



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

WATER CONSERVATION SCHEDULE UPDATE

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NOVEMBER

2023



HEATH ADOPTS FY 2023-2024 CITY BUDGET: SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR TAX RATE IS LOWERED

The City Council adopted the FY 2023-2024 City of Heath Annual Budget at the Regular City Council meeting on September 26 following months of work held in open meetings and a Public Hearing on September 25.

The budget became effective October 1 and is based on a tax rate of \$0.277493, which is 0.013682 cents lower than last year’s tax rate of \$0.291175 or 4.70%. This is the sixth consecutive year the City’s tax rate has been lowered for a total decrease of 13.9818 cents or 33.51%



The budget incorporates \$30.5 million in bonds to fund the construction of a new Department of Public Safety station and a Public Works facility, and the renovation of Towne Center Park. Due to a funding partnership between the Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation (HMBC) and the City, these projects will be funded without an increase to the tax rate.

The bonds issued will not affect the City’s ability to fund future water infrastructure projects to expand the City’s water storage and delivery capacity. A water study is currently underway, with the first report by the consulting firm expected at the December 12 City Council meeting.

Additional services in the new budget include increased funding for pay-as-you-go programs; street repairs and improvements; drainage repairs

and improvements; water and sewer infrastructure improvements; and the addition of two seasonal park maintenance workers, a part-time custodian, a meter services supervisor, a water production and lift station supervisor and two part-time seasonal administrative assistants.

You can view the budget at heathtx.com under Quick Documents on the front page.

SEE THE TOWNE CENTER PARK RENOVATION PLAN

“This is the sixth year in a row that we have achieved a balanced budget that addresses our City’s needs without raising taxes,” said Mayor Kelson Elam. “As property values have increased, we have adjusted the tax rate to stay flat, and I thank our Council and staff for their hard work on behalf of our citizens.”

2023-2024 HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

- Thanksgiving Day** No Change
- Christmas Day** Collection will move forward by one day to 12/26, 12/27 & 12/28
- New Year’s Day** Collection will move forward by one day 1/2, 1/3, 1/4

2024 Trash and recycling will be picked up on the normal schedule on all other holidays including Martin Luther King Day; President’s Day; Memorial Day; Juneteenth; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; and Veterans Day.

SUNSET SWINGS

DEDICATION CEREMONY HONORS LEGACIES OF SERVICE AND GENEROSITY

Community members gathered to honor legacies of service and generosity at the Sunset Swings Dedication Ceremony held at Terry Park on September 21.

Recent updates in the park include the new swinging benches overlooking the lake that were dedicated during the ceremony in remembrance of former Park Board Chair Virginia “Ginny” Jackson and former councilmembers Joe Chamberlain and Bob Hille.

Each of the servant leaders were honored by dignitaries and family as their portraits were on display with the bronze plaques to be mounted on a swinging bench.

Recurring contributors and one-time donors to the Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) fund-raising program were also recognized during the ceremony including:

- Impact Selector International led by Heath residents David Lane and Jason Hradecky;
- D & D Commercial Landscape Management owned by Heath resident Donnie Watts; and the
- Heath Economic Development and Municipal Benefits Corporation, which dedicates 25 percent of its annual sales tax revenue to park and community improvement projects.

PATH’s newest donors, Kathy and Bob Tolbert of Heath, were announced as well. The Tolbert’s are providing a matching contribution to complete the sunset swings area in Terry Park with a new all-abilities accessible playground.



City Leaders with Family & Friends of Virginia “Ginny” Lutz Jackson



Family and Friends of Joe B. Chamberlain



Family and Friends of Bob Hille



NEW SWINGS & PLAYGROUND AT TERRY PARK

The Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) fund-raising program has spearheaded numerous projects including the addition of new swings at Terry Park. With the generous contribution of Bob and Kathy Tolbert of Heath, a new playground will soon be installed as well.



City Leaders with PATH Donors: Jason Hradecky, Director of Engineering, Impact Selector International, Donnie Watts, Owner of D&D Commercial Landscape Management



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN HEATH

National Night Out IN HEATH hosted by the Department of Public Safety on October 3 was a festive gathering of community friends and neighbors including the Heath Hawks Varsity football team and our DPS officers. Members of the Student Council presented Heath DPS with its own official Block H flag. Enjoy a few photos here, and find the highlights video at heathtx.com.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN HEATH DECEMBER 1



Join your Heath friends and neighbors for all of the sights, sounds and treats at Christmas in Heath on Friday,

December 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Towne Center Park. The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony is at 6 p.m. and will feature the Rockwall Heath High School Jazz Band and Drum Line, followed by performances by the Amy Parks, Pullen and Linda Lyon Honor choirs.

Enjoy complimentary cocoa and homemade cookies baked by the United Methodist Church of Heath, Pearl and Lone Star Chapters of the National Charity League, and Lakeside League Boys Team Charity members. There will also be an array of food trucks, miniature train rides, children's activities, and photos with Santa and a few of his trusty reindeer!

You can purchase the 2023 Heath Christmas ornament at Santa's Souvenir Shoppe. The Christmas red and white trolley buses will once again provide free shuttles to and from the Tom Thumb retail center between 5:30-9 p.m. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter and at heathtx.com.



CITY INITIATES ANNUAL WATER CONSERVATION: CUSTOMERS CAN WATER TWICE PER WEEK

The Annual Water Conservation Schedule allows customers to use irrigation systems to water twice per week on their assigned days (see schedule). The Annual Water Conservation Schedule is required of North Texas Water Municipal District (NTWMD) for all member cities and requested of customer cities (which includes the City of Heath).

As climate and growth continue to place great demands on a limited supply of water, the City of Heath joins North Texas cities in adhering to this conservation schedule year-round.

Any changes would be to increase restrictions if demand pushes the daily limit of 6 million gallons allowed to the City of Heath by the City of Rockwall.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued efforts.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

The City of Heath has initiated a water study to identify additional sources of water and the infrastructure needed for storage and delivery. The first report on this effort is expected at the December 12 City Council meeting.

Additionally, City staff members are working to bring to City Council a series of ordinances to address water usage for both existing and future development which includes a landscaping ordinance that would require the installation of drought tolerant landscaping and turf and encourage Xeriscaping to minimize irrigation water demand from future construction.

WATER CONSERVATION IRRIGATION SCHEDULE

LAST NUMBER OF HOUSE ADDRESS	WHEN YOU CAN WATER
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

CALL EMERGENCY: 911 | NON-EMERGENCY UTILITY/AFTER HOURS: 972-771-7724