



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

REGISTER FOR THE HEART OF HEATH 5K/FUN RUN

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2023



HEATH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY RECEIVES “ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” AWARD



The Heath Department of Public Safety (DPS) has received the Accredited Law Enforcement Agency Award from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

Heath DPS is one of only 191 agencies in Texas to achieve this distinction, representing the top 7 percent statewide.

Begun in 2006, the Accreditation Program evaluates a Police Department’s compliance with 168 Best Business Practices developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individual’s rights.

These Best Practices cover all aspects of law enforcement including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

“This voluntary process required Chief Brandon Seery and his team to conduct an intense and extensive critical self-review of their policies, procedures, facilities and operations,” said Rockwall Police Chief Edward Fowler, who is an assessor with the Texas Police Chiefs Association and presented the accreditation at the February 28 City of Heath Council meeting.

Heath DPS began the process in June 2020 by preparing proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Business Practices. Upon completion of the internal review, an outside onsite audit was requested, which was conducted in December 2022 by trained Police Chiefs from throughout Texas. Results of the review were sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association’s Accreditation Committee for final analysis, where a unanimous decision to award the “Accredited” status was made.

“We consider our Heath DPS to be one of the best agencies in the state,” said Mayor Kelson Elam. “This independent review by Texas law enforcement professionals and awarding of the accreditation confirms our belief and pride in Chief Seery and his officers.”

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

April 5-13
April 7
April 9
April 18

Passover
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Federal Tax Deadline

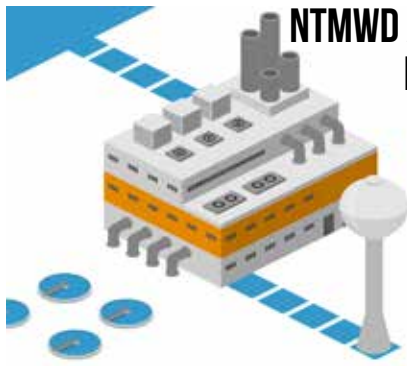


CITY MANAGER CHAT PODCAST

CITY LAUNCHES CITY MANAGER CHAT PODCAST SERIES MARCH 30

Heath City Manager Aretha Adams and her staff team want to connect with you to share important information regarding City activities, initiatives and issues. To make it easy for you, the City is launching a new City Manager Chat podcast series on March 30.

The format will include the opportunity to submit questions. Be sure to tune in to find out what’s happening in your hometown!



NTMWD ANNUAL WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PLANNED



The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will temporarily change the disinfectant in its water treatment process from March 6 through April 3. The annual routine change is a common and safe practice necessary to maintain the right conditions inside pipelines and water quality year-round.

Disinfection is a critical part of the water treatment process that keeps drinking water free of harmful microorganisms, such as parasites and viruses. Disinfection involves a two-step process that first treats the water at the treatment plant and then chloramine disinfectant (chlorine + ammonia) is added to maintain water quality on its journey through the miles of pipes to homes and businesses.

NTMWD has conducted the temporary change in water disinfectant for over a decade and continues to meet safe drinking water standards earning recognition from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as a Superior Public Water System.

The absence of ammonia during these few weeks may make the chlorine disinfectant more noticeable to some people. There are simple steps to minimize 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 neutralize the chlorine. For more information and links to NTMWD and TCEQ scan the QR code above.

THE CITY OF HEATH WELCOMES JAY AYERS AS NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



Jay Ayers has joined the City of Heath as Director of Finance, bringing with him extensive experience in municipal government that includes serving the City of Terrell for 17 years.

“We are fortunate to welcome a professional of Jay’s caliber to our Executive Team,” said City Manager Aretha Adams. “In addition to his financial and budget management expertise, he is a dynamic executive with proven communication and leadership skills that will be valuable to our organization and growing community.”

“My goal is to serve the community to the best of my ability, provide timely and accurate financial information to help our elected officials and city manager make decisions, and make any contributions needed or necessary to add to the overall success of the community. My mentality is always to be a positive contributor,” said Jay.

Jay began his career in Terrell in 2006 as a Wastewater Plant Operator. By 2012 he was serving as Chief Maintenance Operator overseeing the operations and maintenance of the water distribution system. This role included supervising employees, performing human resource functions and assisting in the preparation and management of the annual budget.

In 2015, Jay was promoted to Engineering Projects Manager, where he managed the \$12.8 million budget for a public safety building, oversaw public improvements for the Crossroads Project TIF Zone, and brought new businesses into new development.

By 2018, Jay was named Director of Housing & Financial Services for the City of Terrell, directing and managing the City’s financial policies, planning, reporting and controls including over \$68 million in operating budgets and grants before, during and after the impact of COVID-19. Throughout his tenure he maintained the High Performer rating from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

Jay earned his Master’s Degree in Accounting and Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics at Texas A&M Commerce.

“Jay’s experience and knowledge will be exceptionally beneficial in an environment where current and future infrastructure including water distribution and operations are a critical mission,” said Aretha. “The timing of his addition to our team couldn’t be better.”



CITY OF HEATH GENERAL ELECTION CANCELED

The City of Heath called for an election to be held on May 6, 2023, to elect four councilmembers for places (1, 2, 4 and 6). All four places were uncontested in their races at the filing deadline of 5 p.m., February 17 as well as the last day to declare write-in candidacy on the ballot on February 21. The City Council approved a Resolution to cancel the election due to no opposed candidates at its February 28 meeting. Swearing-in of the four candidates (Place 1 - Sharon Caldwell; Place 2 - Paul Ruffo; Place 4 - Brent Weaver; and Place 6 - Rich Krause) will be held at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

HEART OF HEATH 5K

& FAMILY RUN

GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL HEART OF HEATH 5K AND 1 MILE FAMILY RUN

Registration for the City of Heath's Heart of Heath 5k and 1-Mile Family Run on Saturday, April 8 is open. You can run, walk or simply bring your family and friends to Towne Center Park to experience one of the events that help make Heath special!

The runner's warm up begins at 8 a.m., the Family Run starts at 8:15 a.m., and the 5K starts at 8:30 a.m. There will also be games, prize drawings for registered runners and the Easter Bunny!

Find more information and the registration link at heathtx.com or scan the QR code to register now. Prices go up after March 24, and participants get a t-shirt while supplies last!



HEART OF HEATH HIGHLIGHTS:

- USATF 5k course with chip-timed start and finish lines for 5k
- 5k awards for top 3 overall plus top 3 males and females in each age bracket
- 1-Mile Family Run - integrated into the 5k course, with same start and finish lines
- 1-Mile Family Run awards for top 3 boys and top 3 girls
- T-shirts for 5k and Family Run participants while supplies last
- Giant-size games like chess, checkers, Jenga and Connect 4
- Complimentary healthy treats
- A hometown DJ and fun music
- Prize drawings for registered runners
- Runners' Warm Up by Camp Gladiator
- Café Hope Coffee Truck, offering free coffee + drinks for purchase
- The Easter Bunny!

TRAFFIC DELAYS & DETOURS

The Heart of Heath 5K begins at 8:15 am. Roads along the route will be controlled by Heath DPS and will temporarily close during the event. You can find alternative routes to avoid short delays in travel time at heathtx.com.

OUR 2023 SPECIAL EVENTS SPONSORS

The Special Events Board would like to thank our 2023 Special Event Sponsors. Please support these local area businesses.



ABH Roofing & Construction | Blue Ribbon News | Keeper's Press | Oncor | Karen Wydra/Ebby Halliday, Realtors

8 EASY WAYS

TO HELP PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION THIS SPRING

1. Use fertilizers sparingly.
2. Sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters and never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use the least toxic pesticides possible, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems naturally.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden or barrel to capture runoff.
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.



The City has great plans for the parks and trails system in 2023! Be a part of the progress as a member of the Parks And Trails of Heath fund raising program. Learn more and sign up by scanning the QR code.



SCAN

SAFE CITIZEN ACTION NETWORK

While severe weather can occur anytime throughout the year, spring remains the peak season for tornados. Take time now to review safety procedures and emergency plans for your family and business on the SCAN landing page., where Heath-specific information will be published when necessary during an emergency.

FOR THE LATEST CITY OF HEATH NEWS AND INFORMATION VISIT HEATHTX.COM