



# CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

# INDEPENDENCE DAY IN HEATH HIGHLIGHTS

SEE PAGE 4

**AUGUST**  
**2023**



## WATER EMERGENCY CAUSED BY EQUIPMENT FAILURE TRIGGERS STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS ON JUNE 23

Stage 2 water restrictions will remain in effect until further notice. Please monitor the City's website, Facebook and Twitter for updates. Notices of any significant changes will also be sent via the City's utility billing notification system.

Water conservation was expected to be critical during the hot, dry summer months of 2023, with the necessity of water restrictions for City of Heath customers expected at some point.

However, the initiation of Stage 2 water restrictions was accelerated by the failure of one of the City's 300-HP water pumps in the north tower on June 23. This failure reduced the City's ability to pump water to approximately 4.5 million gallons per day instead of the 6 million gallons per day as allowed by the provider, the City of Rockwall. At the time of the pump failure, water demand citywide was already pushing the 4 million mark.

Contractors arrived onsite to remove the damaged pump on June 26 in order to diagnose the failure and necessary repair to get the pump back in service as quickly as possible. At the date of this newsletter printing, the pump is undergoing repair by the contractor.

In addition to repairing the existing pump, the contractor will also deliver a new back up pump to the City to help avoid such an incidents in the future. Water pumps typically remain in service for up to 50 years; the pump that failed in Heath was 18 years old.

### WATERING SCHEDULE:

The last number of your property address determines which day you may water with an irrigation or sprinkler system. For example, if your house number is 1265 your designated day is Wednesday.

- 1 or 2 MONDAY
- 3 or 4 TUESDAY
- 5 or 6 WEDNESDAY
- 7 or 8 THURSDAY
- 9 or 0 FRIDAY

## CALENDAR NOTICES

- ROCKWALL ISD BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY, AUGUST 14
- NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN HEATH TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3
- CHRISTMAS IN HEATH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

While restrictions are mandatory and violations are subject to fines, we are grateful to a community that has responded to this emergency by adhering to the restrictions to ensure a safe and secure water supply for all. Not as much water is needed as many people think to maintain beautiful landscaping and lawns. Please

go to [www.heathtx.com/water-wise](http://www.heathtx.com/water-wise) to find helpful tips to avoid over watering.

If you have questions, please contact Matthew Holzapfel, P.E., Director of Public Works at [mholzapfel@heathtx.com](mailto:mholzapfel@heathtx.com).

### STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE:

- Watering your landscaping and lawns with sprinklers or irrigation systems once per week on your designated day. No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on your designated day.
- You may water foundations, trees and other plantings with soaker or handheld hoses any day.
- No watering with any device on any day between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

# HEATH'S OUTDOOR LIGHTING/DARK SKY ORDINANCE FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES — ONE YEAR LATER



The Heath City Council adopted an Outdoor Lighting/Dark Sky Ordinance in July 2022. You can view the adopted ordinance by scanning the QR code on this page.

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN OUTDOOR LIGHTING/DARK SKY ORDINANCE?**

The intent of the ordinance is to decrease light pollution to maintain Heath's quaint rural character, maintain property safety, preserve views of the night sky, and promote energy efficiency, community health, and harmony between neighbors.

## **WHAT PROPERTIES ARE AFFECTED BY THE ORDINANCE?**

The ordinance regulates all non-residential properties within the city limits of Heath. Single-family homes are not affected. Examples of non-residential properties regulated include:

- Parks
- Neighborhood common areas
- Neighborhood amenity centers
- Sports facilities
- Trails
- Streets
- Neighborhood entry features
- Non-residential uses situated in the take-area of Lake Ray Hubbard
- Parking areas
- Agricultural uses such as barns and arenas
- Triplexes, fourplexes and apartments

## **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE?**

This ordinance requires that outdoor light fixtures be shielded so that the light shines downward -- not upward or directly sideways. The new regulations also control light from scattering upward into the sky and minimize the horizontal glare that occurs with looking directly at a lightbulb.

A goal of the ordinance is to provide light that is closest to the natural light seen from the sun and stars. Outdoor light is required to be in the yellow color spectrum and minimize the use of light in the blue color spectrum.

Great effort was made to write an ordinance that is easy to interpret, easy to administer, and easy to enforce.

## **HOW WILL THE ORDINANCE BE ENFORCED?**

Under the new ordinance, the developer of non-residential development is required to provide an outdoor lighting plan that meets the requirements of the ordinance.

This plan will be reviewed by City staff to ensure that requirements are met. After the lighting is in place and inspected by the building department, a code enforcement officer will investigate any complaints after dark.

## **DOES THE ORDINANCE AFFECT EXISTING NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES?**

Yes, existing non-residential properties are required to comply with the ordinance and have been contacted directly by mail. These owners/developers of existing non-residential properties have up to five years from the date of adoption to comply with the ordinance. If non-residential property owners/developers modify their property after the adoption of the ordinance, compliance may be required at the time the property is modified. City staff are available to answer any questions to assist owners/developers regarding plans for compliance.

## **WHAT TYPES OF NON-RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES ARE ALLOWED?**

All non-residential outdoor lighting fixtures are required to be fully shielded. When the fixtures are undermounted on the underneath side of a canopy or soffit, it has to be flush mounted or side shielded.

Additionally, the luminous elements of the fixture cannot be visible from any residential property and the fixture has to have a color temperature of 3,000 Kelvin or less with a minimum Color Rendering Index of 80. Color Rendering Index is a measure of the ability of a light source to reveal the colors of various objects faithfully in comparison with a natural or standard light source.

## **WHAT HAS HAPPENED REGARDING NON-RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING SINCE THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED IN JULY 2022?**

A few new non-residential developments have been processed since the Outdoor Lighting/Dark Sky Ordinance went into effect. Several properties have also begun the process of replacing nonconforming lighting with fixtures that meet the Dark Sky requirements.

Questions: Contact Director of Planning Aaron Adel at [aaadel@heathtx.com](mailto:aaadel@heathtx.com).





# CITY MANAGER CHAT PODCAST SERIES PACKED WITH HOMETOWN INFORMATION



The City Manager Chat podcasts are packed with information about your hometown coming straight from City Manager Aretha Adams and her special guests. In the June 26 Episode, Department of Public Safety Chief Brandon Seery shared some enlightening data about:

### DPS OFFICERS — ONE PERSON - THREE JOBS

Heath DPS officers are trained and certified to serve as fire fighters, police officers and paramedics. That’s one extraordinary person, ready to help you in three critical ways. DPS vehicles are equipped with life-saving equipment such as AEDs to assist on scene until Rockwall County EMS arrives.

### CRIME STATISTICS

Patrol enforcement is focused on high traffic areas such as the FM 740 corridor from Travis Ranch to Chandlers Landing. DPS has responded to 6,849 calls for service this year through June (fire alarms, residential and commercial fires, medical calls and traffic calls).

### #1 CRIME PREVENTION TIP:

Eliminate crimes of "opportunity" by keeping your car and house doors locked and by remaining focused and vigilant about your surroundings. "If you see something, say something. Don't be reluctant to call us. We want to know about everything suspicious in our city. We have had zero car burglaries so far this year. That's a significant reduction from the past three years that is a direct result of our partnership with the citizens locking up and communicating with us," said Chief Seery.

**CONTACT HEATH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
EMERGENCY: 911 | NON-EMERGENCY DPS: 972-771-7724



## INDEPENDENCE DAY IN HEATH TX

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## HEATH CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Find more photos and the highlights video at [heathtx.com](http://heathtx.com) and the City's Facebook page.

Independence Day In Heath was a red, white and blue community celebration with all of the patriotic sights and sounds of the holiday. The City thanks the Special Events Board and sponsors, volunteers, city staff, Heath Department of Public Safety AND the record number of parade participants who created great memories for the citizens and guests. The Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution also presented Mayor Kelson Elam with the donation of a beautiful Chinquapin Oak Patriot Tree planted in Towne Center Park to kick off celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.



### 2023 PARADE AWARD WINNERS

- Best Float - 5013 Coffee
- Best Bicycle - Harbor Town Title
- Best Golf Cart/ATV - Greenhaw Family & Willie Nelson
- Best Antique Car - Larry & Joyce Love/Foxbody Mustang
- Most Patriotic Pet - Rockwall County Barbie's Horse Club
- Most Spirited Overall - Rush Creek Yacht Club
- Most Philanthropic - Aspasians
- Most Creative - Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal
- Mayor's Choice - Jessica's Spirit



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