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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

# Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1607

JULY, 2016

## All-new, all-abilities community playground Kids Kingdom Opens!

**Grand Opening Celebration 10:00 A.M. Saturday, July 9. Mark your calendar now and be a part of Rowlett history. We cannot wait to see you there!**

This state of the art, 22,000 square foot, community-inspired AND community-built playground at Pecan Grove Park is one for this and future generations to come! Designed using up-to-the-minute technology and safe, sustainable materials, Kids Kingdom is accessible for children of all abilities and age groups. It has truly been 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 has been physically constructed by those in our community willing to volunteer their enthusiasm, expertise and experience. **In fact, the main construction, which occurred over a nine day period last December, was facilitated by over 850 volunteers who worked for 3,339 hours!**



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## UPDATED PROPERTY APPRAISALS AND THE "OVER 65" TAX FREEZE AND TAX EXEMPTION

*Some over 65 Rowlett citizens experienced an increase with the recent 2016 property appraisals.*

In 2004, the Rowlett City Council adopted an ordinance setting the tax exemption for seniors and people with disabilities at \$67,000, the third highest in Dallas County. In addition, the City of Rowlett is one of only seven cities out of 31 in Dallas County that has adopted the Senior Property Tax Freeze. Due to this Over 65/Disabled Property Tax Exemption and the Senior Property Tax Freeze, property taxes paid to the City of Rowlett had dropped by \$3.4 million, equivalent to 11 cents on the property tax rate, by 2014. The City Council discussed this issue several times between 2013 and 2014, determining that since the tax exemption is higher than most other cities and Rowlett also offers the freeze, the exemption should be lowered. As a result,



on September 16, 2014, the City reduced the value of the Over 65/Disabled Property Tax Exemptions from \$67,000 to \$30,000 for seniors and \$50,000 for people with disabilities.

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A Golden Ticket Party will be held at 9:00am for those who received a Golden Ticket for volunteering during the build process!

Cont. from p.1

## Kids Kingdom Opens!

Featured play structures in the tot lot (ages 2-5) include:

- Mini Apollo (ADA compliant)
- Dish Swing (ADA compliant)
- Giant Dinosaur climbing structure
- Taco Playhouse



Featured play structures in the school-aged area (ages 5-12) include:

- Accessible castle structure, including transfer stations at slides and play features
- Dish Swing (ADA compliant)
- Monkey bars
- Giant bouncy spider
- Rock wall for climbing
- Miles the Dinosaur with sand for digging
- 100' Zip line



The Pour in place rubber surfacing, which covers the entire playground, provides a safe fall zone and easy access to all of the features. Also included on the playground is a covered pavilion with four picnic tables.

Be one of the first people to see all of these amazing features up close and personal. Mark your calendar now and be a part of Rowlett history. We cannot wait to see you there!



## OVER 65 TAX FREEZE AND TAX EXEMPTION Cont. from p.1

At the time, City staff believed that that reducing the amount of the exemption would have no impact on those individuals over 65 or people with disabilities who were already receiving the tax exemption – due to the tax “freeze”. It was understood that the change in the exemption amount would affect future residents when they turned 65 or became disabled, but not current recipients.



This understanding was not accurate. While it is true that changing the exemption could not change an individual’s maximum payment cap because of the tax freeze, *the reduction of the Over 65 tax exemption did affect individual homeowners who, at the time of implementation, were paying below their individual permanent tax cap.* Although the amount was minor in most cases, if the change had not been made, these taxpayers may have received the benefit of the lower tax payment for another year or two until market values increased. This is because *it is possible* for individuals who receive the Over 65 tax “freeze” *to pay less* than their cap in years that the market value of their homes decline, but they *can never pay more* than their cap, even if the market value of their homes double or triple in value. The freeze is based on the amount of taxes paid, not the taxable value.

### For example...

1. A home had a market value of \$150,000 in 2009, when the Over 65 Tax Exemption is first applied for, reducing the tax value to \$83,000. This also locked in the tax “freeze” at \$620 per year.
2. During the recession in 2011-2013, the market value dropped to \$130,000 before increasing to \$145,000 in 2014-2015.
3. During this time, the taxpayer would have paid the lower tax amounts of \$471 and \$583, below the \$620 cap.
4. In 2016, the market value remained at \$145,000; however, the City reduced the Over 65 Tax Exemption from \$67,000 to \$30,000.
5. This increased the taxpayer’s property tax by \$37, from \$583 to \$620, back to the original 2009 cap.
6. In 2017, the market value increased to \$160,000. Because of the tax “freeze”, the taxpayer’s annual property tax remains capped at \$620.

**The current Over 65 tax exemption provides an annual benefit of \$236, while fully disabled residents receive a benefit of \$394 each year.**



### ***DID YOU KNOW...***

The City of Rowlett currently has 3,298 properties receiving the Over 65 tax cap.

- 2,877 in Dallas County
- 421 in Rockwall County
- 342 homes in the tornado disaster zone

In fiscal year 2015, before the change in the Over 65 tax exemption took place, 710 homeowners were *below* their Over 65 permanent tax cap.

When the Over 65 tax exemption was lowered from \$67,000 to \$30,000, 649 homeowners were moved back to their Over 65 permanent tax cap.

The average increase in the tax bill was \$66.49.

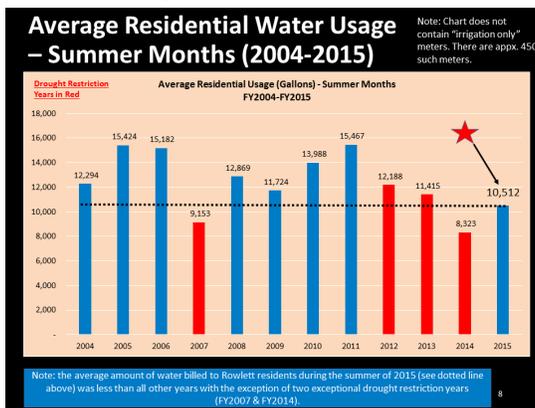
# Water Forum

On Tuesday, June 28, City Manager Brian Funderburk held a public forum to discuss the state of water in Rowlett and other City water-related topics.

## Water Concerns

From 2012 to 2015, North Texas experienced the most severe drought since the mid-1950s. While residential usage declined due to water restrictions, costs continued to increase. In fact, due to the North Texas Municipal Water District's (NTMWD) Stage 3 water restrictions, *fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2015 brought the lowest amount of residential water usage in any three year period since before 2004 (7,616 gallons per month – normal is about 8,824 gallons).* The City of Rowlett lost money every year during the drought and reserves are at the lowest level in over a decade. Since fiscal year 2008, Rowlett has only instituted one rate increase. In fiscal year 2013, \$8.65 per month was added to provide capital maintenance funding to address an aging and deteriorating Utility System. In all other years, rate increases from NTMWD and

the City of Garland (wastewater treatment plant) have been passed on to Rowlett customers.



During fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2015, Rowlett increased the bill (water and

sewer only) by an average of 5.5 percent each year, going from \$97.37 per month to \$129.61 for 10,000 gallons of water. Then, *last summer, Stage 3 restrictions were relaxed from allowing outside irrigation once every two weeks to now allowing four times every two weeks. That, paired with a hot, dry summer, led to a marked increase in customer's water bills.* For many, the amount of water used in 2015 was the highest amount in the previous three years. Combined with that average increase of 5.5 percent, many customers were surprised by their higher-than-summers-past bill. This was not just a Rowlett issue, as outside irrigation is the main reason water usage increases during the summer, one only had to watch the evening news or check social media to see that consumers all over north Texas were also experiencing drastically higher water bills.

## New Rate Structure Under Consideration...

All 13 NTMWD Member Cities now have "tiered" rate structures to encourage water conservation. While this lowers the base rate, it shifts the burden of rate paying to those who use more but adds substantial risk for revenue purposes on elements out of local control (i.e. weather and/or NTMWD mandated water restrictions).

After researching and analyzing the rate structures of NTMWD cities and usage patterns of Rowlett customers, there are solid reasons why Rowlett rates should be adjusted, particularly the base rates. Rowlett has included increases from NTMWD and Garland to the base rate over the past few years due to uncertainty in the volume of water that may be used under the Stage 3 Water Restrictions. This added about \$15.00 to the base rate that would have otherwise been added to the volume rate.

How best to make this adjustment becomes the question. As research has shown, NTMWD Member Cities have been encouraged to adopt inclining rate structures. All have done so however; how many tiers, whether to include some amount in the base rate, the width of each tier (i.e. amount of gallons) and the rates themselves vary greatly among the NTMWD Member Cities. It must be presumed that the

individual rate structures of each city have been created to meet their own particular usage patterns, while still complying with NTMWD recommendations regarding the inclining rate structures.

Rowlett's current rate structure is rather simple. While there is a small increase for usage over 25,000 gallons, it is essentially linear. The more you use, the more you proportionately pay. Adding multiple tiers provides the ability to spread out the cost of service between those who use very little water, a moderate amount of water, or a lot of water. Therefore, the rate models used by the NTMWD Member Cities have great appeal for customers who use very little water. There are several elements that influence how rate design should be applied, including affordability; equity; conservation; and any other strategic goals (i.e. economic development, ease of administration, capital maintenance, bond covenants, etc.). NTMWD has made it clear that their primary objective behind the inclining rate structure is conservation. Each city has to determine its own objectives.

Recognizing that there may be a strong desire to adopt a multiple tier rate structure and to include the first 1,000 gallons in the base rate,

staff has recommended a formal rate study be completed prior to implementation because...

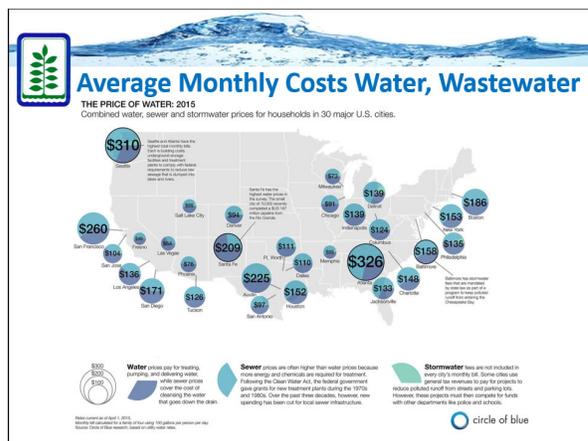
*The Utility Fund* is in a precarious position after losing revenue for the past three years, due to water restrictions. It is currently in a two-year plan to rebuild reserves.

*Four years of drought* have wreaked havoc with infrastructure and capital maintenance needs still remain high.

*Elasticity of demand* may be high due to the widespread negative publicity about water billing practices in DFW last summer. Elasticity of demand theory suggests that "price" affects usage. Not effectively considering this issue could result in a reduction in water revenue below levels necessary to operate and maintain the system.

*Rowlett doesn't have* as robust a commercial base as Plano, Garland or some of the other NTMWD member cities. As a result, Rowlett needs to better understand the impact these changes will have on businesses.

City staff is also developing a policy to allow adjustments for water leaks, this should be presented to the City Council by August for approval.



## What is "Take or Pay"?

*Rowlett is a "Customer" City of the North Texas Municipal Water District (as opposed to one of the 13 "Member" Cities). Like many such wholesalers, the District has a "take-or-pay" provision in the contract that requires the annual purchase of a minimum amount of water based on the highest annual usage. For Rowlett, this amount is 3.2 billion gallons, which was set after the drought of 2006. Over the past 13 years, Rowlett has paid \$9.9 million for water it did not sell under the "take-or-pay" agreement with NTMWD.*

# Community Appreciation Day

Event honoring the first responders and countless volunteers who have stepped up to assist those affected by the December 26, 2015 EF4 tornado held on the six-month anniversary - Sunday, June 26.

Here we are, six months after the December 26 tornado, one of the most impactful events in our community's history. It has changed us in ways we still do not fully understand. However, it has made us a much stronger community. A closer, more caring community. What we have shared together will never be forgotten, the bond we have forged with one another is loving and lasting.

Disasters are not only devastating, they are expensive for both the victims and the communities affected. It is difficult and painful to comprehend that **1,296** homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed right here in Rowlett by this tornado. However, the outpouring of support from our community churches and non-profit agencies, our sister cities, and international disaster relief organizations has been nothing short of amazing.

For example, this disaster will cost the City of Rowlett over \$3 million in repairs and debris removal. While FEMA and insurance will provide a portion of this cost, it is the assistance from other local government agencies that tells the real story. This assistance in the form of manpower and equipment made it possible for the City to **remove over 100,000 cubic yards of debris** from the disaster area **at no cost** to the City of Rowlett. If the City had to pay a contractor to remove this material and haul it off, the cost of this disaster to Rowlett taxpayers could have been \$1-\$2 million higher. Thank you to our mutual aid sister cities for this incredible show of support!

Our community also received support in those first few months from Dallas County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), along with international organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. At the Rowlett/Garland Multi-Agency Resource Center, disaster victims received **\$612,409** in donations,

**2/3 of which went to Rowlett residents.** When combined with the American Red Cross efforts, the total assistance to all area victims was closer to **\$1 million.**

Rowlett community churches and agencies have truly stepped up to the plate as well. One local church alone has provided **\$151,500** in donations to disaster victims, assisting with food, clothing, shelter, appliances, furniture, repairs, medical and pharmacy bills, and more. Several other churches in Rowlett have also exceeded **\$100,000** each in disaster assistance to meet the needs of our community members so deeply affected by the tornado. This does not include the thousands and thousands of volunteer hours spent helping victims with their recovery, from home demos to roof repairs, to rebuilding lives. In fact, our local churches continue to meet the needs of disaster victims **EVERY DAY.**

Rebuild Rowlett, a local recovery fund under the umbrella of the Rowlett Chamber Foundation (a non-profit 501c(3)), is also partnering with Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul and the North Texas Conference Recovery Center to provide recovery aid for our citizens. To date, **\$107,832** has been distributed to help over 150 Rowlett disaster victims. In addition, Rebuild Rowlett has collected **\$219,043** in donations for this purpose. Affected residents should apply for assistance through one of these three agencies. Once approved, up to \$1,000 for immediate assistance and \$15,000 for long-term recovery may be available.

Our community still has a long road to recovery ahead of us. But with the incredible generosity of organizations such as these continuing to provide the support and assistance so many of those affected by the tornado still need, we will come through this together, Rowlett Strong!

View the event handout [HERE](#)

Watch the event program [HERE](#)

Do You Need Assistance?  
Would You Like to Donate?  
Visit [www.RebuildRowlett.org](http://www.RebuildRowlett.org)



## SafeWise Top 50 Safest Cities in Texas **Rowlett is #28!**

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. Rowlett moved up in the ranking, from #32 in 2015 to #28 this year due to a decline in both violent and property crimes! SafeWise has said "a growing population can be difficult to manage, but Rowlett is doing it swiftly and with grace." This designation is based on data from 2014, the most recent released by law enforcement agencies.

## How and When to Water Your Lawn **Water Wise Tip**

In the summer, outdoor water usage can account for 50 to 80 percent of a home's water use. Knowing when to water and how much to use are important factors in water conservation and maintaining lower water bills. Watering should always be done either in the early morning or late evening hours. This keeps water from evaporating between the sprinkler and grass, as well as off the grass itself. Most Texas lawns only require **one inch of water once a week** to maintain a deep, healthy root system. Lawns with a shallow root system are not drought tolerant and will not survive hot Texas summers. For more information on when and how to water in your specific area, visit [www.WaterMyYard.org](http://www.WaterMyYard.org). Remember every drop counts!



### **Did You Know? Water WOW!**

**1 gallon of water weighs approximately 8.5 pounds.**

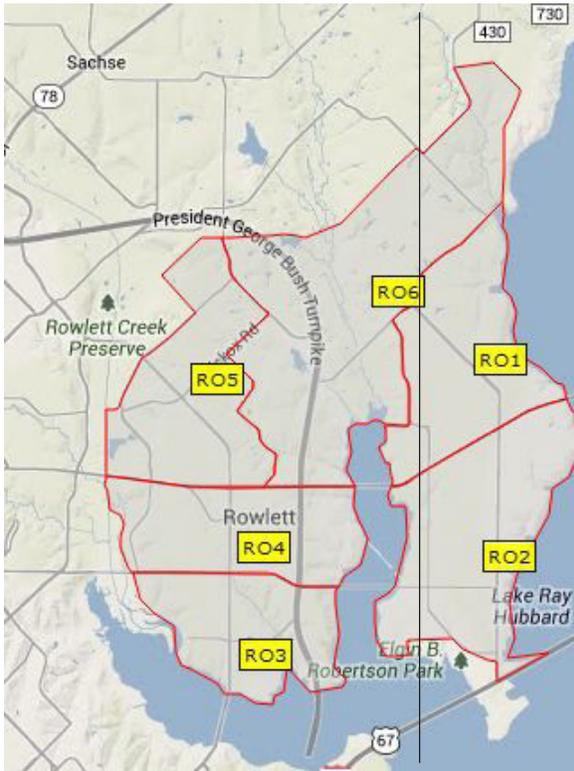
**The human body is nearly 60% water. The brain is 70%, blood is 82% and the lungs are 90% water.**

**2 gallons of water are used on average when people brush their teeth.**

**The manufacture of a new car, including the tires, takes about 39,090 gallons of water. Four tires alone take 2,072 gallons to make.**

**Americans use about 100 gallons of water at home each day, millions across the planet live on 5 gallons per day.**

## 2016 MOSQUITO TESTING AND ABATEMENT PLAN



### THE CITY OF ROWLETT CONTRACTS WITH DALLAS COUNTY FOR MOSQUITO TESTING, ABATEMENT AND SPRAYING.

This contract covers ALL of Rowlett, including the portion that is located in Rockwall County.

In 2014, Dallas County increased the number of mosquito traps set in “zones” around Rowlett from five to six for a more even activity surveillance. Dallas County also changed the ground spraying strategy in an effort to more effectively combat the spread of West Nile Virus.

After studying the 2012 human cases, the County found it very difficult to determine just where the victims came in contact with the infected mosquitoes. Therefore, instead of waiting for a **human** to test positive for the virus, they now perform ground spraying of the entire zone when a **mosquito** testing positive is located.

- In Rowlett, mosquito testing will occur on Wednesdays.
- The City will be notified of results by 10:00 A.M. on Friday.
- If positive mosquitoes were present, ground spraying of the zone will occur at dusk **the same evening** (weather permitting).

The City will notify residents of the affected area through [Connect Rowlett](#) messages, social media and information on the City’s website, [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com).

## WHAT IS DALLAS COUNTY DOING?

Dallas County Health officials are working with the City of Rowlett to minimize the risk of residents of contracting mosquito borne diseases. Dallas County uses an

Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program to abate mosquito populations. IMM uses various techniques that include the following tools:

**Surveillance** – The collection of mosquitoes to determine the location, species, quantity and virus potential.

**Source Reduction** – Remove water sources that support mosquito breeding habitats.

**Larvicide** – The use of EPA approved products to kill mosquito larvae in standing water or stocking water with mosquitofish.

**Adulticide** – The spraying of EPA approved products from trucks and planes to reduce mosquito populations. The pesticides that can be used for mosquito control have been judged by the EPA not to pose an unreasonable risk to human health.



### What Can I Do? Mosquito Proof!

Follow the **Four D's**

Remember: the Best Offense  
is a Good **D-fense!**

#### Dress

Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites when outside.

#### DEET

Use insect repellent products with “DEET” or other EPA approved repellents and follow product instructions.

#### Drain

Inspect property for standing water, regularly clean roof gutters, dump water from potted plants, change birdbath and pet water daily. Upend wheelbarrows, buckets, tires, cans and other outdoor containers.

#### Dusk & Dawn

Stay indoors during

dusk and dawn hours—when mosquitoes are most active.

Ensure **YOU** receive ground spraying notifications, sign up for [Connect Rowlett](#) today!

# Summer Concert Series

- Featuring Food Truck Fridays -

Friday nights in August from 7:00 – 9:00pm

Pecan Grove Park – 5300 Main Street

BURGER



TACO



August 5th

**WALKIN THE LINE**  
(JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE)

August 12th

**ESCAPE**  
(JOURNEY TRIBUTE)

August 19th

**TIME TRAIN**  
(VARIETY)

August 26th

**ME AND MY MONKEY**  
(THE BEATLES TRIBUTE)

# Free Admission

[WWW.ROWLETT.COM/SUMMERCONCERTSERIES](http://WWW.ROWLETT.COM/SUMMERCONCERTSERIES)



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



## Seniors Fort Worth Tour

Friday, July 8  
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre  
\$20

Visit Cowtown by bus with tour guide, Rosemary Rumbley. Trip will include the famous Fort Worth Stockyards, world-renowned museums, lunch at Risky's BBQ and other locations of note throughout Fort Worth.



## Seniors Lunch Social

Thursday, July 14  
11:30 A.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre

A special themed lunch is held each month for our community's senior citizens. Join friends and neighbors for fun and fellowship, July's menu features Pizza! Please pre-register at least two days in advance at 972-412-6170 and bring a side dish to share.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES NEWS

## The Story of Buddy

First spotted a few days after the December 26, 2015 tornado, Buddy was scared and skittish, he wouldn't let anyone near him. After nearly *four months* of being on the run from everyone, Buddy was finally caught. Once at the shelter, Buddy realized what he had been missing. He instantly climbed into a staff-member's lap and promptly took a nap. Sweet boy spent the next few days snoozing away, happy to know he was finally safe and didn't have to run or live off the streets anymore. What Buddy really needed, though was a forever family willing to work with some of his quirks, acquired while being out on his own for so long. Happily, that didn't take long. Buddy now has a loving family, a huge yard all to himself, he sleeps on the couch and lives for belly rubs from his humans. Truly a beautiful dog, inside and out, he touched a lot of people's hearts, from shelter staff and volunteers to the people that helped him out while he lived on the streets.



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



## CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP Summer fun is underway!



***Just be sure you are in compliance with City codes when parking your boat, trailer or RV. They must be on an improved surface, not on grass or dirt, which must be the entire width and length of the trailer/boat, including the access point.***

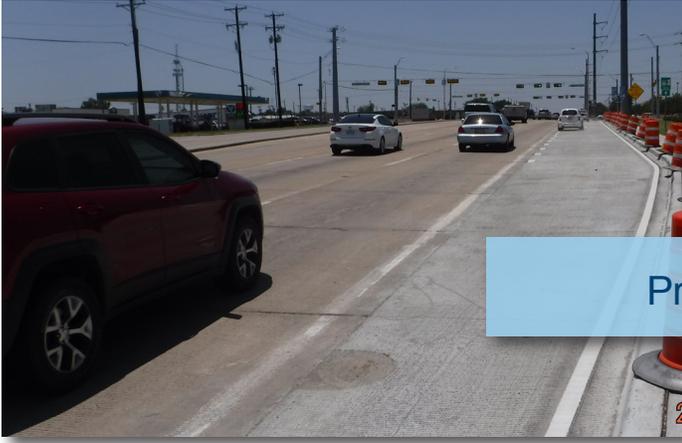
Rowlett Development Code Article VIII, Section 22-263(3)A,D

The following surfaces are required for storing hauling trailers for boats and other purposes, recreational vehicles, and travel trailers on parcels or tracts of land: **a.** All hauling trailers for boats or other purposes shall be parked on a required dustless surface of concrete or asphalt pad, brick or patio pavers, or gravel (cased in) with a depth of six inches, along with the access to the pad site being of the same material.

Exemption: Lots within the SF-40 Single-Family Residential District shall be exempt from the access requirement, provided the parking surface is located behind the front building line. **b.** All recreational vehicles and motorized vehicles shall be parked on a concrete surface. **c.** All vehicles shall be parked on a required surface at least three feet from the rear property line, provided that vehicles on corner lots shall not be stored on any side of the lot adjacent to a street. **d.** All pad sites must be of a surface as required in this section and equal to or greater in size than the size of the trailer or vehicle, plus any permanently attached towing mechanism.

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

# RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Progress!!

*The new right turn lane from SH66 (Lakeview Parkway) on to the PGBT access road is open and temporary traffic signals have been installed at Chiesa and Miller, no more four-way stop sign!*



Family Fun Night

*Rowlett Police and Fire Departments participated in the Chick-fil-A Family Fun Night on Tuesday, June 21*



Firefighter Honored with Community Service Award

*Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Martinez was honored this week with Liberty Mutual's Firemark Award for Community Service & Education, which recognizes local firefighters who give back to their communities beyond their daily responsibilities. Scott volunteered his own time tirelessly for weeks after the tornado, coordinating other volunteers into work crews and identifying and helping victims with home repairs, debris clearing and demos. His dedication to public service is unparalleled and our community is extremely fortunate to call him our own.*



Explorer Fire Games

*Held at the Dallas Fire training field, Rowlett Explorers competed and swept the competition. They brought home awards in every single category including CPR, Spinal Immobilization, Ladder Raise, Room Search, and Bunker Gear Relay!*



Public Works Project of the Year

*The Texas Public Works Association recognized the City of Rowlett for the Public Works Project of the Year for Disaster/Emergency Construction/Repair for the Rowlett EF-4 Emergency Response.*



# SUMMERTIME! at the Rowlett Library



## Summer Reading Club

On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! *Kids ages 5-12*

Get in the Game, Read! *Teens ages 13-18*

Exercise Your Mind, Read! *Adults*

Earn prizes just for reading! Kids and adults are invited to sign up for the 2016 Summer Reading Club!

## Summer Grade School Programs for ages 5-12

Tuesdays at 2:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

### July 5 – Mad Science!

You will be amazed when the Mad Scientist is able to defy gravity in this energetic and spectacular special event.

### July 12 – Brett Roberts Magic Show

Brett Robert's Motivational Magic Show will inspire you to be the best you that you can be!

### July 19 – Disaster Preparedness

Learn disaster preparedness and make emergency kits!

### July 26 – Zooniversity

Zooniversity brings the zoo to you!

## Summer Teen Programs for ages 13-18

Wednesdays at 2:00 P.M.

Rowlett Library

### July 6 – Parkour

Watch Parkour runners in action!

### July 13 – Agility Dogs

Come see and learn about this fun and energetic activity.

### July 20 – Emergency!

Learn how to plan for and react in an emergency.

### July 27 – Harry Potter Party

Dress up and celebrate everyone's favorite young magician!

## Bricks and Books Club for ages 5-12

Thursdays at 2:00 P.M.

Rowlett Library

Each week kids will focus on a topical subject or an architectural concept for their building.

July 8 - Super Lairs

July 14 - Spirals

July 21 - Out of this World!

July 28 - On the Go



# 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

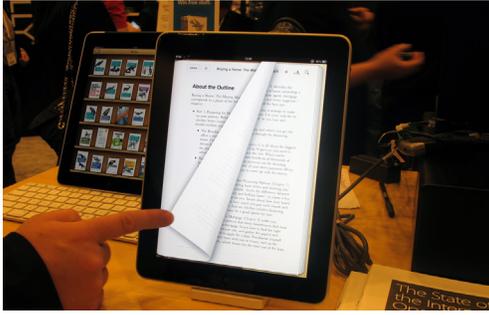
Continues a child's introduction to the alphabet and promotes early word recognition by encouraging little ones almost ready for school to read along and learn rhymes.

## 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!

# ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



## *Phil's Technology Corner*

### **Check Out eBooks from Your Library!**

**Phil Barott, Information Systems Administrator with the Rowlett Public Library, offers a useful technology tip each month.**

Did you know the library offers eBooks in addition to 'regular' books, CDs and DVDs? We host and distribute eBooks through a service called OverDrive. Customers can get access to library books through both the regular library catalog at <https://rowlett.biblionix.com> and a separate catalog just for eBooks, found at <https://netldc.lib.overdrive.com>. All you need is a library card in good standing and your account PIN! eBooks can be read on eReaders (such as Kindle, Kobo, or Nook), smart phones, tablets, and your home computer. And eBooks automatically delete themselves off your device, so you don't have to worry about returning them on time or dealing with late fines!

The OverDrive website offers various ways to find eBooks. Use the search bar to look for a particular author or title. There is also an advanced search, which gives some additional options. Additionally, the website is set up to let you browse genre categories, such as mystery, romance, science fiction, etc. You can look at books new to the collection, as well as the items that have just come back in. Look for the icon in the upper right corner of the book cover picture. If that icon is black, that means the book is currently available.

If it is grey, that means the book is unavailable, but you can put it on reserve. Once you've found what you want, you can check it out by clicking big blue Borrow button. To download the book, you have to select which type of file you want. If you have a Kindle, or are reading eBooks through the Kindle app on a phone or tablet, select Kindle. For everything else, select EPUB or PDF.

If you're using the Kindle format, the download button will take you to Amazon's website, where you'll log in to your Amazon account to download your library book. Don't worry, even though you're going through the Amazon page, you're not actually buying anything from Amazon at this time. Amazon just requires that all Kindle library eBook transactions go through its website.

If you're using a smart phone or tablet, you can read eBooks through the OverDrive app, available for free in your device's app store. Simply download the app and sign up for an account using your library card and PIN. Simply log in to the catalog one more time through the app to start downloading eBooks.

For other kinds of devices, you'll need

software called [Adobe Digital Editions](#) to download and move eBooks onto your device. OverDrive has a [help article](#) if you need information on how to use that software.

Library eBook checkouts work similarly to regular library books, in that for each copy we own, only one person can check a book out at a time. So, if you're looking for some of the more popular books, you may have to wait on a hold list for them just like with physical books, though hopefully not for too long. If you have requests for books that aren't available, just let us know. We can't buy everything, but we try to be responsive to what people are interested in.

I've focused on eBooks for this article, but eAudiobooks are also available through OverDrive. There's even a small, but growing collection of videos for streaming. Checking out an eBook through OverDrive for the first time can be confusing, no matter which device you're using. If you have any questions, please give us a call so we can walk you through it. You can also sign up for a one on one session, and I'll sit down with you and show you how to check out and download eBooks. To schedule an appointment, please give me a call at 972-412-6270 or email me at [pbarott@rowlett.com](mailto:pbarott@rowlett.com).

## 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 Information Systems Administrator Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or [pbarott@rowlett.com](mailto:pbarott@rowlett.com). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!**

# ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

## Are You Ready for the Summer?!

### JEDI ENGINEERING CAMP

July 11-15, 9:00 A.M. - Noon

Ages 5-12, \$179

Play Well TEKologies' Young Jedi will explore worlds far, far away and engineering principles right in front of them. Defeat the Empire by designing and refining LEGO X-Wings, R2-units and settlements on far-flung edges of the galaxy. Imagination and engineering combine to create motorized and architectural projects such as energy catapults, shield generators and defense turrets.

### SKYHAWKS BASKETBALL CAMP

July 18-22, 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Beginner Ages: 6-9

Intermediate Ages: 7-12

\$100

This fun, skill-intensive program is designed for the beginning to intermediate player. Staff focuses on the whole player, teaching your child the skills needed both on and off the court to be a better athlete. Each day will start with a "skill of the day" and progress into drills and games. After a week of passing, shooting, dribbling, and rebounding, your child will show you why this is one of our most popular programs.

### LETS GET GROWING!

July 18-22, 9:00 A.M. - Noon

Ages 3-6, \$165

Mad Science invites you to play in the garden! Dissect soils and seeds while exploring living plants and leaves. Make your own sun visor. See and make some ladybugs and creepy crawlers then explore the life of a caterpillar.

### WATERVIEW GOLF CLUB PLAY DAY & MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, July 23, 4:00-8:00 P.M.

Ages 5-12, FREE!

Come learn to putt, tee-off, hit and swing with golf experts, and when that's all over, we'll go inside to enjoy a movie with popcorn!

### SKYHAWKS VOLLEYBALL CAMP

July 25-29, 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Beginner Ages: 6-9

Intermediate Ages: 7-12

\$100

All aspects of volleyball are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. This program is designed for the beginning and intermediate player. Our staff will assist boys and girls in developing fundamental skills through games-speed drills and daily scrimmages aimed at developing the whole player.

### ACT MINI PREP COURSE

July 25-29, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Ages: 14-18, \$40

Improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice by increasing your ACT scores. The ACT Mini Prep course consists of instruction in math, grammar and writing. Students complete one practice ACT test.



## SOAR Summer Day Camp

Monday – Friday

June 6 – August 16

7:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Ages 11-14, \$15 per day or

\$70/week

Drop the kids off at the Rowlett Community Centre, where Parks and Recreation staff provides

entertaining, educational, themed-based fun to keep them up and moving all day long.

### Manic Monday

Start the week with games, activities, crafts and contests on this Monday-fun day. Improve teamwork and problem solving skills.

### Rookie Tuesday

A sports program with a focus on FUN! Kids will play basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, pickleball and other fun games like Frisbee and golf. Everyone has a great time while getting tons of exercise!

### Wacky Wednesday

Play some wacky games and wear some wacky clothes! Wednesdays will have a different theme each week with fun, wardrobe and activities tied into it.

### Tidal Wave Thursday

Water is the name of the game! Kids cool down from the hot Texas heat with a day full of wacky wild water fun! Participants will enjoy an EXTREME cool down, fun in the sun at Wet Zone Waterpark, and lots of wild water games!

### Fantastic Fun Friday

Prepare for adventure, challenges, laughter and teamwork. Game shows, nature exploration, arts and crafts, and gym games are all entertaining ingredients at this recreational program.

**Dive in!**

## **The Wet Zone, Rowlett's Family Water Park**

**Get wet and have a great time at the “cool” events all summer long!**

### ***Learn to Swim!***

Ensure children are safe when visiting friends and relatives. Swim lessons are offered all summer long, from June 11 through August 3, for ages 6 months right on up to adults! With group sessions, semi-private and private lessons offered, there is a class for everyone.

### ***Aquamotion***

**Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 10:00 A.M.**

This program uses natural resistance and buoyancy of water against your body to provide a wide variety of conditioning activity. No swimming is required and flotation devices will be used frequently. Aquamation will increase your energy, stamina and strength and it's a healthy way to cool off in the summer. Come join the fun, fitness and friendship of Aquamation!

### ***Angel Swim***

**Saturday, July 9  
8:30 – 10:30 A.M.**

This swim time is specifically set aside for those with special needs and their families. Play, swim and enjoy the Wet Zone without all the crowds!

### ***Flick 'n Float***

**Saturday, July 16 – Pixels  
8:30 P.M.**

Enjoy a movie from the comfort of lawn chairs or floats! Free with your daily admission or \$6 after 7:00 P.M. Special meal price of \$3 for a hot dog, chips, and a drink starts at 7:30!

### ***Junior Lifeguard Training***

**Session II: July 18 - 28  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.  
Ages 11-15  
\$65**

Don't sit at home all summer! Work with the Wet Zone lifeguards and learn what they do, as well as valuable lifesaving skills.

### ***Season Pass Day***

**Monday, July 18**

We appreciate our season pass holders - this is our chance to show you how much! Bring a friend with you to the Wet Zone and they can enjoy the day on us! Each pass holder can bring one guest free of charge.

**For more information visit  
[www.wetzonewaterpark.com](http://www.wetzonewaterpark.com)**

# Rowlett Police Department Keep it Rollin': Preventing Wheel and Tire Theft

Summertime always brings with it an anticipated increase in crime, especially crimes of opportunity, such as theft.

One common type of theft that has made its way to some unfortunate Rowlett citizens this summer is wheel and/or tire theft.

Most of the wheel and tire thefts that have been reported in Rowlett this summer have taken place during the early morning hours, usually between 1:00 and 4:00 A.M. There are a couple of precautions you can take to increase the odds of your property being returned to you in the unfortunate event your wheels or tires are stolen.



**Protect Yourself AND  
Your Vehicle!**

First, mark your wheels and/or tires with an identifiable mark that you could use to prove ownership. This could be etching something, such as a number or word, inside the interior of the wheel or tire. Second, video surveillance cameras are a very useful tool in helping police identify suspects. If you are able to install video surveillance cameras on your property, please ensure they are directed in areas where vehicles or other valuable items are kept around your home.



*If you have any questions, concerns, or information regarding wheel and tire theft, contact Community Services Officer Chad Caldwell at 972-412-6242 or email him at [ccaldwell@rowlett](mailto:ccaldwell@rowlett).*



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## Tips to Help Prevent Wheel and Tire Thefts

**1**  
If at all possible, park in the garage.

**2**  
If unable to park in the garage, park in a well-lit area around your home.

**3**  
Equip your vehicle with an alarm system.

**4**  
Use wheel locks and/or lug nut locks.

**5**  
Watch for and report suspicious activity and/or persons.

# Rowlett

## City Calendar

# July

					1 <b>One on One Tech Help</b> @ Library	2
3	4  <b>City Offices &amp; Facilities Closed</b> <b>Fireworks on Main</b> 6-10pm	5 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 7:30 pm, City Hall	6	7	8 <b>Seniors Fort Worth Trip</b> 8pm @ RCC  <b>One on One Tech Help</b> @ Library	9 <b>Angel Swim</b> 8:30am @ Wet Zone  <b>Kids Kingdom Grand Opening</b> 10am
10	11	12 <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 6:30pm, City Hall	13	14 <b>Seniors Potluck</b> 11:30am @ RCC	15 <b>One on One Tech Help</b> @ Library	16 <b>Flick 'n Float</b> 8:30pm @ Wet Zone
17	18 <b>Season Pass Day</b> @ Wet Zone	19 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 7:30 pm, City Hall	20	21	22 <b>One on One Tech Help</b> @ Library	23
24	25	26 <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 6:30pm, City Hall	27	28	29 <b>One on One Tech Help</b> @ Library	30
31						