



# CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

**2024**  
**HEATH OF HEATH 5K/FAMILY RUN**  
**03.30.24**  
===== SEE PAGE 4 =====

**FEBRUARY**  
**2024**



## CITY BREAKS GROUND ON PLAZA PARK IN THE HEART OF TOWN

The City of Heath hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on December 13 for a plaza park at FM 740/FM 550/FM 549 that will provide more open space and a beautiful entry feature for the downtown area.

The project was initiated in 2022, when the Heath Economic Development/Municipal Benefits Corporation (HEDC/HMBC) purchased the parkland, which was formerly TxDOT right-of-way left over from the widening of the FM 740 project. By law, the County, RISD and City have the first rights in that order to purchase surplus TxDOT property.

The purpose of the HEDC/HMBC is to support initiatives that expand the sales tax base and quality of life in Heath through economic development that fits the culture of the City.

This investment will enhance business in the retail center by offering customers a place to enjoy before, during and after a visit to any of the establishments. The plaza is also accessible by biking or walking via City trails.

Weather permitting, the plaza park will be completed in the Spring of 2024.

### FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| February 2  | Groundhog Day   |
| February 13 | Mardis Gras     |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| February 19 | Presidents' Day |

### City Project Update

## BOND FUNDING PAVES WAY FOR CITY IMPROVEMENTS WITHOUT IMPACTING TAX RATE

In December 2023, City Council approved the issuance of a \$30-million-bond package to fund the three infrastructure projects listed below. The Heath Economic Benefits Corporation (HMBC) approved participating in the funding by contributing a lump sum of \$3 million and paying the annual debt service for the Public Safety Station. As a result, there is no impact to citizens' tax rate to achieve these community improvements.

#### 1. Towne Center Park Renovation

The renovation of Town Center Park will include new amenities such as pickle ball courts, basketball courts, a stage for events and field improvements. The park will be irrigated by a well on the property and showcase drought-tolerant plants and landscaping techniques as a model for water conservation citywide. The project will begin this winter.

#### 2. New Department of Public Safety Station

A fire station study completed in 2023 illustrated the critical need for a second public safety station. The bond package provides for the construction of a new facility. The location and design of the new station are now being finalized.

#### 3. New Public Works Facility

Another critical need to be addressed in 2024 is the construction of a new Public Works facility to safely house the City's investment in equipment and staff. The new facility will be built on land currently owned by the City on FM 740.

# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TARA PLEXICO NAMED 2023 CITYWIDE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

"Tara has always been exemplary when it comes to a strong work ethic," said City Manager Aretha Adams. "During the past year, she also demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and made a significant impact on our organization. I am so proud of her and honored to recognize her as our Employee of the Year."

During the past 12 months, Tara led the Finance Department team while also spearheading critical projects such as the Annual Audit and Annual Budget preparation.

Tara was hired by the City in 2006 as a customer service representative. She worked her way up to Chief Accountant in 2012 and served in that capacity until her promotion to Assistant Director of Finance in 2023. She was also named Citywide Employee of the Year in 2011, and Administration Department Employee of the Year in 2007, 2010, 2015 and 2021.

City staff members recognized with service awards during the luncheon for their tenure with the City of Heath were:

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Leisa Price - Community Development  
Officer Chase Scarbrough - Department of Public Safety  
Officer Billy Termin - Department of Public Safety

## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

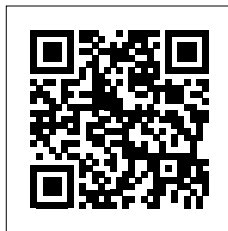
Officer Blake Mokiao - Department of Public Safety

## WASTE COLLECTION FEES INCREASED

The City's trash/recycling and household hazardous waste collection providers requested a rate increase effective February 1 due to inflation-related cost increases as reflected in the Consumer Price Index for the DFW area. The City's 2024 Fee Schedule has been amended to accommodate this request.

The residential base rate for solid waste collection will increase from \$21.36 per month to \$22.33 per month.

The base service fee for the weekly front porch household hazardous waste pick up will increase from \$1.08 per home per month to \$1.13 per home per month. Each weekly pickup remains free. Use the QR code to learn how to take advantage of this service.



From left, City Manager Aretha Adams with 2023 City of Heath Employees of the Year Leisa Price, Community Development; Citywide Employee Of The Year - Tara Plexico, Assistant Director of Finance; Martin Chavez, Construction Inspector, Public Works; Officer of the Year Seth Aldridge; and Logan Pettey, Administrative Services.



Department of Public Safety Chief Seery presented the DPS Annual Excellence Award to Officer Kenny Griffith in recognition of the tremendous results achieved through his fund-raising efforts for multiple community causes and charities.

## PHASE 2 OF HUBBARD DRIVE PROJECT UNDERWAY

In November 2023, Hubbard Drive from Scenic Place to Scenic drive was closed to traffic for construction of Phase 2.

Traffic has been detoured using Scenic Drive and Scenic Place as the travel route. Phase 2 construction is projected to be completed in May.

The final two phases of this community improvement are:

- Phase 3 – Rush Creek to Michael Lane
- Phase 4 – Michael Lane to almost FM 740/Smirl



# NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (NTMWD) IMPLEMENTS YEAR-ROUND CONSERVATION SCHEDULE



## PURSUIT OF SECONDARY WATER SOURCE AND REDUNDANCY CONTINUES

### COUNCIL RECEIVES SECOND REPORT FROM CONSULTANTS CONDUCTING WATER STUDY

City Council received the second report from the consultants performing the water study at the January 9 meeting after this newsletter went to print. You can find the report and listen to the presentation and discussion at [www.heathtx.com](http://www.heathtx.com) under Government. Report highlights will also be included in next month's newsletter.

The first water study report was provided at the December 12 City Council meeting, which you can also find and listen to under the Government menu. The consultants outlined steps being taken to identify and communicate with alternate providers of water.

Additionally, Council approved the purchase and installation of a new 300 HP water pump to provide equipment redundancy and expand pumping capabilities.

## NEW WATER CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION

The City of Heath enacted a temporary residential and commercial building moratorium on November 14, 2023. The pause provides time to develop ordinances that support water conservation including landscaping and irrigation system requirements as population growth increases the demand for a finite supply.

The new development standards will include the use of vegetation to protect foundations, improved irrigation systems and drought-tolerant landscaping.

The moratorium does not affect any property development already in progress as of November 14, 2023.

The City of Heath's water supplier -- North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) via the City of Rockwall - has implemented a year-round, two-day-a-week irrigation schedule for all end-users.

The City of Heath has adopted this model as requested by the NTMWD.

### WATERING RESTRICTIONS

- Landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address is limited to TWICE PER WEEK ON YOUR DESIGNATED DAY.
- Foundations, trees and other plantings may be watered any day with soaker or handheld hoses.
- No watering (including by irrigation systems, handheld hoses or soaker hoses) may occur between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day.
- Restrictions are mandatory and violations are subject to fines.

### WHEN YOU CAN IRRIGATE

#### LAST NUMBER OF HOUSE ADDRESS DAY OF WEEK WATERING IS ALLOWED:

For example, if your house number is 1265 your designated day is Wednesday.

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



For more information visit  
**WATER WISE**  
on [Heathtx.com](http://Heathtx.com)



## THE HEART OF HEATH 5K AND 1-MILE FAMILY RUN IS MARCH 30

The City of Heath's traditional Easter Saturday celebration featuring the Heart of Heath 5k and 1-Mile Family Run is Easter Saturday, March 30.

This is a great opportunity to bring family and friends to Towne Center Park to experience one of the events that help make Heath special. The runner's warm up by Camp Gladiator begins at 8 a.m., the Family Run starts at 8:15 a.m., and the 5K starts at 8:30 a.m.

While inflation seems to be affecting everything these days, you can expect the same affordable registration fees offered since 2016! You'll also get a complimentary Heart of Heath t-shirt while supplies last and be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local businesses and sponsors.

### HEART OF HEATH HIGHLIGHTS:

- USATF Certified 5k course with chip-timed start and finish lines for 5k participants
- 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
- 2024 T-shirts for 5k and Family Run participants while supplies last
- Giant games like chess, checkers, Jenga and Connect 4
- Complimentary healthy treats including teas by Heath Nutrition & Energy
- A DJ and fun music
- Prize drawings for registered runners
- Stretch Zone & Camp Gladiator booths
- The Easter Bunny!

**REGISTER NOW AT [HEATHTX.COM](https://www.heathtx.com).**



### HEATH SCAN – SAFE CITIZENS ALERT NETWORK

The City of Heath operates a QR code-based emergency communication program called SCAN: Safe Citizens Alert Network. While residents are urged to sign up for Rockwall County's free NIXLE alert system, HEATH SCAN is in place to quickly distribute emergency information that is specific to Heath citizens without reliance upon third party sources.



SCAN also provides an easy way to use your phone to access this information, which is critical when devices such as desktop computers are not available due to power outages. SCAN the QR Code with your phone to go directly to the SCAN emergency page on the City's website that will be activated to provide real-time information as necessary.

**CALL EMERGENCY: 911 | NON-EMERGENCY UTILITY/AFTER HOURS: 972.771.7724**