



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

HEATH REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL In Town & Online

NOVEMBER
2021



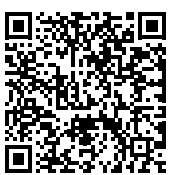
HEATH ADOPTS FY 2021-2022 CITY BUDGET FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR TAX RATE IS LOWERED

2021 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

(Above) Heath Department of Public Safety officers had a great time connecting with the community on National Night Out on October 5 at the “Fire Bay” Open House and neighborhood gatherings, including Heath Golf & Yacht Club and Wyndemere.

The City Council adopted the FY 2021-2022 City of Heath Annual Budget at the Regular City Council meeting on September 14 following months of work held in open meetings and a public hearing at the September 14 meeting. The budget becomes effective October 1 and is based upon on a tax rate of 33.9307 cents which is lower than last year’s tax rate of 37.6569 cents by 3.7262 cents or 9.9%. This is the fourth consecutive year the City’s tax rate has been lowered for a total decrease of 7.8004 cents or 18.69%.

Services in the new budget include increased funding for pay-as-you-go programs; additional funding for street repairs; and the addition of one public safety officer. You can view the budget at heathtx.com under the Finance Department.



“This is the fourth year in a row that we have achieved a balanced budget that addresses needs without raising taxes,” said Mayor Kelson Elam. “As property values have increased, we have adjusted the tax rate to stay flat, and I thank our Council and staff for their hard work on behalf of our citizens.

Download the FY 2021-2022 City of Heath Budget by using the QR code on the left or visiting heathtx.com.



HEATH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERGEANT KEVEN ROWAN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN

Department of Public Safety Sergeant Keven Rowan has been promoted to Captain to serve as second-in-command to the chief overseeing a department of 28 officers who are triple certified as fire fighters, police officers and EMTs.

Captain Rowan has more than 19 years of experience and joined the Heath DPS as a Public Safety Officer in 2016. He was named Officer of the Year by the City of Heath in 2018 and promoted to Sergeant in March 2021. Prior to joining the Heath DPS, Captain Rowan served with the Rockwall County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Corporal, Patrol Deputy and Detention Officer between 2003 and 2016.

A Rockwall High School graduate, Captain Rowan received extensive media recognition from as far away as the United Kingdom following his heroic rescue in January 2012 of two young women who were lost and ended up driving their car into Lake Ray Hubbard. He courageously plunged into the 52-degree waters and pulled both females to safety just seconds before their Honda Civic disappeared into the dark water.

Captain Rowan was presented the Medal of Valor in recognition of the lives he saved, which is the highest award a police officer in the State of Texas can receive from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

"I'm excited to take on the new challenge of being a Captain," said Captain Rowan. "Our department has an amazing group of officers who are excited about Chief Brandon Seery's vision and the positive, community-focused direction he is taking the department. I want to make the City proud and serve the citizens by doing the very best job that I can."

HEATH DPS SERGEANT BRIAN BURTON RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

On September 8, Heath DPS Sergeant concluded his final day on duty and stepped into retirement after 25 years of public service, 18 of which were spent protecting the Heath community.

"From graduating as the Valedictorian of his peace officer academy and second overall in both the fire academy and fire investigator schools, to his final days serving Heath, Sergeant Burton has always represented the highest ideals of our profession," said Chief Brandon Seery.

Sergeant Burton joined the Heath DPS in 2003 as an Officer in the Patrol Division. From 2008 to 2016, Sergeant Burton served as Community Resource Officer and Detective. In 2016, he was promoted to his final rank of Sergeant.

During his tenure, Sergeant Burton was instrumental in many situations and investigations, including the memorable incident in 2009 when a Rockwall ISD bus left the roadway and landed in a pond. The bus was submerged in the water with 19 high school students on board, five of whom were injured. The bus driver received a head injury due to the impact of the accident and was unable to physically remove himself and was in waist-high water. Sergeant Burton was one of the first to arrive on scene. Without hesitation he entered the water, boarded the bus and was able to extract the driver. Sergeant Burton received a Letter of Commendation for his heroic efforts.

"It has been incredible and very humbling to work beside all of the DPS officers these past 18 years," said Sergeant Burton. "Their work ethic and commitment to serving others is amazing. I am proud of all of our accomplishments together and look forward to seeing updates on the continued growth of the organization."



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN HEATH ON DECEMBER 3

Santa Claus is coming back to town in 2021 for the Christmas in Heath celebration on Friday, December 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Towne Center Park.

Expect all the beloved traditions of the past plus new surprises as you stroll the lighted trails enjoying the sights, sounds and treats of the season.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is at 6 p.m. featuring the Rockwall Heath High school Jazz Band, followed by performances from the Amy Parks, Pullen and Linda Lyon Honor chorus throughout the evening.

There will also be complimentary cocoa, fresh-made donuts and homemade cookies baked and wrapped by National Charity League and Lakeside League Boy Team Charity members, an array of food trucks, miniature train rides, children's activities, and of course, photos and candy canes with the star of the evening...Santa! He's even bringing a couple of his trusty reindeer to meet your family.

You will be able to purchase the 2021 Heath Christmas ornament and festive red, cozy long sleeve Heath t-shirts at Santa's Souvenir Shoppe.

The Christmas Red Trolley Bus will once again provide free shuttles to and from the Tom Thumb retail center between 5:30-9 p.m. Find more details and a map of activities and performance schedules at heathtx.com.

Christmas in Heath is presented by the Special Events Board and our 2021 Special Events Sponsors.





**Liechty McGinnis
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FARMERS MARKET
ESTD HEATH * TEXAS 2019

PRESENTED BY
HEATH GOLF & YACHT CLUB
Whittle Development, Inc.

**HEATH FARMERS MARKET
TO GO OUT WITH A BANG ON
NOVEMBER 13**

A successful 2021 Heath Farmers Market season will continue Saturdays through November 13, when the community will not only enjoy wonderful shopping, food, drinks and a free concert, but a fireworks finale.

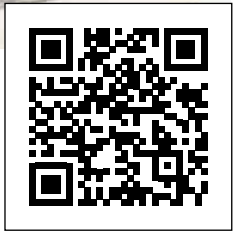
All season attendees have enjoyed 35 of the best local makers, bakers, artists, farmers, and ranchers in the area from 2 to 6 p.m. The delightful shopping is followed by a free concert in the Field under the stars. So be sure to make plans to join the festive fall fun! You can find details and updates on the Heath Farmers Market Facebook page: @HeathFarmersMarket



UNITING THE COMMUNITY

PATH was created to unite the community in helping grow a great parks and trails system by offering citizens and local businesses the opportunity to participate by making a recurring \$5 or \$10 donation with their monthly utility bill or a one-time contribution. Everyone benefits because great parks, trails and green spaces increase the quality of life, promotes community connection and generates economic benefits, including stronger home values.

Learn how you can become a PATH member: heathtx.com/path



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