



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

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

MARCH
2024



CITY NAMES KEVIN LASHER, AICP, AS CITY MANAGER

The Heath City Council named Kevin Lasher, AICP, as City Manager at the January 23 meeting.

Lasher joined the City of Heath in 2017 as Director of Planning and was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2018. During his seven-year tenure, Lasher has directed the City's Planning Division, Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, the Engineering consultant and Bond Counsel consultant.

Lasher spearheaded numerous projects that support a measured growth pattern within Heath's semi-rural context including coordinating the City's zoning code rewrite based upon the goals prescribed in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan; the Towne Center Master Plan development; the Towne Center Park Renovation Plan development; and the design of the new green space at the Tom Thumb retail center.

Past municipal and private sector experience includes working in other Texas cities including Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Mesquite, Burleson and Midlothian, where his contributions supported sustainable growth across all community sectors and profiles.

"It's an honor to be selected as Heath's new City Manager," said Lasher. "I'm excited about the opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with the Mayor and Council as we tackle some critical issues involving the City's water resources and infrastructure to ensure Heath's future as a premier community."

MARCH HOLIDAYS

March 10	Daylight Savings
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 31	Easter

CITY HALL CLOSED

Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Kevin Lasher was named City Manager by the Heath City Council on January 23.

Lasher's primary goals include hiring a Public Works Director who will spearhead a realignment of priorities supporting an efficient maintenance of the community's infrastructure assets, including the long-range sustainability of the City's water supply.

"Our citizens are the beneficiary of these collaborative successes when staff and Council are in lock-step agreement with addressing community needs and desires," said Lasher, who has maintained his certification as a city planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) since 1992.

Lasher earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Lasher and his wife of 32 years are in the process of relocating to Heath and look forward to becoming involved in the community as citizens themselves.

"Heath is fortunate to have an experienced resource and leader in Kevin," said Mayor Kelson Elam. "His primary focus on the needs of the citizens has been evident every day for the past seven years. We look forward to future accomplishments with Kevin at the helm."

Reach Mr. Lasher at 972-771-6228 or klasher@heathtx.com.

ELECTION NOTICE

The City of Heath will hold a General Election on May 4 to elect Mayor and Councilmembers Places 3 and 5. The filing deadline is 5 p.m., February 16 and the last day to declare write-in candidacy on the ballot is February 21.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

TERRY PARK BOAT DOCK/RAMP REPAIRS

The Park Board approved a contract for the repair of the boat docks at Terry Park at its January 22 meeting. Weather permitting, this amenity will re-open by the end of February.

PLAZA PARK IN THE HEART OF TOWN

Status:

- Construction plans by la terra studio are complete.
- The construction bid opening will be held at City Hall on February 28 at 3 p.m.
- The contract should be awarded by the City Council at its March 26 meeting.
- The Park Board is deliberating a name for the park amenity.
- Weather permitting, the plaza park will be completed in the Spring of 2024.

Background:

The plaza park at FM 740/FM 550/FM 549 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.

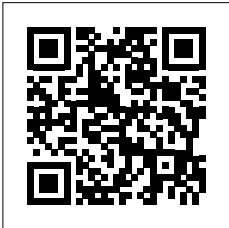
By law, the County, RISD and City have the first rights in that order to purchase surplus TxDOT property.

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 themselves before, during and after a visit to any of the establishments. The plaza is also accessible by biking or walking via City trails.

PHASE 2 OF HUBBARD DRIVE PROJECT

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

BOND PROJECTS

In December 2023, the 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 the citizens' tax rate to achieve these community improvements.

TOWNE CENTER PARK RENOVATION

Status:

- The park will be closed beginning April 1 to organized field activities including team practices and games, with the exception of remaining Rockwall ISD field events through the end of the school year.
- Permit submittal drawings should be presented to the Park Board by the end of April.
- Mass grading of the park to begin at the end of May, with a completion goal by the time school resumes in August.
- Security fencing and contractor/sub-contractor check-in procedures will be in place to ensure the safety of students and faculty at Amy Parks Elementary.
- The Construction at Risk Manager for this project is Hill & Wilkinson.
- Weather permitting, the renovation of the park will be completed by December 2025.

Background:

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.

New Department of Public Safety Station

Status:

- The location and design of the new station are now being finalized.

Background:

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.

New Public Works Facility

Status:

- The location and design are now being finalized.

Background:

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.



PURSUIT OF SECONDARY WATER SOURCE AND REDUNDANCY CONTINUES

- The City of Heath received a verbal agreement from the City of Rockwall to renew its contract to provide 5.5 million gallons of water daily.
- The City of Rockwall also gave its approval for the City of Heath to apply to the North Texas Water Municipal Water District (NTMWD) to be a direct customer of the water supplier and request additional water as a result. Documents were submitted to the NTMWD on Friday, January 12 to begin the review and approval process.
- Freeman-Millian, which is conducting the water study, has held multiple meetings with other water suppliers in the region to explore options for obtaining more water, as the City of Heath will require 14 to 15 million gallons per day upon build-out of the projected 21,000 people.
- All sources express the desire to see proactive water conservation measures to reduce per capita usage. The City of Heath has among the highest per capita use trends in North Texas.

NEW WATER METER INFRASTRUCTURE APPROVED

The City Council approved a purchase and installment agreement for Phase 1 of the upgraded Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program at its January 9 meeting with Hydro Pro Solutions and Master Meter (Harmony).

Phase 1 will provide the installation of 3,021 new water meters that will increase efficiency and responsiveness to customers by providing real-time data on utility consumption for accurate data measurement and more efficient billing. The program includes a customer portal to provide citizens access to the data and enable both the City and users to identify issues more quickly to avoid costly problems.

The goal is to have the 3,021 meters installed and operating by June 2024. This represents 72 percent of the citywide system. The balance of 1,200 will be included in the next budget year of 2024-2025 and installed in 2025.

HEATH FOLLOWS NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (NTMWD) YEAR-ROUND CONSERVATION SCHEDULE

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

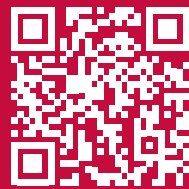
- Landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address is limited to TWICE PER WEEK ON YOUR DESIGNATED DAY.
- Foundations, trees and other plantings may be watered any day with soaker or handheld hoses.
- No watering (including by irrigation systems, handheld hoses or soaker 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](https://heathtx.com)

SEWER WINTER AVERAGING BILLING EXPLAINED

The City uses a winter averaging method for sewer bills to provide existing residential customers with the most equitable fee on sewer costs throughout the year.

This method takes the amount of water used during the months of November, December, January and February to calculate an average consumption. The single month with the highest water usage is removed from the calculation, and the average of the remaining three months is used as a basis for billing sewer charges for the following 12-month period. New utility customers are charged the base rate plus the system average times the volume rate. The new resident fee for FY 2024 is \$97.95. Once a customer has established a winter average, their bill will be based on their consumption not the system average.

Example: The water consumption for the months of November, December, January and February are 6, 10, 5, and 4. After the high volume of 10 is removed, the winter average is 5.
(Winter Average X Sewer Volume Rate) + Sewer Base Fee = Monthly Charge or $5 \times 5.97 + 56.16 = \86.01 monthly charge for the next 12 months.)



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. 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. The Special Events Board is pleased to offer the same affordable registration fees 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:

- 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!

BUILDING MORATORIUM UPDATE

The City enacted a Residential and Commercial Building Moratorium on November 14, 2023, to provide a pause in construction for new ordinances supporting water conservation to be developed.

The goal was to avoid approving a significant amount of building permits before a new landscaping and irrigation ordinance supporting water conservation could be adopted.

Construction that was already in progress was not affected, and the ability to apply for an exemption was available. Since November 14, 48 exemptions have been requested. Of those, 43 have been granted and five are in review.

At the January 9 City Council meeting, the City Attorney asked for direction on extending the moratorium as the process is lengthy. The schedule for approval of the new ordinance for landscaping and irrigation requirements is tight and will include several public hearings by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council. It is anticipated that the ordinance will be acted upon by the City Council at its April 23 meeting.

The current moratorium expires on March 13, which would require an extension of the moratorium. The council expressed that any extension should be as short as possible and for no more than 60 additional days as the goal is not to prevent development but to develop additional water conservation measures.



REGISTER NOW AT
HEATHTX.COM

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