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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

2015 - The Year of Development! Great News about YOUR Hometown!

As a busy year comes to a close, here are just a few more reasons why Rowlett is a wonderful place to live!

2015 Brought New Development! You've probably heard that Sprouts Farmers Market will be opening on December 30 in Rowlett. This is exactly the kind of enhanced food shopping experience citizens have been asking for! This year, the City has seen a dramatic rise in new economic development growth, including Sprouts, coming to our City utilizing form-based codes. In May, 2015, the City of Rowlett and its development partner, Bayside Land Partners, closed on Elgin B. Robertson, acquiring the property from the City of Dallas. This is a very exciting development for Rowlett. Renamed Bayside, this master planned 257 acre mixed use site will be built under the City's Form-based Code, ensuring a high quality development with numerous amenities. The complete build out is expected over eight to ten years and will include 1.75 million square feet of commercial space and 3,000 residential units. Bayside is expected to add nearly one billion in new taxable value resulting in nearly \$150 million in revenue from property, sales and hotel occupancy taxes over the next twenty years. However, it doesn't stop there. Many other projects are already under construction or about to begin. These projects include The Homestead @ Liberty Grove, Terra Lago, Harmony Hills, Sprouts, and The Village of Rowlett, not to mention smaller developments and projects along Highway 66 and elsewhere. While some projects will take time to develop in phases, many of these projects will be built in one phase. Over the next five years, these projects will add an additional \$700-\$900 million in new investment, potentially adding \$10-\$15 million in property taxes alone.

So what does this mean to Rowlett? With this level of growth, Rowlett can truly make a difference in the everyday lives of our citizens.

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ISSUE NO. 1512
DECEMBER, 2015

KIDS KINGDOM

Funded by YOU through your votes and donations...Built by YOU through volunteerism: its a playground designed by our COMMUNITY!

Hundreds of volunteers and City staff came together November 20-December 6 and built this beautiful community amenity!

The new, 20,000 square foot facility housed at Pecan Grove Park is a playground for this and future generations to come, designed using up-to-the-minute technology and safe, sustainable materials, accessible for children of all abilities and age groups. this is truly a community project, tirelessly planned and promoted by those volunteering their time by serving on the Parks Advisory Board and the Playground Committee. It has been designed by our community's children, has been funded by our community through our votes and donations, and now has been physically constructed by those in our community willing to volunteer their enthusiasm, expertise and experience.



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A Little History...

As you may remember, the original playground, funded through donations and built by community volunteers in 1997, was removed in 2013 after serious safety hazards were determined during the national playground inspection process. The structure included lumber treated with Chromate Copper Arsenate (CCA), which contains arsenic. When the playground was erected by the community, CCA was an approved building material but was banned by the Federal Government in 2003 for use in playground materials. Given the cost of the repairs required to make Kids Kingdom safe for the community, which would have included removing the structure, replacing the soil and rebuilding the structure utilizing current safety standards, the decision was made to dismantle this structure.

Kids Kingdom Rebuild Planning...

At that time, the City Council recognized the history and significance of Kids Kingdom to our community and pledged \$100,000 toward its replacement with a safer and more sustainable structure. These Kids Kingdom-type playgrounds were very popular in the mid-90's and communities all over the country are now having to replace or rebuild them as their useful lifespan is topping out at around 15 years.

Steps taken included months-long community discussions regarding a location for the new playground. While Herfurth Park emerged early on as an option to enhance and build upon all of the exciting new development

coming to downtown, the City Council, Parks Advisory Board, City staff and the Rowlett citizens who offered their input ultimately agreed that Kids Kingdom should be rebuilt right back in its original location: nestled in the trees at Pecan Grove Park!



So who got to design this fabulous new playground? Why, our community's kids, of course! We went straight to the source when contemplating what to include. An extremely successful Design Day event was held in partnership with the schools in Rowlett, which allowed the children to submit their designs and let their voices be heard!

Corporate and Private Donors Have Funded Many Special Features of the New Kids Kingdom!



"I would like to thank EVERYONE who donated. Whether you're a large corporate sponsor or a grandparent purchasing a fence picket to honor a grandchild, Kids Kingdom would not be a reality today without YOU!"

Mayor Todd Gottel

THANK YOU to our Community Donors!

\$20,000
Milestone Electric
Tri-Con Construction



\$10,000
Rowlett PARDners
The DeLatte Family
Sanford Realty Renovations



\$6,500
The Home Depot



Rowlett Partners Foundation

\$5,000
Atmos Energy



\$2,500
Denton Parks Foundation
Keep Rowlett Beautiful



\$1,500
Lions Club
Inwood Bank
Honoring Vernon & Lorene Schrade
Rental One

Wells Fargo
Spirit Outfitters
Chick-fil-A
Super 8 Garland



\$500
Bounce 'N More
Oncor
Capital One
Linebarger Goggin Blair & Sampson

Bahai Faith
BB&T
Hargrove
ANB



Kids Kingdom

Let's Build This Playground!

Volunteers and City staff worked side-by-side to bring the community's vision to life!



Kids Kingdom
Let's Build This Playground!

*Volunteers and City staff worked side-by-side
to bring the community's vision to life!*



Kids Kingdom
WE Built This Playground!



*Rowlett is Seeing
New Development!*

**Just a Few MORE Reasons Why Rowlett is a
Wonderful Place to Live!**

cont. from page 1



The Village of Rowlett Downtown development has broken ground.

This catalytic transit-oriented development will change the face of Downtown Rowlett! The Village of Rowlett is a \$30 million project that will introduce a range of building types and uses within a unique village environment marked by modern housing concepts, local retail and commercial destinations, high quality pedestrian amenities, memorable open spaces and a unique vibe all our own. The Library will remain a key component of Downtown and, when the project is completed, will be located on the ground floor of the most prominent building along Main Street. Village of Rowlett downtown synergy is already occurring, Bankhead Brewing Co. has also broken ground!



Bayside! In May, 2015, the City of Rowlett and its development partner, Bayside Land Partners, closed on Elgin B. Robertson, acquiring the property from the City of Dallas. This is a very exciting development for Rowlett, which will bring visitors from all over Texas...and beyond! Renamed Bayside, this master planned 257 acre mixed use site will be built under the City's Form-based Code, ensuring a high quality development.

Bayside will include housing options for every stage of life, from condos right on up to large luxury homes, expansive green space areas with water-front parks, 1,750,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, marinas and resort-style amenities such as a Crystal Lagoon! The complete build out is expected over eight to ten years and will include 1.75 million square feet of commercial space and 3,000 residential units.

Bayside is expected to add nearly one billion dollars in new taxable value resulting in nearly \$150 million in revenue from property, sales and hotel occupancy taxes over the next twenty years.



New home and retail options have also been added! Terra Lago, a \$50 million, 447 unit high-end mixed-residential community adjacent to Scenic Point Park broke ground and phase one completion is anticipated in fall, 2017. This community will serve as a wonderful alternative to a "single family home" for the many employees of Lake Pointe Medical Center, the City's largest employer. The developer of Terra Lago has been very mindful of the adjacency to Scenic Point Park and adjoining neighborhoods and has worked to incorporate significant design elements such as open space, sidewalks, street trees and lighting to further enhance the public experience and interaction with the natural beauty of the site. Homestead at Liberty Grove, Springfield Commons, Water's Edge, The Vinyards and Lakehill are also building new homes! Sprouts will open on December 30 and this year also brought Dairy Queen, Sally Beauty, Walmart Neighborhood Market, QuikTrip and packaged liquor sales. Coming soon are Chipotle, Pie Five, Panda Express and Jimmy Johns!



Rowlett Named the
#32 Safest City in Texas!



Home and community safety experts Safewise paired data from the most recent FBI Crime in the U.S. Report, with their own thorough research to create a comprehensive list of the Top 50 Safest Cities in Texas, with 10,000 residents or more. From 1,007 property crime reports in 2012 to 897 in 2013, the police force clearly took on the challenge of reducing property crime throughout the City. Along with nominal crime in Rowlett, they found that “although Rowlett has long offered a number of residential and business services aimed at crime prevention and quick police action, the Rowlett Police Department started a new visibility campaign to make community members and business owners more aware of the services they provide.” They went on to say that “a growing population can be difficult to manage, but Rowlett is doing it swiftly and with grace.” This designation is based on data from 2013, the most recent released by law enforcement agencies.

Strong
Financial Stewardship



Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) has assigned it's G.O. bond rating of AA to the City of Rowlett, including a stable outlook! Moody's Rating Services affirmed the City's Aa2 rating. The rating agencies look at a number of factors when establishing a rating for municipalities including financial management, economic conditions and development activity, and overall trends such as changes in the tax base and fund reserves. S&P noted the broad and diverse DFW economy in which we participate, strong financial management which relies on long-term financial forecasting, and the City's strong budgetary performance and flexibility. S&P Credit Analyst Ann Richardson added, “*The stable outlook reflects our opinion that we will not change the rating over the two-year outlook horizon. The outlook further reflects our view of the City's very strong reserves, which good management supports.*”. This is an affirmation of the City Council's vision and sound financial leadership.



Texas Comptroller
Leadership Circle

The State of Texas Comptroller's Office has recognized Rowlett once again as the Platinum Standard of Transparency. The Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Award is offered to cities that take steps to be transparent regarding financial information to their citizens. The advanced Platinum level, introduced by the state and awarded to the City for 2014, has been maintained for 2015. Prior to 2014, the City was at the Gold level for two years, which was the highest level attainable during that time. The Platinum level added several requirements related to debt, and then additional criteria was added in 2015 related to financial sustainability and raw format budget.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rowlett for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 11th consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award.



Rowlett has
An Accredited Library!



The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has once again accredited the Library, which makes it a fully qualified member of the Texas Library System for State Fiscal Year 2016 (September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2016).

As an accredited library, Rowlett Public Library is eligible for TexShare database subsidies, participation in the TexShare card reciprocal borrowing program, statewide Interlibrary Loan, and the federal E-rate program. The Library is also eligible to apply for competitive grants programs administered by the State Library. Public libraries are accredited in the Government Code 441.127(a), Library Systems, under the authority of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Rowlett has
A Recognized Law Enforcement Agency



Only 106 agencies statewide have earned this prestigious designation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program. Begun in 2006, the Recognition Program evaluates a Police Department's compliance with over 166 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement. Encompassing all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management and patrol and investigative operations, these Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individuals' rights.

Although the Rowlett Police Department has always considered itself to be one of the best in the state, this two-year process provided for an independent review of the department's operations and should assure the citizens of Rowlett that its Police Department is conforming to the current state-of-the-art in law enforcement!

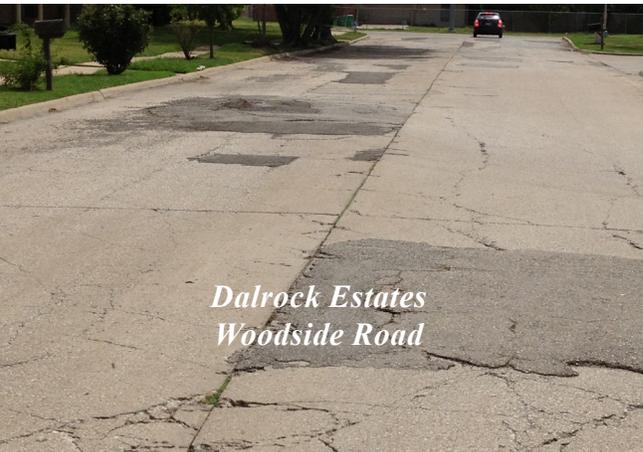
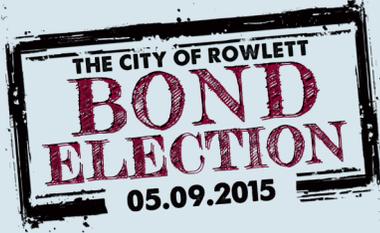
Rowlett has
A Nationally Accredited Parks and Recreation Department



One of only 10 in Texas, 135 nationwide! The Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department is among the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies and departments across the country who have earned accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The CAPRA standards for national accreditation provide an authoritative assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. Through compliance with these national standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures policy makers, department staff, and the general public that an accredited park and recreation agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community!

Successful
CIP Bond Election



Dalrock Estates
Woodside Road



In May, Rowlett citizens voted to pass a \$25.8 million bond package in three propositions to fund street, park and public safety projects, all with **no tax rate** increase! The local option election to legalize package liquor sales for off-premise consumption also passed, City staff estimates Rowlett could eventually see up to a half million dollars in additional tax revenue.

Three propositions were included in the election:

Proposition 1 - \$18,932,340 for Streets

Proposition 2 - \$4,206,110 for Parks

Proposition 3 - \$2,631,050 for Public Safety

Streets projects include rebuilding streets, sidewalks, curbs, drainage systems, street trees and lighting in Lake Country Estates, Dalrock Estates, Highland Meadows, and on Primrose Lane, among the many. A right turn lane at Main Street and the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) will be added, along with rebuilding the street, sidewalks, curbs, drainage systems, landscaping and lighting on Main Street to extend the downtown “theme” from the Roundabout to the PGBT. Alleys and drainage systems identified in the Top 50 Restoration Plan will also be addressed.

Parks projects include improvements at The Wet Zone, renovations to the Rowlett Community Centre, improvements to Lakeside Park, Springfield Park, Community Park, Paddle Point Park, Veterans Park, Pecan Grove Park, Shorewood Park and the Nature Trail. Katy Railroad Park will also see additional construction and practice soccer fields will be added. The majority of funding for the new Kids Kingdom community playground is also included.

Public Safety projects include a Training Center and Close Fiber Ring. Hands-on training is one of the most important functions that public safety personnel need to become proficient at their job, which is to protect the community’s citizens and property. This facility for the Police, Fire Rescue and Public Works departments, to be located on Schrade Road just west of Dalrock, will include a training tower, confined-space, and trench rescue training. Also includes a design plan for the future Fire Station 2, which will be located on this site.

A Team of
City Employees Dedicated to
Providing Exemplary Service to
our Community



During the November 17 City Council meeting, 23 City of Rowlett employees were recognized for their “Above and Beyond” performance and specific actions. These recognitions were submitted by their peers, citizens and supervisors during Fiscal Year 2015. Criteria included advocating for the customer, providing outstanding communication to ensure citizens’ needs were met, being proactive, displaying teamwork beyond what their job requires and exhibiting pride in the City of Rowlett through their actions.

Each of their stories are outlined [here](#). Please take some time to read about the fantastic people that serve this community each and every day, providing you, the Rowlett citizen, with great value for your tax dollars!

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VOLUNTEER BANQUET

The annual event, held this year on Thursday, December 3, honors the City's many volunteers and thanks outgoing Boards and Commissions members for their service.



**Diamond Volunteer of the Year
Sharon Porter**

*The **Diamond Volunteer of the Year** is awarded to the volunteer with the most volunteer hours.*

Perhaps the volunteer with the longest tenure with the City, Sharon has an incredible work ethic and even makes herself available when she ISN'T scheduled to volunteer, filling in wherever she is needed! Over the years, she has volunteered with Fire Administration, Purchasing, Development Services, Economic Development,

Public Works, Finance, Utility Billing, the City Secretary's Office, the City Manager's Office, Communications, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation...there are very few City departments who have not benefited from Sharon's commitment to her community. Married with three daughters and four granddaughters, Sharon volunteered 707.75 hours in Fiscal Year 2015. She is also the recipient of the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2013 Diamond Award.



**Platinum Volunteer of the Year
Barbara Grisell**

*The **Platinum Volunteer of the Year** is awarded to one who made a significant contribution by way of their volunteerism.*

Barbara was the recipient of the 2015 VIPS Officer of the Year, which was voted on by her peers, and she is a longstanding, faithful and dedicated member of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program. She is extremely active in VIPS and works in numerous capacities including, vehicle inspections, administration work and

as a Volunteer Training Officer, schooling new VIPS members in the policies and procedures of the VIPS program and the Rowlett Police Department. She volunteers at most City events and her participation is invaluable.

Barbara's commitment to God, family and the community is to be commended and admired. Her kind words, dedicated service and willing participation is well deserving of the honors and recognition which she has received.



**Richard Huff Excellence in
Community Service Award
Dretha Burris**

*Beginning in 2005, Rowlett Mayors have had the honor of recognizing another volunteer with the **Richard Huff Excellence in Community Service Award**, named for one of Rowlett's most civically engaged citizens.*

Dretha is the Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church and is ALL about community! She is an active member of CERT, lends significant support for Relay for Life, and provides extensive

counseling, conflict resolution and emotional support. She is the "glue" that holds many difficult situations together. Such as fostering and adopting older children, providing support for Hope in Hand Food Pantry, or starting the GISD backpack food ministry. A former teacher and counselor for GISD, and ultimately principal of Coyle Middle School, the atmosphere and reputation of Coyle improved significantly under her leadership, turning it into a "go to" school. The list of her community support goes on and on!



Volunteer of the Year Valencia Woodruff

*The **Volunteer of the Year** award recognizes outstanding individual contributions to the City of Rowlett and its programs, services and events.*

Since moving to our community last year, Valencia has devoted her time to helping the City of Rowlett. She previously worked in the administrative field for an insurance company and could have accepted volunteer opportunities with many other entities. Luckily for us, she chose to stay with the Parks and Recreation Department, even though multiple projects exist and the work can be quite overwhelming. She comes to the office with a contagious smile and a willingness to tackle any unfamiliar tasks. In this fast paced environment, her mellow personality exudes calm and brings a tranquil atmosphere. So modest, she likely doesn't realize what a difference her contributions to the Kids Kingdom rebuild project have made to the Parks and Recreation staff and in our community!

The City of Rowlett would like to thank ALL of our volunteers, without whom many departments would not be able to offer the high level of services currently available!

**In Fiscal Year 2015...
19,349 volunteer hours were donated
\$452,767 taxpayer dollars saved
9.3 Full Time Employee equivalents!**

City Hall Parking Lot to Close December 9

Village of Rowlett downtown construction will close the west parking lot of City Hall for approximately two years, beginning December 9. Access to the east parking lots will remain open, as will the after-hours Utility Billing payment box on a walk-up basis from Skyline Drive, but the drive-thru will also close.



The \$34 million project, when complete, will include 240 apartments, townhomes, cottage homes, and lofts. Additionally, 17,000 square feet of retail space will front Main Street and house the library.

City of Garland Rowlett Road Project

GOOD NEWS!

The City of Garland is reconstructing Rowlett Road from Roan Road to the south side of the bridge. The project began December 2 and will take approximately 180 days (six months) to complete. Expect lane closures, but two-way traffic will be accommodated at all times.



Rowlett is Social!

“Like” our Facebook pages to get more news and information...keep up with EVERYTHING going on in your hometown!



City of Rowlett



Rowlett Public Library



Rowlett Public Works



Rowlett Parks & Recreation



Rowlett Fire Department



Rowlett Police Department

COMMUNITY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Main Street Fest & Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 12

3:00-4:00 P.M. – Main Street (Parade)*

4:00-7:00 P.M. – Pecan Grove Park (Festival)

Main Street and Pecan Grove Park come alive with holiday sparkle, including children's activities, letter-writing to Santa, festival-style food, school choir performances, photos with Santa, Touch a Truck and a spectacular fireworks show! Make sure to grab your seat early on to watch the Noon Exchange Club's 29th Annual Holiday Parade at 3pm, then head on over to the park for live music and all the activities!

**Due to Village of Rowlett construction downtown, the parade will begin on Main Street at Commerce, ending at Rowlett High School.*



City of Rowlett Holiday Closings

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed for the Christmas holiday:

Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed for the New Year's Day holiday:

Friday, January 1

Waste Management Holiday Closings

Waste Management is closed and will delay trash and recycling pick up by one day on:

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25

New Year's Day – Friday, January 1



Annual Stop a Cop for Christmas Toy Drive

Saturday, November 28 – Saturday, December 19



Help the Rowlett Police Department and the Rowlett Needy Children's Fund give a less fortunate child living in Rowlett a Merry Christmas this year. Wave down any officer out on patrol, if not responding to a call, they will be happy to accept donations of toys and other gifts appropriate for children of all ages.

Don't forget our teens, there is always a great need for gifts in this age group!

Toys may also be dropped off 24 hours a day at any of the Rowlett Fire Stations or the lobby of the Rowlett Police Station.

Other collection sites include the Community Centre, City Hall, Fire Administration Building and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce.

ROWLETT POLICE OFFICERS AND ROWLETT VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE (VIPS) MEMBERS WILL ACCEPT TOY DONATIONS IN THE WAL-MART PARKING LOT ON:

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 5
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 12
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 19
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

All toys and gifts donated go to the Rowlett Needy Children's Fund and will be distributed to families living in Rowlett.

For more information, contact Officer Chad Caldwell at ccaldwell@rowlett.com or 972-412-6242.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT..



Veterans Day Ceremony

The City of Rowlett honored those who have served our country with a Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Rowlett Community Centre on Wednesday, November 11. Thank you to each of our veterans for your service to our country!



City Council Cooks Lunch for City Employees

On Thursday, November 6, members of the Rowlett City Council provided food, cooked and served at their annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, held to show City staff how much their hard work and dedication to the citizens of our community means to them.

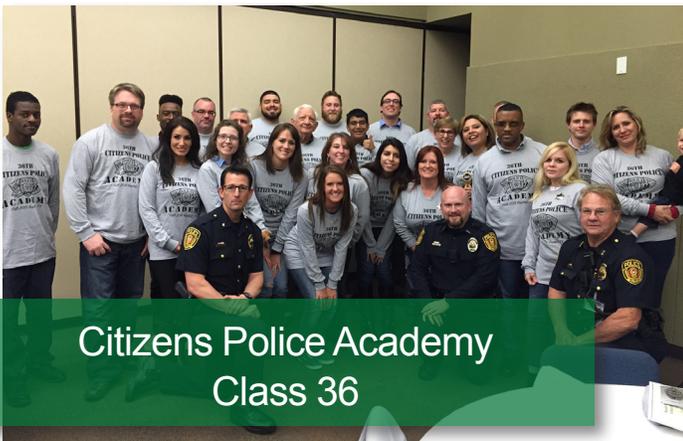


Arbor Day

On Saturday, November 7, the Parks Department and Keep Rowlett Beautiful celebrated Rowlett's 12th year as a Tree City USA by planting trees in Scruggs, Shorewood and Twin Star Parks.



pictured above, l to r: Parks and Recreation Director Jermel Stevenson, Mayor Todd Gottel and Councilmember Debby Bobbitt.



Citizens Police Academy Class 36

Congratulations to the graduates of Citizens Police Academy #36! The free CPA is held twice annually and is a great opportunity for citizens to get an insider look at what officers encounter while on duty and learn about all the different functions of your Police Department. Plus, there's a night at the shooting range AND participants get to drive a police squad car through a driving course! The next session begins in February, 2016, registration will begin in January.



Honor Academy wins Excellence Award

Congratulations to the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department for winning the Excellence in Programming Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society for the Honor Academy, which uses targeted weekly lessons based on CHASE (Character; Honor; Accountability, Sacrifice and Excellence) to students in 5th – 10th grades. These lessons foster and develop leadership, character and ambition in our youth at the RCC and Coyle Middle School.

Rowlett Public Works **ICE TEAM** is Ready!

The Rowlett Department of Public Works & Development is ready to protect drivers from storms during the upcoming snow and ice season.

You may recall the unprecedented ice storm that hit north Texas in December of 2013. The City responded with spreaders that applied aggregate and solid de-icing material throughout the 4-day event. It was an extremely busy time for Public Works snow responders, and it showed that no matter when bad weather hits,

the Rowlett Team is ready to spring into action to clear roads and keep them safe for travel.

The Rowlett Team uses a darker aggregate (known as Ice Chat – an ultra-light granular aggregate used to promote traction and augment de-icing materials), which allows drivers to more easily recognize where material has been applied and drive on treated surfaces with increased confidence. The Rowlett Team also uses Meltdown 20 brand magnesium chloride, a granular de-icer, to keep roads safe.

During snow and ice events, the Rowlett Team goes on high alert, with crews working 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, until the weather passes. Here is how the Rowlett Team will clear snow and ice:



All workers are well-trained to operate the application equipment.



Sanding/de-icing routes include City maintained bridges, intersections and inclines on major and secondary thoroughfares.



Five vehicles are set up to distribute de-icing materials and aggregate.



120 cubic yards of Ice Chat.



Over eight tons (16,800 pounds) of Meltdown 20.



Community Services News

Keep it Clean!

It is a code violation to have *trash, rubbish, impure or unwholesome and/or standing water* on private property in Rowlett.

Welcome family and friends by keeping your property clean during the holidays! Utilize the Waste Management unlimited brush/bulk collection on a weekly basis, just place unwanted items at the front curb for pick up.



Happy Holidays from the Rowlett Code Enforcement Department, thank you for your assistance and ongoing vigilance in keeping Rowlett a safe, clean community where families enjoy life and feel at home!

The Story of Ringo

Ringo came to the shelter as a stray one November afternoon. He was fairly shy at first with people, but once staff members tried him out with other dogs he blossomed. Ringo loved playing with the other dogs and with visitors but what he really wanted was a family of his own. Every day people would walk by his cage noting how cute he was, but never wanting him because of his size. Poor Ringo was starting to lose hope. One Saturday it finally became his turn to go to an offsite adoption event, and there Ringo's luck would be forever changed. A young girl and her mom fell in love and adopted him on the spot. Ringo, now named Peanut Butter, spends his days curled up with his new best friend, ready to spend the holidays in a home of his own!



Animal Shelter Maintains a 98% Live Release Rate!

Monthly Financial Update

The City of Rowlett's monthly financial report is provided as one element in the City's effort to ensure financial transparency for its citizens and policy makers.

The Finance Department prepares the report and presents it to the City Council at a regular City Council meeting each month. While the presentation made at the Council meeting usually provides a high level overview, the report itself is very detailed, providing information on each of the City's funds, key local, state and national economic indicators, and "dashboard" information about the City's primary operating funds, major revenue sources and overall fund performance.

The purpose of this report is to inform the City Council and public regarding the status of the City's financial position. In other words, where are we versus where did we project we would be at this time of the fiscal year. Also, the

"The net surplus from operations is \$3.5 million. This is \$3.7 million better than expected at this point in the year!"

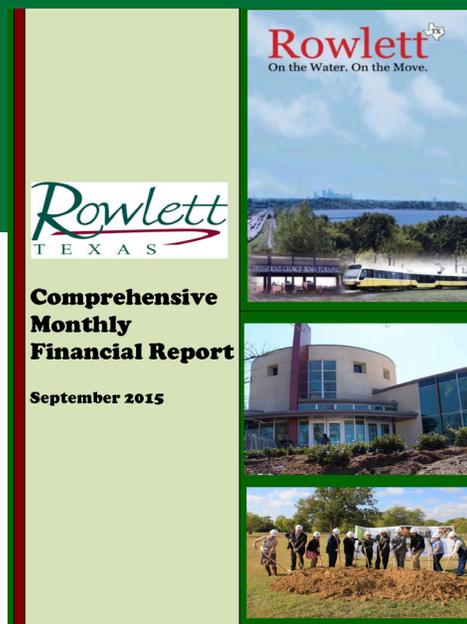
*Kim Galvin
Director of Financial Services*

report informs the staff and City Council about significant variances in projected versus actual revenues and expenditures and allows the Council to monitor the City's financial position and make adjustments as needed.

The report provided to Council in November includes financial information through September, the final month of the City's fiscal year.

Revenues have outperformed forecasts by 3.5 percent. To date, the City has earned or received \$88.6 million, or 103.5 percent, of the approved operating budget of \$85.5 million.

Expenditures have outperformed



forecasts by 0.8 percent. The City has expended \$85 million, or 99.2 percent, of the approved operating budget of \$85.7 million. Both of these positive outcomes have resulted in a net from operations of \$3.5, which is \$3.7 million better than expected!

[View the September, 2015 Financial Report!](#)



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips



'Tis the season to be jolly, but unfortunately burglars view the holiday season a little differently...for them, it is a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and gifts.



Before leaving, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house appears occupied.



Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. Do not run exterior Christmas light extension cords inside through a window and therefore preventing it from being secured!



Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive new toys inside for them to steal! Do not pile empty gift boxes from your new TV, computer, DVD player, etc. on the street next to the trash can. Break the boxes down or cut them up and place them inside the polycart.

HOLIDAY FUN at the Rowlett Community Centre!

Gingerbread House Making

Wednesday, December 9

5:30-7:00 P.M.

\$20

Create and build the best looking gingerbread house around! We provide the house and you bring the decorations. You won't want to miss out on this classic holiday tradition with your friends and family!



Lunch with Santa

Wednesday, December 16

11:30 A.M.

\$10, children under two are free

Santa makes his way to the Rowlett Community Centre for a very special lunch with you and your friends! Bring the kiddos with a sack lunch and let us provide crafts, games and photos with Santa!



Senior Holiday Events



Come celebrate the holidays with food and fellowship at this popular annual event. Please pre-register at the front desk or call 972-412-6170.

Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 10
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre



Celebrate the New Year without all of the night time obstacles. Food, beverages and entertainment and a toast to welcome in the New Year!

New Year's Noon Party

Thursday, December 31
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

Coming in January...

The City of Rowlett is partnering with STAR Transit to provide Senior members of the Rowlett Community Centre FREE round-trip transportation to the Community Centre!

- Passengers must be a member of the Rowlett Community Centre or have a program receipt.
- Passengers must be at least 60 years old and live in the Rowlett city limits.
- Transportation is ONLY provided round-trip from home to the Rowlett Community Centre.
- Trips are scheduled by calling STAR Transit at 877-631-5278. Please allow 24 hours advance notice.

Members can begin making appointments on December 21 for rides the week of January 4!

Transportation begins January 4!
www.rowlett.com/seniors 972-412-6170

STORY TIME!

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

Tuesdays @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

For babies up to age 2

December 1 - Puppies and Kittens

December 8 - Shapes

December 15 - My Home

December 22 - no story time

December 29 - no story time

An interactive story time between baby and caregiver, which includes board books, songs, nursery rhymes, baby sign language, peekaboo, bubbles and parachute play.

Giggle, Wiggle Toddler Story Time

Wednesdays @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Ages 18 months to 3 years

December 2 - Hooray for Parades!

December 9 - Reindeer Games

December 16 - Holiday Time

December 23 - no story time

December 30 - no story time

Toddlers will have lots of fun learning as they are introduced to letters of the alphabet and new words to build their vocabulary.

Shake, Rattle and Read Preschool Story Time

Thursdays @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

For children 3 years of age and older

December 3 - Company's Coming

December 10 - Here Comes Santa Claus!

December 17 - Christmas Parade

December 24 - no story time

December 30 - no story time

Continue your child's introduction to letters and words through stories, books, rhymes and much more!



Saturday Movie: Santa & Rudolph

Saturday, December 12

2:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre (more room!)

Families are invited to enjoy free movies & popcorn! This double-feature offers two beloved holiday classics by Rankin Bass: Santa Claus is Comin' to Town and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Both movies are rated G.

ESL Conversation Class

Tuesday, December 8

10:00 A.M.

Learn English in a relaxed conversation group. All languages and skill levels welcome!



Pajama Story Time

Tuesdays @ 7:00 P.M. (No story time on December 22 or 29)

Families are invited to wind down the day with a blankie, pillow, lullaby and bedtime story. Yes, kids are encouraged to wear their jammies and parents should wear their slippers!

Whatever on Wednesdays

Wednesdays @ 4:00 P.M. (no meeting on December 23 or 30)

Ages 13-18

Get together with other teens and discuss current books, media and online content, such as the best TV series for a weekend binge, the best viral videos, the best games from Tabletop and, of course, the best Young Adult books. Best of all? This can be found at your Library!

Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays, @ 4:00 P.M. (no meeting on December 24 or 31)

Ages 6-11

Weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 through 5. Each week, a book series or favorite book will be read and discussed, with a take-home activity to do relating to the books.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS at the Rowlett Library

Winter Reading Club

December 21 - 31

Ages 5 to 18

Hey kids, school is out and the weather is cold, so let's all curl up with some good books over the holidays. Read as much as you can to earn "snowflakes" to put up in the Children's Area. Come to a party just for you on Saturday, January 2 at 2:00 P.M. with special prizes for those who read the most over the holidays! We'll have refreshments and door prizes, too!

Noon New Year's Eve Family Party

Thursday, December 31

11:00 A.M.

Countdown to Noon at the Library! Enjoy a New Year's celebration for the whole family with a selfie photo booth, crafts, a family dance party and a balloon drop! No one will shush you at this Library celebration!

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Phil's Technology Corner

Mobile Printing – A New Service Offered At Your Rowlett Library!

Phil Barott, Technical Services Supervisor with the Rowlett Public Library, offers a useful technology tip each month.

One of the most popular services at the Library is the access we provide to public computers. Customers use those computers for a variety of purposes, but printing documents, reports, resumes and more is one of the most common. Until recently, our printer was only connected to the public computers, so you had to be signed in to print something out. We didn't even have a way to print from a laptop, let alone a smart phone! Now, we're happy to announce mobile printing. From any computer, you can send a print job to our system, then come pick it up at the library. Even better, you can print documents from a smart phone app. It works through our existing Envisionware printing system, so if you've ever printed anything out at the library you'll be familiar with at least part of the process.

To print from a computer, go to <http://www.printeron.net/rpl/rowlettroad>. You'll see a screen with three steps. The first is printer select, which is already done for you. Next, enter your email address. Then, upload your document or enter the URL of a web page you want to print. Once

you've done that, click the gray arrow at the bottom of the screen. The next page gives you the option to print portrait or landscape, or choose which pages of the document you want to print. Once you've chosen your options, click the green printer icon, which sends your print job to the library. At the library, go to the print release station. If you don't know where that is, a member of staff will be happy to show you. Once you're at the station, click the button to release a print job, then put in your email address. Make sure it's the same email address you used before, that's how the system knows which print job is yours. Click ok and it will bring up your job so you can print it out.

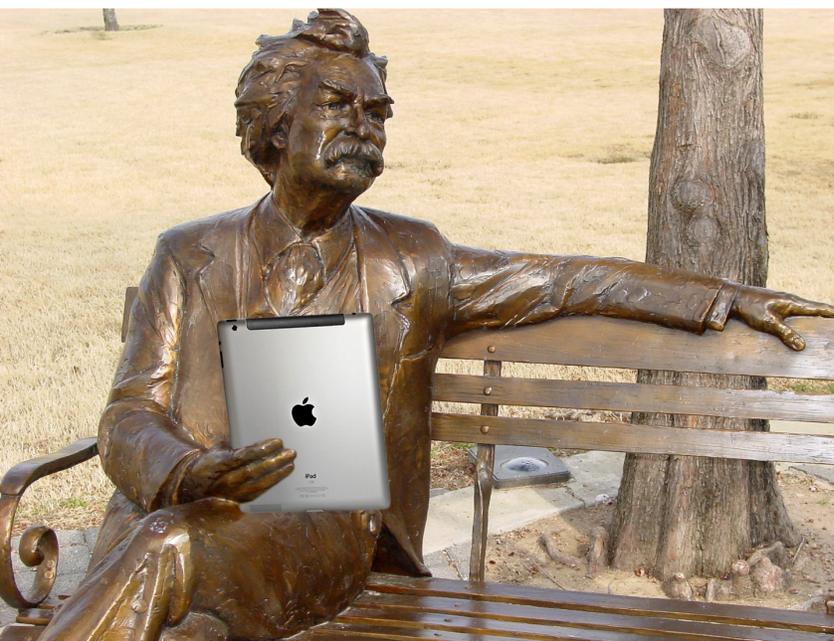
To use the app, first download the PrinterOn app from your device's app store. Once installed, you'll need to add the printer. Launch the app and click "No printer selected". Click "Search", then search for Rowlett. Find Rowlett Public Library, click "Black and White", and tap save. The app will give you the choice of printing documents, photos, and from the web. If you choose documents, you can choose to pull documents from Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox, Box, or your device. The photos option lets you print photos from

your device, and web option lets you print out a web page. So you have several options depending on how you store what you want to print out. Once you've chosen what you want to print, hit print, then put in your email address. To pick up your printing, go to the print release station in the library and follow the same directions as outlined before.

So far this service has worked really well for us, but with any technology there is always the possibility of problems. So, if you're printing a document from home, I'd suggest emailing yourself a copy or bringing another copy on a flash drive. That way if the document doesn't print out correctly you don't have to go all the way home to reprint it. Hopefully that won't happen, but better to be safe than sorry. Print jobs are also not saved in the system overnight, so you can only pick things up that were printed the same day.

As I said, so far the mobile printing has been working really well, so we hope you'll give it a try the next time you need to print something. If you have any question about this or any other service the library offers, please come and see us, or give us a call at 972-412-6161.

One-on-One Technology Assistance



The library offers **FREE** one-on-one sessions to help you get the most from your computers and personal devices such as cell phones or tablets.

One-on-One Tech Help

**Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times**

Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Technical Services Supervisor Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or via [email](#). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

Holiday Season Fire Safety

Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner Offers Tips to Protect Your Home Against Fires During the Holidays

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, some of these decorations may increase the chances of having a fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Follow a few simple safety tips and help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.



Chimney Fire Safety

Homeowners: Have the Chimney Swept and Inspected Annually by a Professional Chimney Sweep

When wood is burned in a fireplace, by-products of combustion condense inside

the chimney flue leaving a flammable deposit called creosote. A chimney fire occurs when that creosote ignites. Creosote is highly combustible so there doesn't have to be a large build-up to cause a fire, 1/8 of an inch is all it takes!

Chimney fires can burn up to 2000 degrees, which is much hotter than chimneys are built to handle. The rapid rise in temperature can crack liners and damage the outer masonry. The season's first chimney fire might not do any noticeable damage, while the second might burn your house to the ground. Rowlett Fire Rescue has already responded to several chimney fires this year!

For more information on fire prevention, please contact Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner at 972-463-3940 or visit Rowlett.com



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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Select a Fresh Tree

Make sure the needles are green and hard to pull back from the branches. They should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Bounce the tree trunk on the ground. If a lot of needles fall off, it has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and could be a possible fire hazard.

Keep the Tree Watered

Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees drastically reduce the chance of fire but a dry and neglected tree can be a serious fire hazard right in your living room.

Place the Tree Away from Heat

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heating vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Do not drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.

Inspect Your Lights!

Look for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Don't link more than three strands together and connect them to an extension cord before plugging into the outlet. Check the wires frequently to make sure they are not warm to the touch and don't leave the lights on unattended!

Discard Tree Promptly

Once the holidays are over, discard your tree promptly. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. Take it to a recycling center or put it out on your regular trash day for pickup by Waste Management Service.

Rowlett

City Calendar

December

		1 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	2	3	4 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	5 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
6	7	8 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	9 Gingerbread House-making 5:30 pm @ RCC Charter Review Commission Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	10 Senior Holiday Luncheon 11:30am @ RCC	11 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	12 Rudolph @ Santa 2pm @ RCC Main Street Fest & Holiday Parade 3-7 pm, Main Street Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
13	14	15 Senior Healthcare Seminar & Lunch 10am @ RCC	16 Lunch with Santa 11:30am @ RCC	17	18 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	19 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
20	21 Winter Reading Club begins @ Library	22 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	23	24 Christmas Eve City Facilities Closed	25 Christmas Day City Facilities Closed No Trash Collection	26
27	28	29	30	31 Senior's New Years Noon Toast 11am @ RCC Noon New Years Eve Family Party 11am @ Library		