



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

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DECEMBER 2024



Happy Thanksgiving



THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As the year winds down, activities and festivities seem to speed up. My hope is that you are looking forward to a Thanksgiving celebration with friends

and families, as well as quiet time to count your blessings.

In Heath, one of the blessings we share is the peace of mind that comes with being the 7th Safest City in Texas. That's a huge accomplishment, and I thank our Department of Public Safety for working so hard to achieve this ranking among more than 1,200 cities.

Since becoming your Mayor, I've spent a lot of time with Chief Brandon Seery and his officers touring public safety facilities and, on the scene, as they battled a home fire, investigated a death or responded to calls for medical assistance.

In each incident, the skill our officers possess as triple-certified fire fighters, police officers and EMTs was demonstrated. So was a dedication to our community that is uniquely Heath.

We are fortunate to have this level of protection 24/7, and our council was proud to ensure the resources Chief Seery and his team need in the FY 2024-2025 budget that became effective October 1.

We are adding outdoor warning sirens in strategic locations throughout the City; implementing a new emergency notification system that we control locally; and installing more flock security cameras, including two at Terry Park.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Heath Department of Public Safety is competing against other Rockwall County first responders to collect the most toys for children in need this Christmas. Help them win by dropping a new, unwrapped toy at the station by December 5!



New equipment purchases include a Skydio drone to aid in fire, criminal and search and rescue operations and to monitor community events.

Additional upgrades include new fire hoses, training equipment, tasers and AEDs in every vehicle in the DPS fleet. We've also provided temporary space for the growing department as we continue the process of building a new DPS station.

Equally important, four public safety lieutenant positions were added to ensure a supervisor is always available for both police and fire operations and to oversee the School Resource Division. And we implemented a step pay plan to compensate and retain our first responders in a highly competitive industry.

It's an honor to serve with the Heath Department of Public Safety. When you see our officers this holiday season, take a moment to say thank you. You can also show your support by helping them win the Battle of the Badge Toys for Tots Drive. On top of all that they do, Heath DPS is making sure no Rockwall County child goes without this Christmas morning.

Let's make sure they win this competition! Drop an unwrapped toy at the station by December 5...and have a happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings,

Mayor Jeremiah McClure

NEW CITY OF HEATH CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS



NOW AVAILABLE

Save a phone call or email to City Hall and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly access information.

Simply text the word Hi to the City's smart texting number or send a message containing keywords relevant to your search such as: bulky brush; watering schedule; trash schedule; permits; code violation; weeds; streetlight outage or events.

24/7 TEXTING SERVICE

Smart texting technology will identify the keywords you text and send a direct link to the information you are seeking on the City website.

GET STARTED

Text HI to the City of Heath at 972-961-1997.

Save this number to your phone and text anytime you need it.

Look for highlighted keywords within this newsletter that can be texted to 972.961.1977 to find more information.

KEYWORDS



LAUNCHING DECEMBER 2024

The City now owns and operates the Everbridge NIXLE HEATH emergency alert system, which enables the Heath Department of Public Safety to quickly customize and distribute local alerts for incidents unique to the City of Heath geographical area.

ABOUT EVERBRIDGE NIXLE HEATH:

- Sends local emergency alerts from Heath DPS/City of Heath
- Sends National Weather Service alerts
- Sends Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) alerts
- Integrated with the Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)
- Alerts citizens by text message, cell phone, email and home/business phone
- City of Heath utility customers are automatically included in the alert database
- Has the GeoFencing capabilities to ensure anyone within the City geographical area receives a critical alert, such as a tornado warning
- Allows people who are not utility customers to register; such as non-residents with loved ones living in Heath

The City is working to launch this system in the coming weeks. Actions include becoming a certified IPAWS agency.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

If you are a Heath utility customer, you will automatically be in the emergency alert database. Information on how to add additional contact numbers or family and friends will be included with system launch announcements.



TOWNE CENTER PARK RENOVATION: GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY IS DECEMBER 19

The City of Heath will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Towne Center Park renovation project on Thursday, December 19 at 4 p.m.

Come be a part of the festivities and learn more about the park improvements first-hand from the staff of Hill & Wilkinson, the general contractor, and Kimley-Horn, the park designer. Members of the Park Board and City staff will also be available to answer questions.

FAST FACTS:

IRRIGATION: The completed park will be irrigated by an onsite well and funded separately through the utilities budget. No current city water supply will be used for irrigation.

LANDSCAPING: Landscaping for the renovated park will be a model for using Texas-native, drought-resistant materials that require minimal water.

AMENITIES:

- Improved baseball and soccer fields
- A showpiece pond
- An interactive splash fountain
- An event lawn with a multi-use stage
- A festival street for food trucks
- Six shaded pickleball courts
- 2 half basketball courts
- Additional play equipment

BUDGET: The park renovation budget is \$12,840,000.

FUNDING: The park renovation is funded through a partnership between the City and Heath Municipal Benefits Corporation to issue \$30 million in bonds for the project and a new Department of Public Safety Station and Public Works facility without impacting the tax rate. A generous private donation was also made through the Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) program.

COMPLETION DATE: The estimated completion date is December 2025 with a Grand Re-Opening at the *Annual Christmas in Heath* event. *Christmas in Heath* is on hiatus in 2024. To follow the project, scan the QR code.

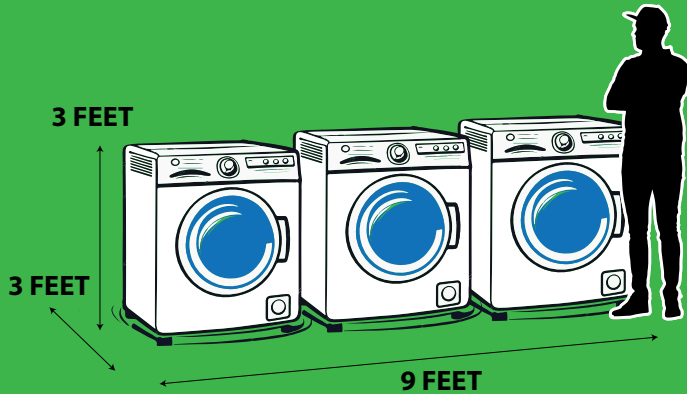


TOWNE CENTER

Although *Christmas in Heath* is on hiatus in 2024 due to the renovation of Towne Center Park, the Heath Economic Development and Municipal Benefits Corporations (HEDC/HMBC) are sponsoring the Heath Holiday Market at Hidden Creek in The Reserve to ensure seasonal festivities for the community! Come shop and celebrate with your friends and neighbors!

BULKY BRUSH PICKUP 3 CUBIC YARDS

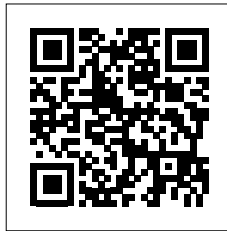
APPROXIMATE SIZE OF 3 WASHER/DRYERS



FREE BRUSH, BULKY WASTE AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PICK UP SERVICES

BRUSH PICK UP

City of Heath utility customers may have up to three cubic yards of brush hauled away free of charge on the first and third weeks of the month. Anything over three cubic yards is billed at \$12.26 per yard. Brush should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of the collection week. You do not need to schedule the pick up.



BULKY WASTE PICK UP

Bulky items such as furniture and appliances will be picked up free of charge once a week. Place curbside by 7 a.m. on Mondays. You do not need to schedule the pick up.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Weekly "front porch pickup" of household hazardous waste items is available to residential utility customers through HHW Solutions.

Call 972-440-2040 or go online to HHWSolutions.com to request a pickup by 8 p.m., Mondays. Place items to be collected on your front porch by 7 a.m. Wednesdays. If you have a gated property, please place your items at the curb.

Scan the QR code for more information on these services, including items accepted.

TRASH

HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

THANKSGIVING WEEK SERVICE

Thursday (11/28) Rolls to Friday (11/29)
Friday (11/29) Rolls to Saturday (11/30)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS SERVICE

Wednesday (12/25 & 01/01) Rolls to Thursday (12/26 & 01/02)
Thursday (12/26 & 01/02) Rolls to Friday (12/27 & 01/03)
Friday (12/27 & 01/03) Rolls to Saturday (12/28 & 01/04)

CITY BUILDING CODES UPDATED

At the September 24, 2024, meeting, City Council adopted the following Building Codes and City and NCTCOG Amendments for all residential and commercial building permits:

BUILDING DEPT

- 2021 ICC Building Code
- 2021 ICC Energy Conservation Code
- 2021 ICC Fire Code
- 2021 ICC Fuel Gas Code
- 2021 ICC Residential Code
- 2021 ICC Mechanical Code
- 2021 ICC Plumbing Code
- 2021 ICC Property Maintenance Code
- 2021 ICC Swimming Pool and Spa Code
- 2021 ICC Existing Building Code
- 2023 National Electrical Code

For more information on current building codes, go to the Building Department page on the website or contact the Building Department at 972-961-4883. To apply for a building permit, visit the contractor's portal on the home page.

ALARM AND DOG PERMITS EXPIRE JANUARY 1, 2025

PERMITS

Annual dog and alarm permits expire on January 1, 2025. You will receive email notification in December with instructions on how to update your information and make the payment online.

Anyone responsible for the operation of or in possession of an alarm system in the City of Heath is required to obtain an annual permit for operation of such system. The permit is good for a calendar year and a penalty of \$200 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. The fee for a residential permit is \$35 per year.

The annual cost for dog registration is \$10 for intact dogs and \$5 for those that have been spayed or neutered.

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