



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

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**JANUARY
2023**



CITY OF HEATH WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES: MATTHEW HOLZAPFEL, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MICHAEL SHOOK, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT MANAGER

The City of Heath has added new expertise to the Executive Staff Team! Matthew Holzapfel, P.E. has joined as Director of Public Works and Michael Shook is the new Capital Improvements Project Manager. Both professionals bring over four decades of experience in all aspects of municipal government and construction.

Continued on page 3...

AVOID MESSY PROBLEMS BY PROPERLY DISPOSING OF HOLIDAY COOKING FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG)

FOG is the residue left over from all that cooking with meats, butter, lard, sauces, dressing, dairy products and oil. FOG and other debris poured down the drain can build up in pipes and cause backups in both private and City-maintained sewer systems.

To avoid expensive plumbing repairs and damage to the sewer system:

- Scrape or wipe cooled grease or fat from all cookware and place in the trash.
- Pour or scrape melted grease into a sturdy closed-lid container and dispose of the sealed container in the trash.
- You can also use the City of Heath's Household Hazardous Waste front porch collection for disposal of the sealed container.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

January 01	New Year's Day
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22	Chinese New Year [Rabbit]
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR...



I pray God will continue to look after everyone in Heath. I know he will. Best to all of you in 2023.
- Mayor Kelson Elam



THE COMMUNITY KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS IN HEATH ON DECEMBER 2

More than 2,000 residents came out to enjoy the sights, sounds and treats of Christmas on a festive winter's evening at Towne Center Park. Timeless traditions like the Christmas Tree lighting and visits with Santa were joined by new features including the wooded photo scene built by the boys team charity (btc) Lakeside League Class of 2023 as their Senior Project. More than 8,000 Christmas cookies baked by First United Methodist Church of Heath, btc Lakeside League and National Charity League members were enjoyed with hot cocoa, while an array of food trucks provided heavier fare.

The City thanks everyone who made this beloved event a success: City staff; Special Event Series Sponsors; Amy Parks, Pullen and Linda Lyon Elementary Honor Choirs; Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band and Percussionists; and a small army of volunteers including the Special Events Board led by Chairman Jenni Knox and members Tami Hogan, Amanda Rosander, Stacy Megill and DeLayne Spicer. Find more photos on the City's Facebook page, and the highlights video at heathtx.com.

Continued from page one...

CITY OF HEATH WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES: MATTHEW HOLZAPFEL, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MICHAEL SHOOK, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT MANAGER

ABOUT MATTHEW HOLZAPFEL, P.E.

Matthew's extensive experience in municipal engineering and public works includes serving the City of Mesquite for 38 years.

During his tenure in Mesquite, Matthew rose through the ranks to become City Engineer and ultimately Director of Public Works overseeing a staff of 270 full-time employees. The City of Mesquite won multiple awards for project excellence under his watch, and the Mesquite City Council named a new water pump station at I-20 and Wisner Road after Matthew in 2020.

"We are very fortunate to welcome a professional of Matthew's caliber to our Executive Team," said City Manager Aretha Adams. "His experience in all aspects of public works has already made a positive impact within our organization and will be extremely valuable to our growing community."

"I am excited to assist the City Manager and City Council in providing high-quality roads, parks, water, sanitary sewer and drainage infrastructure to the residents and businesses of Heath," said Matthew. "I look forward to leveraging my experience and knowledge of technology to deliver the effectiveness, productivity, communication and quality of service from the Department of Public Works that citizens want and deserve."

Matthew also brings a commitment to servant leadership that was forged at the beginning of his career during a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Honduras, Central America, where he worked with a small municipality to provide critical infrastructure. "This introduction to public service in a very tough environment showed me that although public service can be personally costly, it can be very satisfying" he said.

Matthew is a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Public Works Association and American Water Works Association and has built a long resume of professional achievements. Personal accomplishments center upon 43 years of marriage to his college sweetheart, five children and five grandchildren, with another one on the way. When not working, Matthew enjoys being outdoors in almost any type of weather and terrain, walking, hiking, back packing and fishing. He loves reading economics, science, history, and biographies. An Assistant Scout master for 22 years, he is an active leader in his church.



The City welcomes Matthew Holzapfel (left) and Michael Shook.

ABOUT MICHAEL SHOOK

Having served in other cities as a Director of Public Works, Community Services Director, Project Manager and General Manager for a Water Supply Corporation, Michael is highly qualified to ensure that engineering, design, and life safety standards are met while keeping Heath's capital projects on time and under budget when possible.

"Michael is an excellent addition to our team as our community grows in the midst of a challenging environment for construction," said Aretha Adams. "He has the expertise and knowledge to navigate supply and skilled labor shortages, rising costs and longer lead times to help keep us moving forward to deliver the infrastructure our citizens want and deserve."

Michael began his career in the water and sewer department and went on to become cross trained in multiple departments including animal control, code enforcement, building inspections, planning and zoning and flood plain management. He's also been a first responder as an EMT, a volunteer fireman and served two terms as secretary for the Kaufman County Emergency District #2.

A lifelong student of his profession, Michael holds multiple licenses including a "B" surface water license from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), a Customer Service Inspector license from TCEQ, a Certified Flood Plain Manager from the Texas Flood Plain Association (TFMA) and FEMA.

"I am excited about the potential the City of Heath offers. Great projects are being planned, designed, and constructed," said Michael. "I am equally excited about the staff with whom I work. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms. It has been like 'family' since the first day I arrived."

Michael's own family includes his wife of 43 years, three children and seven grandchildren. In his free time, he enjoys attending his grandchildren's sports, and teaching them about the outdoors while hunting and fishing.



NEW PATH PROJECT: SUNSET SWINGS AT TERRY PARK

Sunset swings are coming to Terry Park in 2023, thanks to the generous members of the Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) program! Existing play equipment will be renovated and expanded to offer an array of swings for all ages and abilities. Additionally, new bench swings will be installed along the path overlooking the lake to give visitors a place to gently sway with lake and sunset views. These swinging benches offer a place to mount a bronze memorial plaque. Watch for updates in the coming months!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PATH IN 2022!

CHARTER PATH DONORS AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2022

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

PATH PATRON
\$10,000 Donation



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