 LAURENCE DRIVE, HEATH**

### Early Voting

Monday, April 19, 2021 – Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
 Heath City Hall, 200 Laurence Drive, Heath

MORE INFO:



### What's on the Ballot:

Councilmember Place 1  
 Councilmember Place 2  
 Councilmember Place 4  
 Councilmember Place 6



## THANK YOU PATH MEMBERS

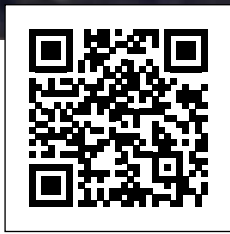
The first PATH project of increasing shade in Towne Center Park with 25 new trees, plus new park benches and a water bottle filler and pet bowl was completed in 2020.

The Park Board has specified that the next PATH project will continue to focus upon Towne Center Park improvements identified by the design project now underway (see page 1). Be a part of this progress in 2021 by signing up at [heathtx.com/path](http://heathtx.com/path).



## CHARTER PATH DONORS AS OF APRIL 1, 2021

**PATH PATRON**  
\$10,000 Donation



**PATH FUNDER**  
\$1,000 Donation



**The UPS Store**  
BC GOLF  
BILL & BARBARA BOTTORFF, 2020

**HEATH FLAG SERVICE/BURROW FAMILY**  
RHONDA HOLLOWAY  
MAGNUM HOME SERVICE

**BETTY PERRY**  
VICKI WALLACE

### PATH PAVER - \$500 Donation

Larry & Mary Bush  
Ernie & Becky Burkett  
Chris & Angela Cass  
Russell & Patricia Clark  
Renee & Scott Clover  
Colley Family  
Dennis  
Tom & Margaret Davidson  
Jon-Paul & Crystal Dixon  
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William & Tammy Fieldsmith  
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Mark & Lisa Misheck  
McCuthcheon 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  
Ernie & Becky Burkett  
Dean & Christine Brand  
Mark & Suzanne Brooke  
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Cameron & Michelle Slocum

Councilmember Brent Weaver & Lillian  
Jeff & Cathy Wicker  
William & Wendy Wilbanks  
Steve & Stacy Wingard  
Brian Wiley  
Michaela Wood  
Craig & Julie Zurek

### PATH MAKER - Recurring \$5 per Month

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

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

VISIT [HEATHTX.COM/PATH](http://HEATHTX.COM/PATH) TO FIND CHARTER MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SIGN UP ONLINE, OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE.