



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

THIS SEASON SHOP LOCAL IN HEATH

SEE PAGE 3

NOVEMBER

2022



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

November 8

U.S. Election Day

November 11

Veterans Day

November 24

Thanksgiving

HEATH ADOPTS FY 2022-2023 CITY BUDGET FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR TAX RATE IS LOWERED

The City Council adopted the FY 2022-2023 City of Heath Annual Budget at the Regular City Council meeting on September 27 following months of work held in open meetings and a Public Hearing at the meeting.

The budget became effective October 1 and is based upon on a tax rate of \$0.291175 cents, which is lower than last year's tax rate of \$0.339307 by 4.8132 cents or 14%. This is the fifth consecutive year the City's tax rate has been lowered for a total decrease of 12.6136 cents or 30.23%

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

"This is the fifth year in a row that we have achieved a balanced budget that addresses our City's 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."

HEATH FARMERS MARKET RETURNS IN OCTOBER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER
15, 22, 29



FARMERS MARKET
ESTD HEATH * TEXAS 2019

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

The Heath Farmers Market returns in 2022 with an exclusive three-week run offering Fall fun, foods and music. Opening Day was October 15, with remaining markets on October 22 and 29.

The Market is open from 2 to 6 p.m. with unique offerings presented along the trails of Towne Center Park behind Heath City Hall at 200 Laurence Dr. The Free Concert follows from 6-8 p.m. in "The Field" with a Texas sunset and evening sky as the backdrop. Bring your chairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy outstanding entertainment, which included Max Stalling on the Opening Night.

Get weekly updates on performers, vendors and special plans for Halloween on Facebook: @HeathFarmersMarket.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN HEATH

National Night Out IN HEATH hosted by the Department of Public Safety on October 4 was a festive gathering of community friends and neighbors including the Heath Hawks Varsity football team and our DPS officers. Enjoy a few photos here, and find the highlights video at heathtx.com.



CITY HOSTS FALL BREAK CAMP



The City of Heath partnered with The Boys & Girls Club to present an enrichment program during the Fall Break week of October 3-7 at City Hall for ages kindergarten through 6th grade. Each fun-filled day featured a unique theme with games, activities, music, outdoor play and learning experiences.

SHOP LOCAL

HEATH
75  **32**

**'TIS THE SEASON TO SHOP, SHIP AND
ENSURE YOUR SALES TAX DOLLARS STAY AT WORK IN HEATH!**

That means supporting Heath retailers, restaurants and other service businesses whenever possible.

When shopping online, you can help keep you sales tax dollars local by completing your billing information as follows:

BILLING ADDRESS City: **HEATH** State: TX Zip: **75032**

(Some merchant websites auto populate the City as Rockwall when the 75032 is entered as the zip code and may remit your sales tax to the City of Rockwall, not City of Heath. Overriding the city as "Heath" can prevent the sales tax leakage.)

HEATH MUNICIPAL
HMBC ★ **HEATH ECONOMIC**
BENEFITS CORPORATION **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

MISSION:

To retain and attract unique, distinctive economic development that meets the City of Heath's vision for a premier community, expands the City's sales tax base and enhances the quality of life enjoyed by citizens.

YOUR SALES TAX DOLLARS AT WORK IN HEATH

The HEDC/HMBC dedicates 25% of its annual sales tax revenue collected to Park/Community Improvement Projects that add to the quality of life and image of Heath, including:

- Pavilion and Tables | Antigua Bay Park
- Ballfield Lights | Towne Center Park
- Tom Thumb Trail | Connecting FM 740 to Chris Cuny
- Upscale Citywide Branded Street Signage (277 total)
- 25 new shade trees and park benches | Towne Center Park
- Purchase of TxDOT Right-of-Way for a Passive Park adjacent to Tom Thumb Retail Area
- 2022 Towne Center Overlay District Master Plan
- 2022 Towne Center Park Master Plan
- Heath Farmers Market Stage and Light Rentals; Fireworks Sponsorship and Special Events Annual Sponsorship



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN HEATH ON DECEMBER 2

Santa Claus is coming to town for the Christmas in Heath celebration on Friday, December 2, 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 choirs throughout the evening.

There will also be complimentary cocoa, fresh-made donuts and homemade cookies baked and wrapped by the United Methodist Church of Heath, 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 of couple of his trusty reindeers to meet your family.

You can purchase the 2022 Heath Christmas ornament and festive, cozy long-sleeved Heath t-shirt at Santa's Souvenir Shoppe.

The Christmas red and white trolley buses will once again provide free shuttles to and from the Tom Thumb between 5:30-9 p.m. Watch for more details and a map of activities and performance schedules in next month's newsletter and at heathtx.com.



PARKS & TRAILS CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN HEATH

As Heath grows, so does our parks and trail system, thanks to a continued focus by City Council and the Park Board on this important amenity that enriches the quality of life enjoyed by citizens.

TRAIL SYSTEM

You can find a current trail system map at heathtx.com under the Living Here/Parks & Trails menu. This map identifies both existing and planned trails.

New segments include the White Road Trail and trailhead that was donated and constructed by the developer of the Heath Crossing neighborhood. Trail segments have also been recently added in the Stoneleigh and Providence neighborhoods by their respective developers. These contributions are specified by the City parkland dedication ordinance, and the City is grateful for a shared commitment with developers to the “greater green”!

PARKLAND DONATIONS

Others contributing to the parks and trail system include Heath residents, Tom Johnson and Dan Bobst, who donated .11 acres at 101 Hubbard Drive, which is a prime location along the Highlands of Heath and Hubbard trails. Both the Park Board and City Council dedicated the land use to be a future trailhead/park plaza that will tie into and complement the Towne Center Park and Towne Center Overlay District designs.

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

Towne Center Park

In 2022, the Park Board and City Council approved the Towne Center Park Master Plan for renovating and enhancing this beautiful space in Heath. On November 3, the Park Board and City Council will have a Joint Work Session to discuss specific amenities desired and execution of the plan.

Terry Park

Made possible by the PATH program, "Sunset Swings" are coming to Terry Park in 2023! This involves renovating the existing play equipment to offer an expanded array of swings for all ages and abilities. New bench swings will also be installed along the path overlooking the lake to give visitors a place to gently sway to lake and sunset views. These swinging benches offer a place to mount a bronze memorial plaque. The first memorial swing will honor the life and service of Heath resident Virginia "Ginny" Jackson, a beloved member of the community who served on the Park Board for eight years during which she spurred the 2007 renovation of Terry Park. Mrs. Jackson was also the spark behind Marsha's Happy Haven, the all abilities park designated for a site within Terry Park dedicated by City Council in 2018 for this use. Private fund raising for construction continues under the leadership of her dear friend and fellow citizen, Gini Sealy. Learn more at: marshashappyhaven.com.

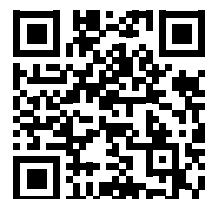
Towne Center Village Gateway Park

In 2021, the City exercised its option to purchase excess TxDOT right of way located along FM 740 in front of the Heath Towne Center/Tom Thumb retail site and dedicated the land for a “passive park” that will provide a beautiful green space and welcoming gateway into the heart of the community. The Park Board and City Council will be approving a contract with a consultant for a site design that incorporates landscaping, seating, signage and more. The Heath Economic Development and Municipal Benefits Corporations (HEDC/HMBC) funded the purchase through its sales tax revenue collected annually. This is one more example of your sales tax dollars at work in Heath!



BE A PART OF THE PROGRESS — JOIN PATH TODAY!

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 or scan the QR code..



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