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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

FEMA Update

State's Federal Appeal for FEMA Individual Assistance Denied

Small Business Administration offers assistance through low-interest federal disaster loans.

The state's appeal for FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) has been denied. The Federal Government has reaffirmed their original findings that the impact to individuals and households from the storms that occurred on December 26, 2015 was not of the severity and magnitude to warrant implementation of the IA program. This decision comes after a review of all of the information included in Governor Abbott's initial request for Individual Assistance, along with the updated information submitted in the subsequent appeal when the request was denied.

The City of Rowlett is very disappointed with the result of the Governor's appeal. We appreciate the efforts of both Governor Abbott and State Representative Cindy Burkett in coordinating the appeal. We also want to thank all of the property owners for participating in the data collection to help bolster the appeal.



The good news is that the Small Business Administration (SBA), who acted under its own authority to declare a disaster following the denial of the state's appeal for a major disaster declaration for individual assistance, is now offering low-interest federal disaster loans.

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ISSUE NO. 1604

APRIL, 2016

Saturday, May 7

CHARTER AMENDMENT AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

The charter is the governing document of the City, "an expression of our City's purpose".

In the State of Texas, there are five different classifications for cities: Type A, B and C General Law, Home Rule, and Special Law. The City of Rowlett is a Home Rule city, operating under a charter adopted pursuant to the Texas Constitution. The charter is the governing document of the City, "an expression of our city's purpose". The City Charter is unable to be amended without an election by the citizens. Rowlett's City Charter states "The City Council shall appoint a Charter Review Commission at least once every five years...but no more often than once every two years..."



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On the Ballot...

Mayor
Todd Gottel

Councilmember, Place 2
Tammy Dana-Bashian

Councilmember, Place 3
Bruce Hargrave
Chris Kilgore

Councilmember, Place 4
Arlan "Brownie" Sherrill
Debby Bobbitt

Councilmember, Place 6
Martha Brown
Doug Phillips

ELECTION DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 7
EARLY VOTING
APRIL 25 – MAY 3

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

The City of Rowlett elects its Councilmembers on the uniform election date in May, this year that will be Saturday, May 7.

Are you a registered voter? If not, **voter registrations must be received no later than April 7** in order to vote in this election.

Why vote?

96 percent of registered voters in Rowlett did NOT vote in the last local election. The City Council are the officials who set the property tax rate, which allows for the budget that provides for water and sewer services, street department staff and materials, public safety

staff and training. The Council also approves the trash collection and mowing contracts that ensure Rowlett is a beautiful community. The Council determines the allocations that provide for the services that happen without you having to think about it. These are the things that affect you daily.

CITY TO HOLD CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

PROPOSITION 1

Shall Section 2.05 ("Health Regulations") be amended to add a new subsection (3): The sale of liquor in all residential sections of the City is prohibited; however, the City Council may authorize the sale of liquor in residential sections appropriately zoned for mixed use. CRC recommendation: this new provision provides a backstop against nullification of liquor prohibitions in zoning ordinances as provided for by Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

PROPOSITION 3

Shall Subsections (1) and (2) of Section 3.11 ("Compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers") be amended to rename "compensation" to "stipend" and to change the compensation to \$500 per month for the mayor and \$300 per month for councilmembers. The CRC recommends this for the following reasons:

1. Elected Officials are not employees of the City and thus are not compensated for their services. The word "compensation" does not accurately reflect the intent of this section, the word "stipend" is more in line with the intended purpose of this section.
2. Elected Officials frequently have expenses outside of those allowed by the City for reimbursement, which can have a negative effect on an individual serving in that capacity. It is the intent of this section to lessen the impact of such expenses.
3. Current compensation plan was passed by voters in May 2003. Since 2003, the dollar has experienced a reduction of 29% in purchasing power due to inflation.
4. Total cost to city of proposal is \$27,600, which represents a mere fraction of the \$92.7 million FY2015-16 city budget.

PROPOSITION 4

Shall Subsections (5), (6) and (7) of Section 2.03 be amended to remove outdated language, correct clerical errors, and harmonize the charter language with State law. CRC recommendation: Changes in these sections harmonize it with state law. State law now clearly defines appeals from Municipal Courts. It also allows the City Judge to have input into the appointing of the Clerk of the Municipal Court by the City Manager.

PROPOSITION 5

Shall Subsection (2) of Section 3.09 be amended to clarify language regarding absences and forfeiture of office of councilmembers. CRC recommendation: Changes in this section clarify the provision for unexcused absences by a councilmember.

PROPOSITION 7

Shall Subsection (4) of Section 3.02 ("Elected Officers") be amended to add Subsection (5) "Residency" to clarify that residence within the city during a term of office is a qualification requirement of office. CRC recommendation: Elected officials should have their primary residence in the community they were elected to represent.

PROPOSITION 2

Shall Subsection (3) of Section 3.02 ("Term Limits") be amended to extend the term limits of the mayor and council members from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms, and to define the length of service constituting a full term. The CRC recommends increasing the term limit to three consecutive terms for both Mayor and Councilmember for the following reasons:

1. Retain institutional knowledge, direction, focus and follow through on key plans and projects.
2. Increased ability to build relationships and collaborate with other elected officials, jurisdictions, agencies and entities to better Rowlett and the region.
3. Current term limits were passed by voters in May 2003.

PROPOSITION 6

Shall Subsection (1) of Section 5.04 ("Municipal Judge") be amended to harmonize the charter language with State law. CRC recommendation: This change clearly states the supervisory relationship of the Chief Judge to the Clerk, and removes limiting language for contempt.

PROPOSITION 8

Shall Section 6.01 ("Audit and Examination of City Books and Accounts") be amended to repeal the 5-year limit on the use of outside auditors and require the City to seek competitive qualifications from auditors at least once every five years. CRC recommendation: This change allows for competitive qualifications without the automatic disqualification of auditors allowed no more than five consecutive annual audits (according to the current Charter).

In June of 2015, the City Council appointed the following Rowlett citizens to the Charter Review Commission (CRC): Whitney Laning, Deb Shinder, Pamela Liston, Martha Brown, Leisa Peebles, Thomas Finney, Ray Kneggs, and Alternate Members Bruce Mahnken and Dan Pence.

After many meetings of the Commission, sub-committees, and joint meetings with the City Council, the Commissioners presented their recommendations. The City Council opted to place before the voters of the City of Rowlett eight propositions to amend the Charter.

These propositions will appear in a Special Election and on the ballot Saturday, May 7, 2016, in conjunction with the City's General Election and Special Election for Councilmembers.

ELECTION DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 7
EARLY VOTING
APRIL 25 – MAY 3

Small Business Administration offers assistance through low-interest federal disaster loans.

SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster following the denial of the state's appeal for a major disaster declaration for individual assistance.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hill, Hunt, Johnson Kaufman, Navarro, Rains, Rockwall, Smith, Tarrant, Van Zandt and Wood counties.

Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster.

- Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate.
- Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.
- Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations and **1.813 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years**. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

[SBA Loan Fact Sheet and Interest Rates](#)

Apply Online

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

Computers are available for public use at the Rowlett Public Library, located at 5702 Rowlett Road, during regular business hours.

Have Forms Mailed to You

(800) 659-2955

or

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

SBA's Dallas/Rockwall County Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Church in the City Relief Center

6005 Dalrock

Rowlett, TX 75088

Open April 4 through April 15

Monday - Friday

9 am. - 6 p.m.

SBA representatives will be on hand to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application.



Crowder Gulf Completes Debris Removal

Monday, April 18

After April 18, residents will be responsible for their own debris disposal

Crowder Gulf, the City's tornado debris clean-up contractor, has completed the current pass to remove debris from the affected area. The City staging areas on the access road of PGBT between Main Street and Miller Road have also been cleared of construction and demolition debris.

Crowder Gulf will come into the neighborhoods for final spot pickup efforts on Monday, April 18, so current volunteer efforts in progress should by all means continue. Please be sure no vehicles are parked in front of the debris piles on Monday, April 18 as this will hinder the collection process. **After April 18, the City will declare the clean-up efforts complete and residents will be responsible for their own debris disposal.**

Debris to be removed includes hazardous waste, "white goods" (i.e. stoves, refrigerators, electronics, other appliances), storm debris and vegetative debris.

Please adhere to these debris separation and placement guidelines:

- Do not place debris in driveways or alleys.
- All debris MUST be placed off the street but in the right-of-way (area behind the curb). If the debris extends past the sidewalk into your yard (private property), it will not be removed.
- Place debris away from obstacles such as mail boxes, water meters and fire hydrants.

Please note, material which will NOT be picked up includes:

- Concrete slab demo debris;
- Contractor debris;
- Swimming pool demo debris.

Volunteers: please consolidate smaller piles into bigger piles as demonstrated in the [Debris Separation Guidelines](#). Those doing tear-downs, please make contiguous piles beginning at the curb line.

For ANY question regarding debris sorting or placement, please email [Wade Williams](mailto:Wade.Williams).

Rebuild Rowlett Go Fund Me PayPal

The Rowlett Chamber Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, recently started "Rebuild Rowlett" *Go Fund Me* and *PayPal* accounts for those who wish to make tax-deductible donations to help Rowlett residents as they rebuild their lives and homes.



**Make Your Donation at
www.GoFundMe.com/RebuildRowlett OR
via *PayPal* at www.RebuildRowlett.org**

Application Filing Deadlines
Property Damage - May 31, 2016
Economic Injury - December 29, 2016

Want to Volunteer to help those affected by the tornado?
Contact Erin Harwell at Erin_Harwell@hotmail.com

Spring is here! When you look around, all you see is growth. The grass is sprouting and turning green, the trees are beginning to leaf, Bluebonnets and other wildflowers are blooming all over the place... and the growth in our community is definitely keeping pace with Mother Nature!

The past year has brought new experiences to Rowlett, such as Sprouts and Dairy Queen, and our own Quik Trip has just recently opened. The construction progress we are now seeing on so many of our Economic Development projects, which will bring new living, dining and lifestyle options to our community, is not only exciting but is growth vital to keeping our tax rate manageable as well. Bottom line? The more quality development we continue to attract to Rowlett, which leads to

increased property taxes, the more funding we will have available for crucial infrastructure and amenity improvements and maintenance without raising taxes!

Progress is also underway at Kids Kingdom. Staff was deployed elsewhere during the past couple of months during our tornado recovery efforts, but recently held a build day when most of the equipment not installed during the December build week was put in place. The poured in place rubber surfacing will be installed in early April, we expect to open Kids Kingdom in late April or early May! Active fundraising is still underway to fund some of the features so please visit www.rowlett.com/KidsKingdom to purchase YOUR personalized fence picket for just \$50 today!

Kids Kingdom Playground



Kids Kingdom is now in the final stages of construction! The installation of four final structures took place in February, including the Giant Bouncy Spider, the Mini Apollo and two Biggo Swings. Next is a final site survey and ground surface preparation for the Pour in Place rubber safety surfacing, which goes in during the first week in April, weather permitting. At this time, a late April or early May opening is anticipated...if Mother Nature cooperates!





Village of Rowlett

Construction on the Village of Rowlett has officially begun!!! While this construction will take approximately 18-19 months to complete, we will start to see a lot of progress in the coming months. In the immediate future, the developer will perform site prep, which includes grading and earthwork. This will be

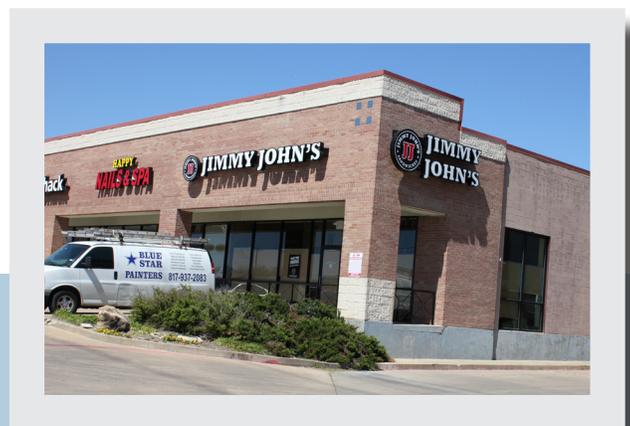
followed by water and sewer underground utility installation. This work will take us well into the summer, at which point we will begin to see work on Main Street and the individual buildings that will make up the Village of Rowlett. 18 months from now, downtown Rowlett will look completely different!

But wait...there's more!



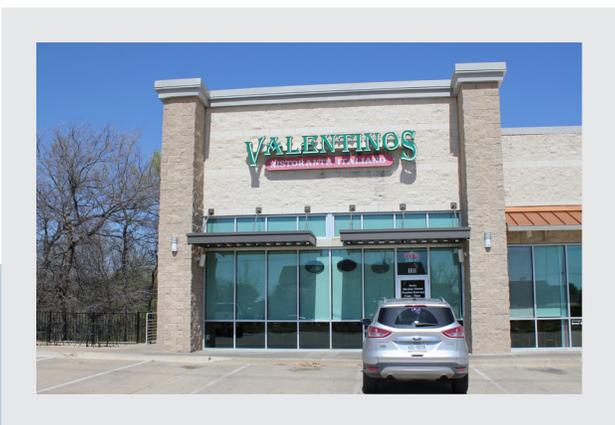
Bankhead Brewing Co.

Bankhead Brewing Co., located Downtown on Main Street, has gone vertical. They anticipate a May opening!

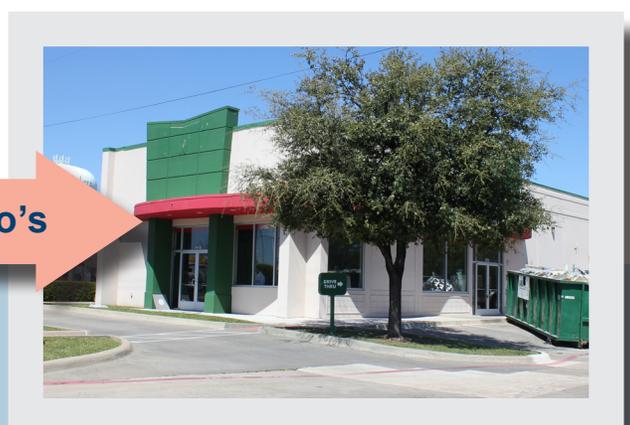


Jimmy John's

Located at 3701 Lakeview Parkway in the same center as Pizza Hut and just west of the tower, they are working on interior finish out and plan on opening this month.



Valentino's



Popular Italian restaurant on SH66 (Lakeview Parkway) is undergoing renovations in their new building, which

was the former Krispy Kreme location. They anticipate a September/October grand re-opening.



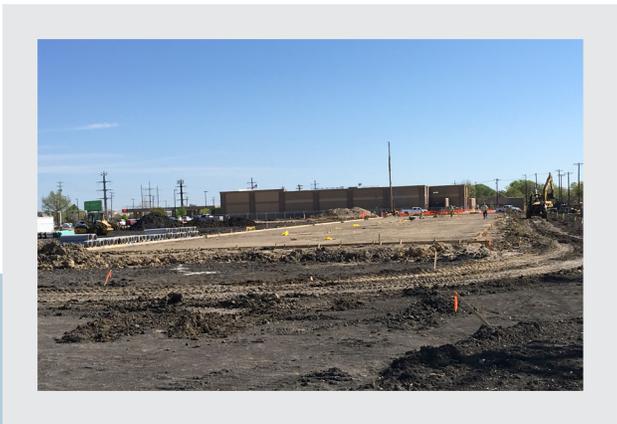
Bayside

Heavy equipment is onsite and grading and bush hogging has begun on the development's north side. A formal groundbreaking event is anticipated in late April to really kick off this legacy development! When finished, Bayside will feature a resort-like experience right on Lake Ray Hubbard, including a Crystal Lagoon, beach, expanded marina, spectacular fountain shows, hotels, retail, dining, housing options for every lifestyle, parks and boardwalks, and so much more. This is truly a game-changing development for our community!



Lake Pointe Hospital

Lake Pointe Medical Center's expansion continues! Expanding the women's services, along with general medical surgical services, they are also building a 45,000 square foot medical office building on the south side of the campus. The hospital, which is the City's largest employer, is a 112-bed acute care facility located at 6800 Scenic Drive and includes a medical staff of over 500 physicians.



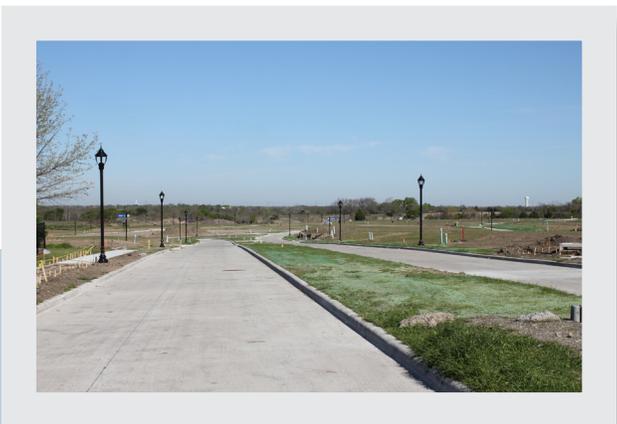
Dalrock Crossing

Retail development next to Walmart Neighborhood Market has broken ground, and when completed it will consist of one 28,000 and one 10,000 square foot buildings.



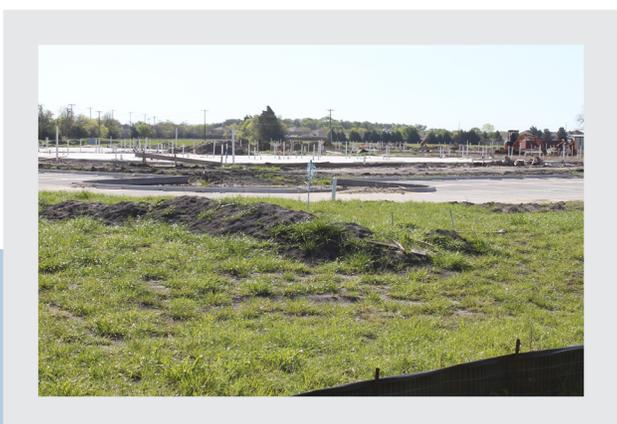
Beacon Harbor

Although impacted by a large amount of tornado debris, planning is ongoing for this very high-end, 80 unit mixed residential development located on Lake Ray Hubbard, which also features a boardwalk along the lake.



Homestead at Liberty Grove

Streets are in and final grading is underway on this 195 acre, \$200 million project. New home construction is not far behind.



Rowlett Assisted Living

Located on Chiesa Road, groundwork is done and vertical construction will begin very soon.



First Choice Emergency Room

Construction has begun on this full service, 24/7 emergency care center, part of the nation's oldest and largest freestanding emergency room system. Located between Sprouts and Walgreens on SH66 (Lakeview Parkway), they are anticipating an early summer, 2017, grand opening.



Goody Goody Liquor...

...has almost finished their interior and will open soon next to Aldi!



Terra Lago



Terra Lago, located at the northeast corner of Scenic and SH66 (Lakeview Parkway), has begun construction of the parking garage. Located on Lake Ray Hubbard next to Scenic Point Park, Terra Lago will be a 447-unit very high-end mixed residential

complex consisting of two four-and-five story buildings with an entrance into the park. 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.



Harmony Hills



Harmony Hills, the 654 unit upscale luxury apartment community on Merritt Road near the President George Bush Turnpike, continues to move forward on building construction.



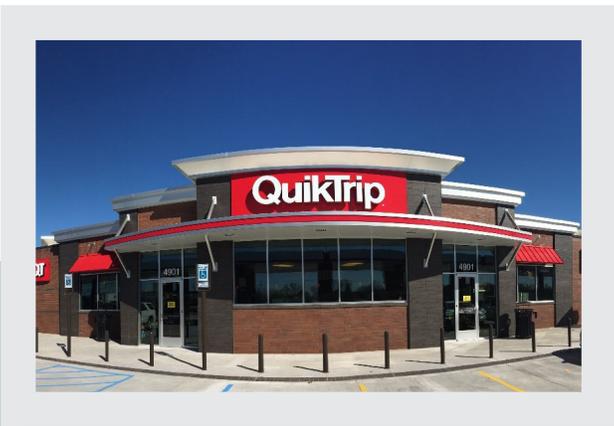
Deno's Kitchen & Spirits

From the creators of Cosa Nostra, this new restaurant offering located at 8100 Lakeview Parkway is now open!

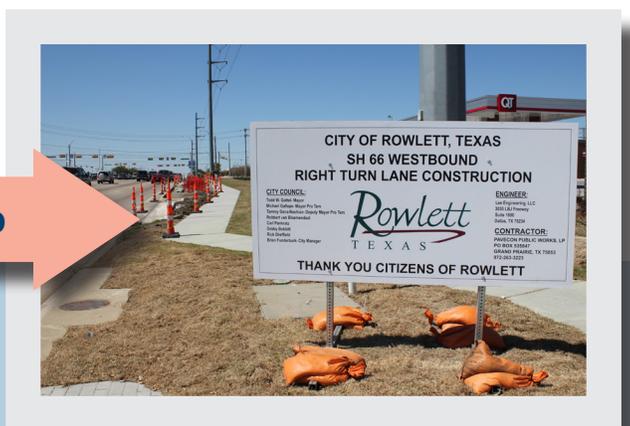


Backcountry Brewery

Successful craft brewery based out of Colorado, located at 3313 Enterprise Drive across the street from the Post Office, is also now open. During their grand opening weekend, \$1 of each pint sold was donated to the Rowlett Tornado Relief Fund, totaling over \$700!

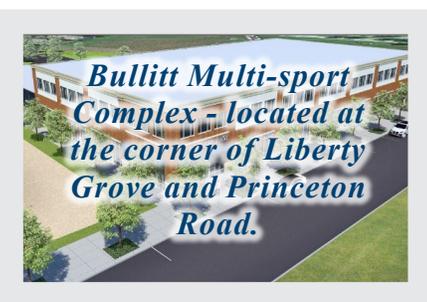


Quik Trip



Quik Trip is open and the right turn only lane from SH66 (Lakeview Parkway) onto the President George Bush access road is under construction!

Also Coming Soon...



Gat'sPit Paintball

Indoor paintball is coming to Rowlett! The facility, located at 4720 Industrial Street, is currently working on interior remodeling.



Construction will soon begin on these exciting additions to our Rowlett dining experience, located between Sprouts and Walgreens on SH66 (Lakeview Parkway).



Construction is also underway on Platinum Self Storage, located on Chiesa and SH66 (Lakeview Parkway).





*Mayor Todd Gottel
Icon of the Year Award*

Rowlett Chamber of Commerce Awards

2016 Theme:
Celebrating Our Remarkable Resilience

The 37th Annual Community Awards Banquet, hosted by the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, was held on March 17.



*City Manager Brian Funderburk
Big "R" Pacesetter Award
(the Chamber's highest honor)*



*Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Community Partner Award*



*Rowlett Churches
Spirit of the Community Award*



The Chamber paid tribute to City of Rowlett employees for their extraordinary response efforts and service to citizens.

Communications Officers Honored

National Public Safety Telecommunications Officer Week is April 10-16

Mayor Todd Gottel will issue a proclamation at the April 5, 2016 City Council Meeting declaring April 10-16 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Officer Week in the City of Rowlett.



Communications Director Beth English demonstrates the City's 911 communications equipment.

The City of Rowlett recognizes the pivotal role played by our telecommunicators, also known as **911 Dispatchers** or **Communications Officers**. These vital members of our public safety staff utilize telephones, radios, computers and their technical skills to provide support to Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services and other governmental field personnel.

As in most communities across the nation, the Rowlett Police Department Communications Officers are the voice of 9-1-1. They are the first public safety

officials a citizen speaks to in a moment of crisis. Communications Officers are highly trained specialists capable of quickly and efficiently getting a citizen the necessary police, fire, or medical assistance. They are on duty 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, providing rapid access to Police and Fire services, as well as a calm, reassuring voice to citizens in distress.

The Police and Fire Departments of the City of Rowlett, as well as its citizens, are very fortunate to be served by such professionals.

Assistant City Manager Jim Proce Selected as an **American Public Works Association Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year**

Assistant City Manager Jim Proce, who previously held the role of Public Works Director in Rowlett, and Palm Bay, Florida was selected as an American Public Works Association Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year. Jim is also certified as Public Works Leadership Fellow by the Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence.



Assistant City Manager Jim Proce

The American Public Works Association's Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year award seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project. It is the intent of this award to recognize the career service accomplishments of public works professionals and officials. The Top Ten are selected by a nationwide panel of judges appointed by the APWA President. Membership of the panel represents the public works field and other agencies with an active interest in the public works profession. The award winners are presented with a plaque during

National Public Works Week in May at a City Council meeting and will be recognized during the Public Works Expo (PWX – the national conference) in August. Winners are also featured in APWA publications.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors...



Rowlett resident Troy Cox presented the Chamber Foundation's Rebuild Rowlett Fund a check for \$5,650 at the March 1 City Council Meeting!

Troy creates beautiful home decor art pieces from tornado debris and sells them as a fundraiser to help members of our community. This effort grew from one Facebook post wherein he posed the question "If I create some art from fencing debris, would anyone be interested in purchasing it to benefit those who have lost everything?" The response was an overwhelming YES!

But Troy didn't just deliver a check. He also presented special pieces created to honor Rowlett's first responders. One for all four fire stations, one for the police department...and let us not forget... one for our very own Bat Mayor!





The Story of Nipsy!

Sweet little Nipsy was brought in to the shelter this winter as a stray. A true “people-kitty”, Nipsy loved when people spent time with her, brushing her long hair and just lavishing her with attention and affection. When no one came forward looking for her, the shelter staff set out to find her a great home. After being at the shelter for over a month, Nipsy finally got her lucky break when she was adopted on March 25 after she was viewed at our adoption partner’s site. Nipsy is a great cat that is going to make a great addition to her new family!

**Animal Shelter Maintains a 98%
Live Release Rate!**



GARAGE SALE SUCCESS!

Spring Cleaning often results in a garage sale - here are the City’s garage sale ordinances to assist citizens in conducting a successful event!



1 No permit is required for garage sales, although only three sales in a twelve month period are allowed.

2 Sales are limited to personal property only. No merchandise acquired solely for the purpose of resale may be included.

3 Sales may last up to three consecutive days.

4 Garage sale signs may be placed on personal property only.

5 Garage sale signs may not be placed on public property. Public property includes street or road right-of-ways, which is normally between the utility poles and street curbs or between fences and street curbs. Signs are also prohibited in medians and on trees and utility poles.

6 If garage sale signs are found in violation, they will be removed and discarded at no liability to the City of Rowlett.

7 Please remove all signs within 48 hours after the sale has ended.

For more information, please contact Rowlett Code Enforcement at 972-412-6283 or visit the [Garage Sale Information](http://www.rowlett.com) page of www.rowlett.com

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Rebuild Rowlett 5K

Over 2,200 people participated in the Rebuild Rowlett 5k on Saturday, March 26, which started and ended at Rowlett High School. Proceeds from the race were donated to the Rebuild Rowlett



fund and will benefit those affected by the December 26, 2015 EF4 tornado.



Operation Blue Shield

A team from the Rowlett Police Department, which included over 20 officers, their families and 20 children from our community, participated in the Operation Blue Shield 5k, held in downtown Dallas on Saturday, March 26. The team brought home over 10 medals, including second in his age bracket for Chief Brodnax! Operation Blue Shield is about citizens, local government officials, law enforcement and first-responders working together collaboratively to acknowledge and resolve the issues that keep communities in conflict.



Seniors Tour Audie Murphy Museum

Rowlett seniors enjoyed a great trip to the Audie Murphy Museum in Greenville on Tuesday, March 29, just one of the many senior activities and day trips offered by Rowlett Parks and Recreation.



Over 2,000 attendees had so much fun at this year's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pup-a-Palooza, held on Saturday and Sunday,



Easter Egg Hunt and Pup-a-Palooza

March 19 and 20! The Chick-fil-A cows, Batman, Iron Man and the Easter Bunny all made very special appearances.

City Volunteer Organization Hosts Two Clean-up Events in April

Keep Rowlett Beautiful

Reuse, Recycle and Clean-up!

Great American Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 9

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Meet @ Community Park (8700 St. Andrews)



Calling all families, scout troops, church groups, friends and neighbors! Come on out for a volunteer cleanup day and make a difference in YOUR community. We have a big job ahead of us, but we are up to the task! This cleanup will be devoted to both picking up

tornado debris and normal litter around town so all ages are welcome. EVERYBODY (individuals, families, schools, groups . . .) is encouraged to do their part to help clean up our beautiful city. Don't miss this popular semi-annual event!

FOOD • MUSIC • PRIZES: All volunteers are invited back to the pavilion after the cleanup for a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Enjoy hot dogs, drinks, chips and cookies. Listen to music and share your stories of the day. Take part in prize drawings of goods and services donated by local Rowlett merchants.

Visit www.keepprowlettbeautiful.org to sign up. Email info@keepprowlettbeautiful.org or call 972-463-3929 for more information.

Electronics Recycling Roundup, Document Shredding and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Saturday, April 16

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. @ Rowlett High School

Clean out the garage and safely get rid of the old, outdated electronics! Items will be reused, recycled, or safely disposed of. Acceptable items include printers, copiers, phones, faxes, computers, monitors, scanners, TVs, games, batteries...and much more. Almost anything that runs on electricity or batteries and the accessories that go with them will be recycled.

Document Shredding

First 3 boxes are free, limit of 4 additional boxes at \$3 each.

Hazardous Waste Acceptable Items:

Paint, pesticides and yard chemicals, pool chemicals, motor oil and other automotive fluids, cleaners, glues and other hobby products, fluorescent light tubes, batteries.

Non Acceptable Items:

Ammunition & explosives, bio-medical waste, radioactive materials

For information, contact Keep Rowlett Beautiful, 972 463-3929.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES @ THE ROWLETT COMMUNITY CENTRE



Senior Health Fair

Tuesday, April 12

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Rowlett Community Centre

Free annual event presented by the Senior Advisory Board features door prizes and free screenings plus over 40 vendors, all with a focus on senior health. These may include home health care, retirement communities, doctors, pharmacies, and specialty organizations with the latest information on different diseases.



Potluck Lunch

Thursday, April 14

11:30 A.M.

April features cuisine from south of the border, olé!



Senior Trip - Winstar Casino

Wednesday, April 20

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Enjoy the ride to southern Oklahoma with friends for a day of fun and gaming at this fabulous casino...lets go win some money!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Kid Fish Outdoor Extravaganza

Saturday, April 23
9:00 A.M. - Noon
Community Park
8500 St. Andrews

The pond at Community Park will be generously stocked with 500 pounds of catfish prior

to this FREE event sponsored by the [Texas Junior Anglers](#). The Kid Fish event is designed to promote the sport of fishing to our youth. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to winners in three age divisions. It is recommended that families bring their own fishing equipment however TJA will provide loaner rods, reels, bait and tackle to those who need them.



Cardboard Boat Regatta

Saturday, April 23
1:30 P.M.
Community Park
8500 St. Andrews

8-13 years (Youth)
14 and up (Adult)
The Rowlett Cardboard Boat Regatta is open to participants

ages 8 and up. Teams will construct boats from cardboard and race them across the Community Park pond. This is the perfect “team-building” opportunity for schools, sports teams, scout organizations, churches and local businesses! Prizes will be awarded in both age categories.

Prizes will also be awarded for the following contests:

Best Construction Technique Award

Best Decorated Boat

The Titanic Award – for the most spectacular sinking



National Prescription Take Back Day

Saturday, April 30
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

The Rowlett Police Department is participating in the National Take Back Day, a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Agency focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation’s medicine cabinets. A national take-back day provides a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...COMING UP IN MAY!



Memorial Day/Touch-a-Truck Celebration

Saturday, May 28
Rowlett Community Centre
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

The City of Rowlett comes together to honor the brave men and women who dedicated their lives to preserving our freedom. Citizens, friends and family meet at the Rowlett Community Centre to pay homage to our fallen soldiers.

This special day continues with Touch-A-Truck, a fun and educational opportunity for children of all ages to touch, climb on and explore over 25 trucks lined up throughout the Rowlett Community Centre parking lot. We will have a fire truck, ambulance, 18 wheeler, school bus and more!

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 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 March includes financial information through January, the fourth month of the City's fiscal year.

Revenues have outperformed forecasts by 1.7 percent. To date, the City has earned or received \$42.4 million of the approved operating budget of \$90.2 million.

Expenditures have exceeded forecasts by 3.2 percent. The City has expended \$25.5 million of the approved operating



**Comprehensive
Monthly
Financial Report**



budget of \$89.8 million. These outcomes have resulted in a net from operating surplus of \$16.9 million, which is \$89 thousand more than budgeted.

SPRING INTO SUMMER Water Savings Tips

Shorten your Showers

Just two minutes less in the shower can save 150 gallons per month. A shower uses about 20 gallons of water so always choose showers over baths, the average bath uses 30 to 50. Installing a modern low-flow showerhead can also help reduce consumption to just 10 gallons per shower, assuming you don't stay in there all day.

Tame the Toilet

Toilet flushing accounts for more water usage than any other activity in the home. Replace your old toilets, which use five to seven gallons of water per flush, with an efficient modern toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons. Leaky toilet tanks are also huge water wasters; a faulty flush mechanism in the tank allows water to slowly and silently leak into the bowl. To detect a toilet-tank leak, remove the tank cover and add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Wait 30 minutes, then check the water in the toilet bowl. If the colored water from the tank has reached its way into the toilet bowl, then the tank is leaking. Repair or replace the flush mechanism.

Rinse Right

Instead of rinsing produce under flowing water from a faucet, fill a bowl of water. Bonus: pour the leftover water on a plant outdoors instead of down the drain.

Say No Thanks

Many restaurants will automatically provide water at your table and refill it often. If you don't plan on drinking it, just decline the refill. They won't mind not having to top of your H2O and you won't leave full glasses of water on the table for them to pour down the drain.

At the Car Wash

Hand-washing a car uses about 150 gallons of water versus about 50 gallons at an automatic car wash. The best way in terms of water use is a self-service car wash, since they use the least amount of water because of their high-pressure hoses and easy-to-turn-off pistol grips. Or, just wait for nature's next "April shower".

Water, Don't Waste

Set up sprinklers to ensure you're not watering the sidewalk or driveway. Not only does that squander water, it can also carry fertilizer and pesticide pollution into

Summer is just around the corner! With just a little effort we all can conserve water, make a difference our in our water utility bills, and provide a benefit for our environment all at the same time

streets and sewer systems. Even better, install a drip irrigation system.

Have a Swimming Pool? Use a Cover!

Prevent the loss of thousands of gallons a month from evaporation, and (bonus!) you won't have to clean it as often.

Don't Let the Hose Run

When you water your plants (or wash your car by hand), don't let the hose run when you're not using it. Buy a squeeze (pistol grip) nozzle for your hose so you don't have to use the tap to start and stop the flow.

Get a Rain Barrel

Collect the water that streams off your roof when it rains by setting up a rain barrel underneath your gutter's downspout. Reuse that water in your garden instead of letting it push motor oil, pet waste and garbage from the streets into local water lakes and rivers.

Use Your Dishwasher

Hand washing your dishes can use up to 27 gallons of water, compared to just three gallons for new Energy Star-rated dishwashers.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! at the Rowlett Library

Visit the library for a variety of programs and activities to entertain and educate audiences of all ages!

Beverly Cleary's 100th Birthday Party

Saturday, April 9

2:00 P.M.

Beverly Cleary is turning 100! The beloved creator of Henry Huggins, Ribsy, Beatrice ("Beezus") Quimby, Ramona Quimby, and Ralph S. Mouse will be hitting the Century mark and the Library will be celebrating. Come hear stories, have cake, play games and send a letter to Ms. Cleary.

ESL Conversation Class

Tuesday, April 12

10:00 A.M.

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

Love on a Leash

Wednesday, April 13

3:30 P.M.

Each month, the Library presents Love on a Leash where doggy reading companions listen to a story read by an independent, young reader in a safe, non-judgemental atmosphere. Sign up at the Library Service Desk today.



Crafternoon - Library Tote Bags

Saturday, April 16

2:00 P.M.

Come make Library-inspired totes for carrying all of your checked-out items. Go retro and create one that looks like old school library check out slips!

The Life-Changing Magic of Spring Cleaning

Saturday, April 23

2:00 P.M.

Discussing the tenets of Marie Kondo's book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, and other decluttering books. Participants will take home a KonMari in Six Months instructional worksheet and several recipes for creating your own natural home products.

STORY TIME!

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

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 2-4

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.

Preschoolers

Continues a child's introduction to the alphabet and promotes early word recognition by encouraging little ones almost ready for school to read along and learn rhymes.

Pajama Story Time

Tuesdays @ 7:00 P.M.

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.

Ages 13-18

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

Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-11

Children can enjoy the community-building experience of meeting with friends to choose, read, and discuss books together. The meetings come to life with discussions, arts and crafts, and activities. By interacting with their favorite books, children can increase their comprehension and ability to discuss what they know. When children meet with their friends to complete arts and crafts, projects, and activities, they turn reading into a social activity, and that encourages them to keep reading.

Rowlett

City Calendar

April

					1 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	2
3	4	5 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	6	7	8 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	9 Great American Cleanup 9am-1pm @ Community Park Beverly Cleary's 100th Bday 2pm @ Library
10 National Public Safety Tele-communicators Week begins	11	12 Senior Health Fair 9am-Noon @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	13 Love on a Leash 3:30pm @ Library	14 Seniors Potluck Lunch 11:30am @ RCC	15 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	16 Recycling Event 9am-1pm @ Rowlett HS Crafternoon 2pm @ Library
17	18	19 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	20 Senior Winstar Trip 8am-5pm @ RCC	21	22 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	23 Kid Fish 9am-Noon @ Community Park Cardboard Boat Regatta 1:30pm @ Community Park Spring Cleaning 2pm @ Library
24	25	26 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	27	28	29	30 Prescription Take-back Day 10am-2pm @ RCC