

# CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

## SAVE THE DATE 2025 HEART OF HEATH 5K/FAMILY RUN APRIL 19

FEBRUARY 2025



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MAYOR JEREMIAH McCLURE

We are moving full speed into 2025 with excitement about the opportunities and success the months ahead will bring: a renovated Towne Center Park; construction of new Department of Public Safety and Public Works facilities; and implementation of the Water Bridge plan with construction of the first wells, to name a few.

At the groundbreaking for the Towne Center Park project in December, I was once again deeply touched by what a wonderful community of servant leaders and volunteers we have. Citizens who are willing to share their own time and resources to make Heath a place we are all proud to call home.

Obviously, I can never thank our volunteer City council and board and commission members often enough for all that they do. There are many others in the community to also acknowledge.

Like Bob and Kathy Tolbert. Upon moving to Heath from Santa Fe in 2023, they reached out to learn more about their new hometown and how they could give back.

As a result, I'm pleased to share that this incredibly generous couple recently made a significant donation to the Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) program. Their gift enables us to build the new Pickleball Pavillion at Towne Center Park with eight full pickleball courts – six of which will be shaded.

It's no secret that with every day that passes, construction costs rise. The vision the Park Board had for pickleball in Heath was in jeopardy due to a changing budget before the Tolbert's contribution to retain the original design.

If you know Bob and Kathy, give them a hug or a high five. If you don't, we will be recognizing them at the January 14 City Council meeting. Come join us and meet them!

We also received another generous PATH donation to support a City Hall beatification and refresh plan that includes interior painting, refurbishing the exterior monument sign, hardscaping the entrance/exit corners and extending sidewalk connections to tie into City trails. This donor wishes to remain anonymous, but they can be assured we are grateful.

I want to recognize the new PATH Steering Committee led by John Walker for their work to secure public-private partnerships that expand and speed up the quality of life projects our citizens want and deserve. To learn how you can support the program, contact John at jwalker@heathtx.com.

Our phenomenal Department of Public Safety also contributes to our quality of life and value of properties.

We were proud to be named the 7th Safest City in Texas in 2024; but I think we can be #1! One way is to work together as neighbors to increase the safety in each of our subdivisions.

## **CITY OF HEATH PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**



## **EXPANDING THE WATER SYSTEM**

- A Water Bridge Plan is now undergoing a feasibility study.
- The plan includes six potable water wells to be built in 2025 and 2026, plus a 1.5-million-gallon elevated storage tank to be built by 2026.
- This should bring total water storage to 6.5 million gallons, up from the current five million, and increase the daily water available to 10 12 million gallons per day. That is up from the current maximum of 6 million gallons per day. The final numbers will depend upon well production.



## **ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY**

- The Heath Nixle Everbridge system to provide Heath-specific alerts controlled locally is now live.
- Construction of the new Department of Public Safety station is progressing on City-owned land at Hawk Drive and Chris Cuny Boulevard (The Reserve).
- The new DPS station will include the first of a series of outdoor warning sirens to be constructed in Heath.
- The new DPS station will also house the new ladder fire truck to be delivered this fall.



## **IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE & PRODUCTIVITY**

#### TEXTMYGOV

NEXTREQUEST

- The new City of Heath TextMyGov system enables you to use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly access information.
- Text the word "Hi" to the 972-961-1997 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.

#### PUBLIC RECORDS



- This new web portal enables you to make open record requests online.
- You may find what you're looking for without having to submit a new request. Just click the search button.
- Official records are held by City departments and the Clerk pursuant to governing document retention schedules.



## **IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY**

- Construction is underway on the current City-owned site at 1284 FM 740.
- Weather permitting, the facility should be completed by October 2025 to provide space to safely accommodate staff and store equipment and vehicles.

#### **FIRE FLOW**

- Council awarded a construction contract for new water lines and fire hydrants for Darr Estates and Meadowlake Lane at its December 10, 2024, meeting.
- This is part of the Fire Flow Capital Improvement Plan to solve deficient water lines and fire hydrants in numerous areas of the City.
- The plan was accelerated in the Summer of 2024 from a 10-year timeline to a 5-year timeline without a tax impact to citizens.



## **ENRICHING QUALITY OF LIFE**

#### **TOWNE CENTER PARK RENOVATION**

- The City held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Towne Center Park renovation project on December 19.
- The event was a celebration of community and the many leaders and volunteers, past and present, who have worked hard to bring the vision for this gem in the Heart of Heath to life: Mayors and Councilmembers; Park Board members; Heath Economic Development/ Municipal Development (HEDC/HMBC) board members; Parks And Trails of Heath (PATH) supporters; City managers and staff; and the teams at Kimley-Horn and Hill & Wilkinson General Contractors.
- Amenities will include the City's first potable water well to irrigate the park and provide additional water supply.
- Weather permitting, the renovation will be completed by December 2025.



- The City of Heath is committed to preserving a special way of life where rolling hills and the sparkling lake provide a serene backdrop for beautiful neighborhoods, distinctive homes and premier outdoor recreation opportunities.
- This includes an intentional plan to promote open spaces and equestrian facilities. If you own a property in Heath or the ETJ that provides equestrian related-services, please contact the City at sbrooke@heathtx.com.
- Scan the QR code here and re-discover all the reasons why you chose Heath as your Home. Share with family and friends!

## **THANK YOU FOR CONSERVING WATER!**

Citywide water usage has frequently been less than 1 million gallons per day between November 1 and January 08. The lowest usage was 733,000 gallons. The average daily use during this period was 1.508 million gallons per day.

The City of Heath's water supplier -- North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) via the City of Rockwall -- mandates a year-round, two-day-a-week irrigation schedule for all end-users. The City of Heath adopted this model as requested by the NTMWD.

See the irrigation schedule and daily usage chart by scanning the QR code.

## **CITY OF HEATH GENERAL ELECTION IS MAY 3**

On the Ballot: Deadline to File Application to Run: Deadline to Register to Vote: **Early Voting:** 

City Council Places 1, 2, 4 and 6 5 p.m., February 14 April 3 April 21 – 29



**ELECTION** 



ABOUT

**TOWNE CENTER** 



## CONSERVATION



Download the Candidate's Packet by scanning the QR code..



From left: Mayor Jeremiah McClure; Director of Public Works Bryan Creed, 2024 Employee of the Year; and Interim City Manager Aaron Adel.

## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS BRYAN CREED NAMED CITYWIDE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Director of Public Works Bryan Creed was named 2024 Citywide Employee of the Year during the Annual Employee Awards and Christmas Luncheon held in December at the Rush Creek Yacht Club.

"Bryan joined our team in February 2024 and hit the ground running with the critical issue of water falling within his responsibility," said Interim City Manager Aaron Adel. "At the same time, Bryan manages a department that takes care of all infrastructure including streets, sewer, facilities, parks, trails and greenspace," she said.

A certified well operator with 20 years of industry experience, Creed is leading the implementation of a Water Bridge Plan to augment the City's water supply and storage capabilities.

"We couldn't be more grateful to Bryan for bringing his extensive expertise to benefit Heath," said Adel.



From left: Mayor Jeremiah McClure; DPS Employee of the Year Officer Trever Adams, with Chief Brandon Seery behind; Community Development Employee of the Year Javier Falcon, with Director David Gonzales behind; Finance Department Employee of the Year Denise Bustamante, with Director Jay Ayres behind; and Administration Employee of the Year, IT Director Danny McDermott with Interim City Manager Aaron Adel. Not pictured: Randy Patton, Public Works.

### DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Departmental Employee of the Year awards were also presented to staff members in recognition of their performances in 2024.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

(Pictured below left)

- Administration- Danny McDermott, Director of IT
- Community Development- Javier Falcon, Code Enforcement Officer
- Department of Public Safety- Officer Trever Adams
- Finance- Denise Bustamante, Payroll Clerk/Purchasing Agent
- Public Works- Randy Patton, Division Manager, Streets/ Parks/Facilities

City staff members recognized with service tenure awards were:

#### 5 Years

Casey Nation, Officer, Department of Public Safety Bill Rushing, Officer, Department of Public Safety Trever Adams, Officer, Department of Public Safety Shirley Otto, Administrative Assistant, Department of Public Safety

#### 10 Years

Brandon Seery, Chief, Department of Public Safety

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MAYOR JEREMIAH McCLURE

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Chief Brandon Seery will hold a citywide Homeowner's Association Meet & Greet on February 12 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

He will share information about community security, including the surveillance system that we are using in several locations of the City and how to employ it in your neighborhood.

Please plan to attend this meeting or connect with your HOA leadership to be sure your neighborhood will be represented.

Finally, I thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Mayor during these exciting times as we proactively address our opportunities and challenges. Follow our progress in this newsletter and on the City website and socials!

May you and your family have a happy, safe and blessed 2025!

Jeremiah McClure Mayor, City of Heath

#### QUESTIONS