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Rowlett community comes together to Back the Blue!

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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1608

AUGUST, 2016

TAX RATE REDUCTION!!

Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

City Manager Brian Funderburk Presented the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Including a One Cent REDUCTION in the Tax Rate – to the City Council on Tuesday, August 2.

What an exciting time to live in Rowlett! We are now reaping the benefit of an improved housing market and new growth. New businesses have come to Rowlett bringing jobs and tax dollars as well. Truly, there is something for everyone. *We are now talking about what we CAN do!*

Realize Rowlett 2020 envisions “Rowlett’s days as a bedroom community are coming to an end.” Driven by the construction of the President George Bush Turnpike, the addition of light-rail in downtown, the proximity to the DFW market, and the ability to capitalize on our unique location on the water, we are experiencing a remarkable community transformation. The combination of improved tax values and new growth will provide opportunities to address aging infrastructure, revitalize neighborhoods, and enhance our community amenities and assets. There has never been a more exciting time to live, work and play in Rowlett!



continued on page 2

Get Involved with YOUR Community! NOW SEEKING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEMBERS

Deadline for Applications - August 26

Share your expertise and insight as members of a City Board or Commission. While the time commitment is minimal, the opportunity to make a difference in YOUR community is significant!

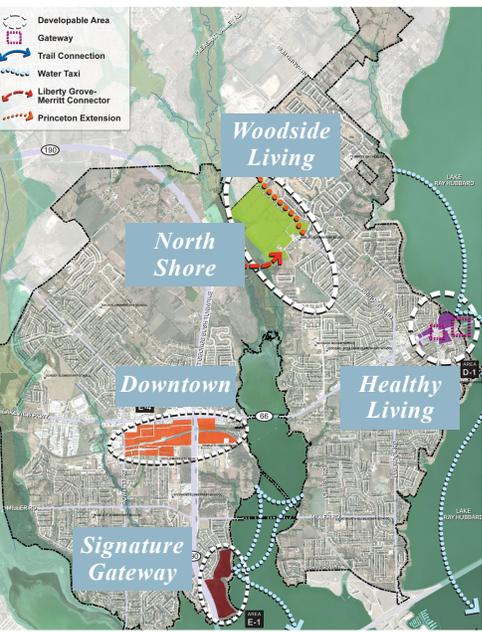
The City’s Boards and Commissions include: Animal Shelter Advisory Board; Arts and Humanities Commission; Board of Adjustment; Economic Development Advisory Board; Golf Advisory Board; Library Advisory Board; Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; and Planning and Zoning Commission. Please feel free to attend a meeting of any Board or Commission that interests you and learn more about it!

Detailed descriptions of each, meeting schedules and agendas, and an application to serve are all available [here!](#) Applications are also available in the City Secretary’s Office at City Hall, 4000 Main Street.

Deadline for applications is Friday, August 26. For more information, please contact the City Secretary’s Office at 972-412-6115 or citysec@rowlett.com.

The total FY2017 Proposed Budget is \$92,661,274.

This is a DECREASE of \$77 thousand, or 0.1% compared to the FY2016 Adopted Budget



Bayside

Realize Rowlett 2020 is a community vision that was adopted in September, 2011.

This plan became our comprehensive plan for Rowlett and was designed to create a vision to make Rowlett:

...a community with diverse lifestyle choices for living, working, playing and learning.

Critical elements of the vision included diversifying our housing stock, creating new employment opportunities, and developing an after-hours lifestyle for evening and weekend entertainment and recreation. Little did we think in 2011 it could happen so quickly! Today, we have major, high-quality projects going vertical in every quadrant of the City. These projects, like The Homestead at Liberty Grove (Woodside Living), Harmony (North Shore), The Village of Rowlett (Downtown), and Terra Lago (Healthy Living) would be amazing by themselves. Add in Bayside and **Rowlett has \$1.5 billion in private investment** – absolutely staggering.

While there are significant single-family projects underway in Rowlett, many of these new projects will add quality, high end multi-family options providing an alternative “living” atmosphere. New businesses in Bayside will provide the types of employment opportunities in retail and entertainment not yet experienced in Rowlett. In addition, Bayside will add 1.75 million square feet of commercial space that will include retail and shopping, restaurants and other entertainment venues. Both The Village of Rowlett and Bayside will truly create the after-hours feel that citizens have asked for, but hasn’t been previously available in Rowlett.



Harmony



Terra Lago



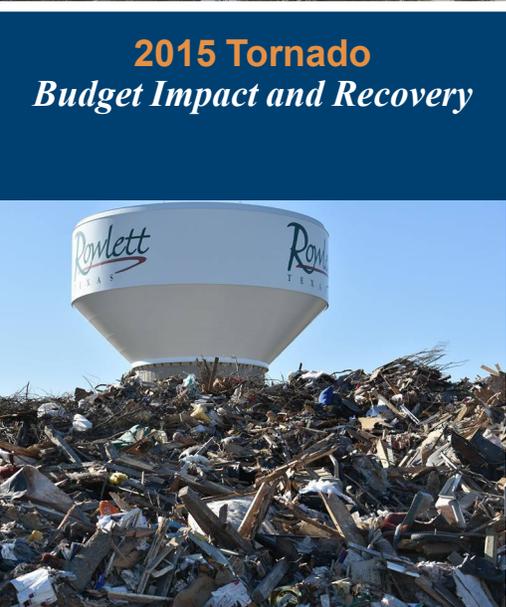
Homestead at Liberty Grove



Fiscal Year 2017 - Realizing Rowlett 2020



2015 Tornado Budget Impact and Recovery



On December 26, 2015, our community changed forever. Around 7:00 PM, the City of Rowlett was hit by an EF4 tornado that was about 3 ½ miles long and ½ mile wide. This tornado impacted 1,296 homes and businesses and injured 23 individuals, one fatally. The real question became, will Rowlett recover? The answer is a resounding YES!

In April of this year, the federal government approved disaster support through public assistance. This means that local cities (i.e. Rowlett, Garland, Sunnyvale, etc.) qualify for reimbursement for certain costs related to tornado repairs and debris removal. As of June 30, 2016, this estimate is over three million dollars, much of which will be reimbursed through FEMA, the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and insurance. Rowlett initially set aside \$1.2 million to cover its portion of the cost; however, in early July, the City was able to free up \$700,000 of those funds for previously scheduled projects. The good news is that Rowlett’s final out-of-pocket cost is expected to be \$500,000 or less. The development already occurring today will also help provide significant resources for the future, allowing the City to address a plethora of neighborhood needs, from streets and alleys to drainage and parks.

Our community still has a long road to recovery ahead of us. With the incredible generosity of our community churches and non-profit agencies, and their continued commitment to provide the support and assistance so many of those affected by the tornado still need, we will come through this together. Rowlett Strong!

Growth, Growth and More Growth!

The period between FY2010 through FY2014 created an atmosphere where the City cut costs and deferred maintenance to address the revenue decline during the Great Recession. Since FY2015, the City has experienced a significant turnaround as the market in the DFW area restored property tax values back to pre-FY2010 levels. Economic growth, however, will most notably impact Rowlett's finances in FY2018 and beyond.

In May, 2015, the City of Rowlett and its development partner, Donahue Development, 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 262 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 dollars in new taxable value resulting in nearly \$150 million in revenue from property, sales and hotel occupancy taxes over the next 20 years.***

Bayside alone would be a fantastic story; however, it doesn't stop here. Today, major projects in every quadrant of the City are under construction including, The Homestead at Liberty Grove, Terra Lago, Harmony and The Village of Rowlett, not to mention smaller developments and projects along Highway 66 (Lakeview Parkway) and elsewhere. While some projects will take time to develop in phases, many will be built in one phase. Over the next five years, they will add an additional \$800-\$950 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.

It provides a sufficient income stream to meet existing needs and new community amenities while building a more sustainable future; and

It diversifies the housing stock, which will help maintain property values in future recessions and types of markets; and

It provides the ability for additional dollars for infrastructure and to issue more bonds in the future without increasing the tax rate; and

It provides a sufficient income stream to seriously consider reducing the property tax rate in the future; and

It provides the opportunity to reduce unsold water under the North Texas Municipal Water District's take-or-pay agreement and perhaps even reduce future rates and fees.

This level of growth also creates special challenges.

FIRST

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MOVE THIS MANY PROJECTS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PLANNERS, ENGINEERS, AND INSPECTORS.

SECOND

IT WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & RECREATION, AND THE LIBRARY.

FINALLY

IT WILL REQUIRE THE CITY AND THE COMMUNITY TO STRATEGICALLY PRIORITIZE BETWEEN ADDRESSING UNMET CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS (I.E. STREETS AND ALLEYS) VERSUS PROVIDING ENHANCED OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES (I.E. MEDIAN IMPROVEMENTS, PARKS AND FACILITIES) VERSUS REDUCING THE TAX RATE.



So, What's Notable in the FY2017 Proposed Budget?



MORE Good News... REDUCE the Property Tax Rate

Due to Rowlett's growth, the FY2017 Proposed Budget includes a recommendation to lower the property tax rate by one cent, from \$0.787173 to \$0.777173 per \$100 in assessed valuation.

FY2017 is a good place in our history to make the first cut in the tax rate! We expect to receive another 9.7% increase in assessed tax values, and many of the projects that were about to start last year have now started and are going vertical.

Why is this the right year to reduce the tax rate?

Even with a 9.6% increase in assessed valuation, last year was not the right year to reduce the tax rate. We needed to reach the point where we can fund approximately \$10.5 million annually for streets and alleys and we needed time to have some of the new development hit the tax rolls.

Future reductions are possible, but will need to be strategically weighed between capital infrastructure needs and enhanced or additional public amenities. Rowlett is fortunate that it is in the position to address the property tax rate at this time!



Address the Health of the Utility Fund

Reduce transfers and capital maintenance for two years to rebuild cash balances. This would add \$2.8 million to the operating fund cash balances by the end of FY2017.

as well that further eroded reserves.

During the four year period FY2012-FY2015, north Texas was in the grip of a significant drought, which wreaked havoc on the infrastructure and impaired the health of Rowlett's Utility Fund. While higher than normal precipitation in the spring of 2015 brought area lakes above normal, the Utility Fund experienced losses in those years

The City no longer has adequate reserves to sustain continued revenue loss from lower sales. The length of the drought, the severity of continued water restrictions, and above normal precipitation over the past year have led to financial losses in the utility system for the past several years. It is imperative that we improve our financial position and make Rowlett's utility system healthy and sustainable.

Strategic Allocation of Property Tax Dollars

Improved tax values and new growth provide opportunities to address aging infrastructure, revitalize neighborhoods, and enhance our community amenities and assets. Prioritizing these needs is a strategic decision that must be carefully weighed.

- ✓ **Property Tax Relief**
Balance reducing the property tax rate with other strategic needs as the City becomes more sustainable.
- ✓ **Strategic Debt Management**
Maintain the debt portion of the tax rate to take advantage of future bond capacity.
- ✓ **Capital Assets and Infrastructure**
Use combination of future bond capacity and increased tax values to address aging infrastructure and obsolescence.

- ✓ **Employee Compensation**
Provide competitive pay to reduce turnover and provide quality customer service.
- ✓ **Staffing Strategy**
Strategically add positions to address existing gaps and prepare Rowlett for future growth.
- ✓ **Public Amenities**
Add and enhance public amenities to improve the quality of life for Rowlett residents.

So, in Conclusion...



Brian Funderburk
City Manager

“The combination of improved tax values, new growth, and additional tax dollars will continue to provide opportunities to address aging infrastructure, revitalize neighborhoods, and enhance our community amenities and assets. In just a few years, Rowlett will look and feel noticeably different from the vision anticipated so long ago by our citizens. However it looks, it will be uniquely Rowlett. Truly, this is an exciting time to live in Rowlett!”



Opportunities for Public Engagement

Public Hearings
August 16 and September 6

City Council Budget Workshop
August 23

FY2017 Budget and Tax Rate Adoption
September 20

Visit www.Rowlett.com for more information or to view the Fiscal Year 2017 Proposed Budget.

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



Back the Blue



One year ago, RPD Corporal Patrick Ray (aka P. Ray) performed lifesaving measures on sweet little Bexley after she swallowed a coin, which became lodged in her throat. Her grateful Mom posted this "Thank You"...

because of this man, i got to see my princess turn two! because of him, i didn't miss her 1st year of preschool with her twin brother! because of this officer, we had pink toys at Christmas, not just blue ones. because of this hero, i get to kiss and tell her "goodnight" every night! a year ago today, we met under the most unideal circumstances for anyone.....especially a momma holding her lifeless baby. a 9-1-1 call led to this amazing man in blue, officer p. ray, saving this my precious girl in pink, bexley! (and ultimately the life of the momma writing this!) there has not been one day that has passed that i have not thought about and/or replayed that horrible moment in my head! many of those days, i couldn't even look at bexley or into her eyes without crying like a baby, just thinking about if the story would have ended differently!! i can't express how blessed and thankful i am that God didn't take her to be with Him on that day! i honestly thank God for His plan and have never and WILL never question why this happened!! thinking of that moment, still and will ALWAYS take my breathe away but this experience has taken me down such a rich and amazing road that i wouldn't change, even if i could have a do-over!! that day has strengthened my relationship with God and made me really appreciate this fragile little thing called "life" so much more that i ever had! having officer p. ray and his amazing family as a big part of our lives has just been the cherry on the top....God and my daddy picked the perfect family extension ever!!

since that day, officer p. ray and thousands of other officers have done the same for so many others in one way or another! by supporting these men and women, you support safety for America and a safer future for our children! if you don't respect and support them.... plain and simple....i really do pray that it doesn't take a story like our's for you to gain respect for the men and women in blue!! food for thought....EVERY line of work has it's bad apples but there are very FEW lines of work that have so many heroes!



Members of the Rowlett Police Department Honor Guard have participated in the recent services for the fallen Dallas, DART, and Baton Rouge officers.



Our community came out in force to attend a Candlelight Vigil at Rowlett City Hall, hosted by PrayRowlett Pastor's Fellowship, to honor the Dallas Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty on July 7.



Citizen Jeffery Gray walks the bridge carrying an American flag every day. Recently, Mr. Gray presented the Rowlett Police Department a Thin Blue Line flag that he carried for five days in honor of those recently killed in the line of duty.



Local organization Looter Booters organized a Prayer Circle at RPD on Saturday, July 23.



Walmart Neighborhood Market backs the Blue!



RYAA Silver Rhythmettes Drill Team paid RPD a cheery visit and dropped off a big 'ol stack of water!



The men and women of the Rowlett Police Department would like to express our sincere gratitude to our community for the outpouring of support we have seen in the past few weeks. We've been stopped and thanked on the streets and in the businesses. We've received emails, notes, cards, food (lots of food!) and social media messages reminding us of the fantastic support we get from the people we serve.

Thanks for "Backing the Blue"

It's an honor to protect and serve this community!

Smoke Alarm Blitz

This semi-annual, door-to-door campaign is an effort to replace non-working smoke alarms and batteries in resident's smoke alarms.

Held on Saturday, June 25 in the Spinnaker Point neighborhood, which has over 100 homes and was the first neighborhood hit by the tornado on December 26, 2015.

Led by Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner and Rowlett Citizen Corps Council President Whitney Laning, Rowlett Fire Station 2 and its Battalion Chief, along with 21 volunteers, assisted with the installations. Rowlett Explorer Post and Club stuffed 200 bags containing information on Fire Prevention, Smoke Alarms, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Kits in preparation for the project.

A big community "Thank You!" goes out to Walmart as well. They generously donated a \$1,000 to support ongoing Smoke Alarm Blitz and fire prevention operations and deeply discounted a bulk purchase of 300 high quality, smoke alarms with an internal, non-replaceable battery that lasts for 10 years!



21 Volunteers Donated 76.5 Hours to this Project at a Value of over \$2,400!



Safest Places in Texas Rowlett is #3!

ValuePenguin.com has ranked Rowlett the #3 Safest Place in Texas (population over 50,000)!! ValuePenguin is a personal finance website that conducts in-depth research and analysis on a variety of topics from insurance, to credit cards, to everyday spending. Almost five million Americans have moved to Texas since 2005, and you can bet finding a safe community was a major priority for each one of them. With so much population growth, the ValuePenguin team analyzed the most recent FBI Crime Report to determine the safest places in the Lone Star State!



Rowlett Senior Shuttle Free Senior Transportation now available to the Rowlett Library!

Seniors, the City of Rowlett has partnered with STAR Transit to provide senior members of the Rowlett Community Centre free round-trip transportation to the Community Centre, and has now added the Rowlett Library as a destination as well!

To qualify for this free service, passengers must be 60 years old or older, reside in the Rowlett city limits and have a current membership to the Rowlett Community Centre or have a program receipt. Senior (60 years and up) Individual Community Centre Memberships cost \$10.00 annually and provides access to all Rowlett Community Centre standard facility amenities and all free senior programs. Seniors wishing to go to the Library will need to show proof of their Library Card.

With the addition of the library comes a revised bus schedule:

Monday 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
 Tuesday 8:30 am – 11:30 am
 Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
 Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
 Friday 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

For more information or to make reservations, call 877-631-5278 and press 5 (A dedicated agent takes calls Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm), or visit www.STARtransit.org.

Outdoor Water Usage Tips

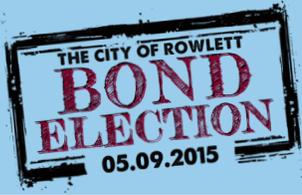
With the majority of summer usage occurring outdoors, it is important to make sure that everyone is using water efficiently and exercising smart water habits to keep YOUR water bill under control!

1 Keep your landscape looking good by using native plants, trees, shrubs and grasses that are drought and heat tolerant.

2 Set sprinkler systems to provide thorough but infrequent watering. This will help your grass become healthier by developing a deep, strong root system.

3 Use lots of mulch around shrubs and trees to help them retain moisture, reduce run-off, moderate soil temperatures, and help with weed control.

For more helpful tips and information on how and when to water please visit www.wateriq.org.



CIP Bond Money At Work!

an update on the 2015 CIP bond election projects



Day One



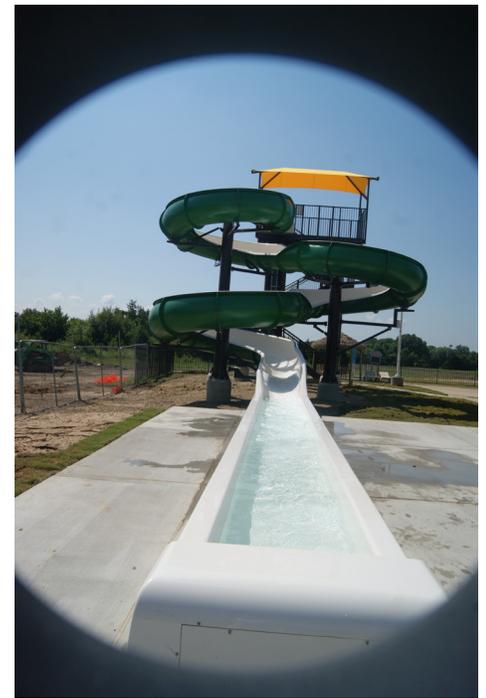
Day Three



Day Two

Alley Reconstruction

The first alley reconstruction project in the CIP Bond project is underway! It is in Lake Highlands at Lake Ray Hubbard, just south of the corner of Miller and Dalrock Road.



New Wet Zone Slide is Now Open!

Haley's Hurricane Twist opened at The Wet Zone today and it has officially been given the stamp of approval, the first kids down the slide yelled "Awesome!" The Wet Zone is open daily (except Tuesdays) through Sunday, August 14, so be sure and come check it out soon! For hours and more information, please visit www.wetzonewaterpark.com.



Kids Kingdom NOW OPEN!!

This state of the art, 22,000 square foot, community-inspired AND community-built amenity 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. 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 was physically constructed by community-members 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!



RECENTLY IN ROWLETT..



Welcome, New VIPS!

New *VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services)* members were sworn in on Saturday, July 2, 2016, joining more than 37 active *VIPS* currently volunteering for the Rowlett Police Department. These volunteers will assist with *Administrative Police Functions, Code Enforcement, Handicap Parking, Holiday Safety Patrols and Vacation House Checks.* Welcome aboard!
(Back row) Bryson Scott, Darrell Rogers, Thomas Alford, Andrew Hunt (Front row) Shelby Roberts, Kim Wright



Service to the Community Recognized

Church in the City's Pastor Michael Hankins and his wife, Vicki were honored with a proclamation recognizing their 20 years of service to the Rowlett community. *Church in the City* has been at the forefront of the tornado recovery efforts, providing lodging, meals, clothing and household goods. They have also provided enormous support to those needing assistance. *Volunteers managed by Church in the City* have contributed over 30,000 volunteer hours to Rowlett's rebuilding efforts, valued at \$706,800, and continue housing volunteer crews who have performed services valued at close to \$1,000,000 for debris removal at more than 200 worksites, including the complete demolition of 43 homes and provided 13,536 meals to those volunteers and citizens affected by the tornado.



Rowlett Police Department's School Resource Officers' 2016 Youth and Teen Academies

Youth & Teen Academies

are in the books!



Not sure who has more fun, the students or RPD!



Rebuild Rowlett Donation

Looter Booters recently sponsored their first benefit Pub Crawl, raising \$2,000, which was donated to *Rebuild Rowlett!* They are planning another event this fall, so stay tuned!



City Councilmember Rick Sheffield Recognized

The Texas Municipal League recognized Rick Sheffield, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem of Rowlett, as a Leadership Fellow on Friday, June 17, at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock. Rick Sheffield was one of 50 Leadership Fellows honored by Bennett Sandlin, Texas Municipal League (TML) Executive Director, at the June 17th awards ceremony.

The award recipients - elected, appointed, and other city officials from throughout Texas - voluntarily completed more than 30 hours of training, held over two months, to enhance their leadership skills. Participants explored the principles and characteristics of ethical leadership, learned to build trust and community, discovered ways to improve team-building and communication skills, and practiced negotiation for strategic influence. They discussed local issues in the broader leadership context, with the goal of applying learnings to the public service role and to benefit their cities and residents.

Created in 1913, the Texas Municipal League is a nonprofit organization that provided legal guidance, legislative advocacy, publications, training and networking opportunities to officials from 1,148 cities in Texas.



When Mr. C was picked up by Animal Control Officers on June 16, he had an injury to the head that required immediate vet care. While under treatment, shelter staff did some investigation and found he had a local owner. Well, unfortunately, the owner no longer wanted this beautiful white American Bulldog. Mr. C healed nicely and became a favorite, but he was lonely and needed to go “home.” During his time at the shelter he was the one dog staff and volunteers could approach in the kennel who would not bark, but just look, wondering if the interesting human standing before him would be his new owner. We are so excited to report that, after just five weeks at the shelter, Mr. C found his forever home at an offsite adoption event hosted by Friends of Rowlett Animals on our Empty the Shelter Day, July 23!



Saturday, August 20
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Rowlett Animal Shelter
(4402 Industrial)

Reduced Adoption Fee - \$25

Come find your new best friend and help your Animal Shelter maintain its current live release rate of 99 percent! This is well above the national rate of 30 percent thanks to Rowlett residents’ willingness to open their hearts and homes to all the wonderful pets available at the shelter.



Code Enforcement tip of the month

Address Your Home!

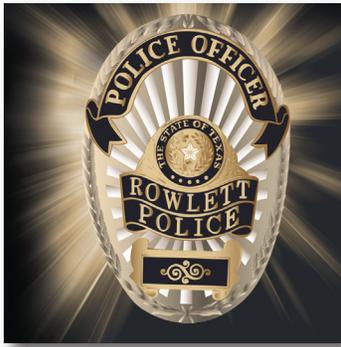
Address numbers must be attached to the front and back of house, be a minimum of 4” in height and be legible and visible from street or alley. If a fence blocks your driveway, place numbers on back of fence to ensure visibility. This could be critical in an emergency. Address numbers on the curb are not sufficient in the front, a car parked on the street could block them at anytime.

Visualize driving through a residential neighborhood or down a rural road late at night attempting to locate an address. Now, place yourself in the driver’s seat of a police car, fire engine or rescue unit responding to an emergency, when seconds may mean the difference between life and death.



For more info please call
Rowlett Code Enforcement
at 972-412-6283 or visit
Rowlett.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Citizen Police Academy

Registration for the 38th Class is open throughout August at the Police Department!

Is CSI your favorite television show? Are you interested in the inner workings of your police department? Then the Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is for you!

Beginning September 3, the CPA is an exciting 12-week course held Thursday evenings from 7-10 pm designed to help you, the Rowlett resident, better understand what a police officer encounters while on duty.

Each week, a qualified police instructor will demonstrate how a different section of the Rowlett Police Department operates. There is also an evening at the shooting range with hands-on instruction in the use of police firearms and a driving course where students are able to drive a police squad car. You will even do a ride along with an officer on patrol.

To learn more about the program or to enroll, please contact Officer Chad Caldwell at 972-412-6242 or via [email](#).



Senior Lunch Social

Thursday, August 11

11:30 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Senior Lunch Social held monthly on the second Thursday. Bring a side dish to share and the Parks & Recreation Department will provide the main entrée, which in August is BBQ!

City Volunteer Organization Hosts Two Clean-up Events

Keep Rowlett Beautiful Reuse, Recycle and Clean-up!



Great American Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 10

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

Check-in at The Wet Zone for assignments

Come join the fun! Volunteers of all ages are invited to join in a city-wide parks, streets and lakeshore cleanup effort. EVERYBODY (individuals, families, schools, groups . . .) is encouraged to do their part to help clean up our beautiful city. 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. Sign up online at www.keepprowlettbeautiful.org or contact Martha Brown at Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Inc. for more information: (972) 463-3929, mbrown@keepprowlettbeautiful.org.



Shredding & Electronics Recycling

Saturday, November 5

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

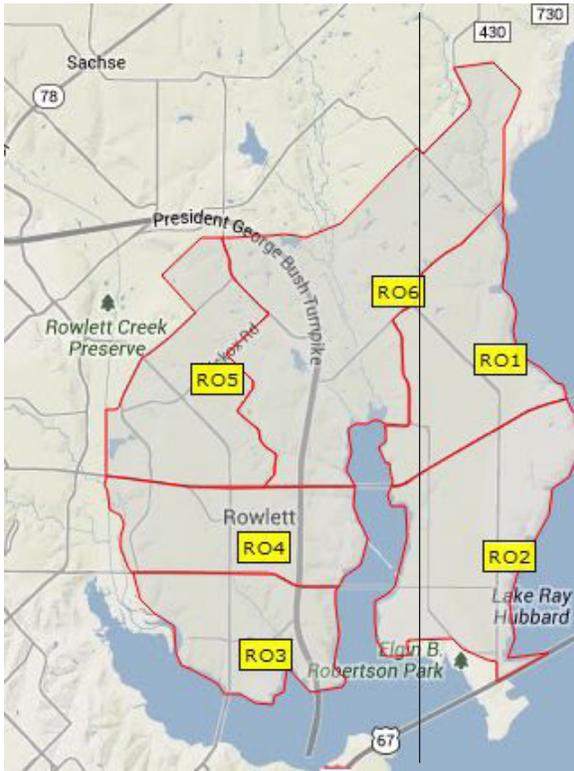
Rowlett High School parking lot

Get rid of the e-waste cluttering up your home! "E-waste" is defined as any electronic equipment that has reached its "end-of-life" or "end-of-usage," whether in working or non-working condition, such as Monitors, TV's, Computers, Laptops, Printers, Cell Phones, Corded Phones, Stereos, DVD Players, batteries of any type, ink and toner cartridges... almost anything that runs on electricity! This event also includes FREE document shredding! Email info@keepprowlettbeautiful.org or call 972-463-3929 for more information.

MOSQUITO SEASON IS HERE

13 MOSQUITOES TESTING POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUND IN ROWLETT

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.

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!

Back To School at the Rowlett Library

**Summer is almost over...time to get ready!
Visit the library for a variety of programs
and activities to entertain and educate.**

Library Skills!

Thursday, August 11 - 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, August 13 - 2:00 P.M.

The Library can provide the perfect tools to make the most of this school year. Kids can receive instructions on using the Library catalog, research databases and test their knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System.

Electronic Resources for Teens

Thursday, August 18 - 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, August 20 - 2:00 P.M.

Books, magazines and more are available 24/7 from an electronic device. Teens can bring in phones or tablets to get started with ebooks or emagazines and also learn about research databases available through the Library's online catalog.



Smart Snacks and Lunches

Thursday, August 25 - 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, August 27 - 2:00 P.M.

Books, magazines and more are available 24/7 from an electronic device. Teens can bring in phones or tablets to get started with ebooks or emagazines and also learn about research databases available through the Library's online catalog.



STORY TIME!

No Story Time for the first three weeks in August

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

Tuesdays, August 23 & 30 @ 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, August 24 & 31 @ 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

Thursday, August 25 @ 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.

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Phil's Technology Corner

Improving Your Smart Phone's Performance

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

If you have a smart phone, you're carrying around a little computer. As with your home computer, without a little regular maintenance, software 'gunk' can build up and cause it to not work as well as when you bought it. One issue you may encounter is slower performance. It may take longer for your phone to unlock after you've put in the code, or apps may take longer to load. Your phone's web browser may also take longer than usual to load up web sites. A slow running phone is a common symptom of several different issues, so it's something you want to address.

One possible reason for your phone's sluggishness is malware. Like your home computer, your phone is vulnerable to malicious software. This generally means software that spies on the information travelling through your phone, like GPS, web browsing, or app information. Considering how much personal information we keep on our phones, this malware may be used for theft in some way. At the very least it means your personal information could be in the hands of an unscrupulous third party. As is often the case, prevention is key. Only install apps from the official app store for your device. Before

you install a new app, read the reviews and look at what permissions it asks for. Don't install apps that only a few people have used and reviewed, and be wary of apps that require a lot of permissions. Further, don't open suspicious attachments, either through text or email, and don't click on any links unless you trust the source.

You should also have some kind of antimalware protection on your phone. Most vendors of traditional PC security software, like Kaspersky and Norton, have versions of their software for phones. If you've paid for this kind of software for your computer, check and see if your license already comes with mobile protection, or if you can get a discount for the service. There are also several free and paid apps available just for mobile devices, including CM Security, 360 Security, and Lookout. Try a couple to see which one you like the most, and periodically use it to scan your device.

Malware isn't the only reason you might be experiencing slower performance. You might just have too much stuff on your phone. We often install a bunch of different apps to try out, or load our phones up with music and pictures. Your phone only has so much space, and when you get closer to

maxing out your storage, you may start seeing your phone's performance lag. So periodically clear off unused apps, and make sure to back up any pictures or music. You'll also want to occasionally clear out the cache for the various apps on your phone, so they aren't taking up space they don't actually need.

In addition to your phone slowing down, battery drain is another common example of poor phone performance. Many smart phones aren't particularly efficient with battery power anyway, but if you notice you're losing juice faster than usual, you may have a problem. Conveniently, the kinds of things you can do to maintain your phone, as described above, should also help you improve your phone's battery life. You can also turn off your Bluetooth and Wi-Fi when you're not using them, and see which of your other apps are always running. Making a few changes to your settings can net you more battery power.

So, if you have a smart phone, make sure you're taking the time to keep it running smoothly. You'll keep your data a bit more secure, improve your battery life, and generally get more from the investment you've made in your phone.

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. Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

End of Summer FUN!



MINECRAFT CAMP

August 1-5

Ages 5-7, 9:00 A.M. - Noon

Ages 8-12, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

\$179

Play Well TEKnologies' brings Minecraft to life using LEGO! Build a motorized walking Creeper, a terrifying Ghast and a motorized Minecart! This project-based camp combines the basic format of our core engineering-themed programs based on the world of Minecraft. Students will explore real-world concepts while having a blast

FORENSIC LAB

AUGUST 8-12, 9:00 A.M. - Noon

\$165

Join in CSI style forensics in a hands-on look at crime scenes. Identify and collect evidence from fingerprints trash! Recreate the scene of a crime using clues. Detect suspects using science in this investigation into the science of sleuthing.



ARCHERY PLAY DAY

Saturday, August 20

10:00 A.M. - Noon

Free

Join the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department at Pecan Grove Park for a morning of fun while learning how to shoot a bow and arrow. Enjoy the last Saturday of summer with your friends and see who can hit the most bullseyes. This will be a FREE program, we can't wait to see you there!

SAT PREP COURSE

August 20-September 24

Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. - Noon

Ages: 14-18, \$75

Improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice by increasing your SAT scores. The SAT Prep course consists of 18 hours of classroom instruction in math, grammar, and writing. Writing and grammar is covered in the first half of the course, and math is covered during the second half of the course. Students complete two practice SAT tests



SOAR Summer Day Camp

Monday – Friday

June 6 – August 15

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 this month before the park closes for the season!!!

Angel Swim

Saturday, August 6

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!

Season Pass Day

Monday, August 8

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.

Bogo Days!

Monday, August 8

Wednesday, August 10

Thursday, August 11

Purchase one admission and receive the second admission for FREE in celebration of the last week the park is open. Bring a friend and enjoy some splashy fun in the sun before summer ends and school is back in session!

Back to School Splash Bash!

Friday, August 12

It's the last weekday before school starts...ho hum. No worries, the Wet Zone is supplying one last day of fun and games before getting back to the grind! Kids can win cool new school supplies to start the new year off right! Park will be open all day but contests will take place between 1:00 & 4:00pm.

Pooch Plunge

Sunday, August 14

4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

\$10 per dog, humans get in free

It's time to “let the dogs out”! Join Wet Zone and the Friends of Rowlett Animals for a doggie swim day. Fun games and contests for both dogs and their owners with the proceeds from the day going to assist animals in the Rowlett area!!

For more information visit
www.wetzonewaterpark.com

Back to School Safety

It's back to school time! Community Services Officer Chad Caldwell would like to offer these tips to ensure a safe and productive school year!



Students:

Walk in groups!

Whether walking to and from school or waiting at the bus stop, there is better safety in numbers.

Do NOT talk to strangers!

Get away from strangers and tell an adult who can be trusted about the incident as soon as possible. Do not get into a stranger's car under **any** circumstances.

Do NOT take shortcuts going home!

Travel only the route planned in advance with a parent. Use the most populated route.

Don't overstuff a backpack!

It should weigh no more than 10 to 20 percent of a child's body weight.

Report bullying!

Be the solution. Do not be part of the problem. This includes cyber bullying.

Parents:

Share these tips with school-age kids...

Always use sidewalks and crosswalks!

They are provided to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. And look both ways before crossing the street!

Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle!

Helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent. To prevent injuries to cyclists and pedestrians, do not ride a bicycle inside the crosswalk.

Play safe on the playground!

Each year, more than 200,000 kids are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for playground-associated injuries. Most of these injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment.

Follow all school bus rules!

School buses are not playgrounds. Make sure kids understand how important it is to obey all safety rules.

Have a well-rehearsed emergency plan in place for children home alone or caring for siblings after school.

If possible, ask a neighbor to look in or be available to them if necessary.

Drivers:

Watch for flashing lights and obey traffic laws in school zones!

Added caution is required and disobeying speed limits inside school zones could result in a citation with a hefty fine. Also remember, no wireless communication devices (i.e. cell phones) may be used unless via a hands-free device.

Do NOT honk the horn or drive erratically!

This could startle other drivers or students utilizing crosswalks. Driving erratically includes passing school buses while their lights are flashing. Be extremely cautious around school buses, especially when loading and unloading.

Do NOT block crosswalks!

Students might have to walk outside the crosswalk and expose themselves to unnecessary danger.

Always stop when directed to do so!

This includes by signs, police officers and school crossing guards. Remember, anyone directing pedestrian traffic inside crosswalks is doing so to ensure the safety of the students.

Most importantly, watch for child pedestrians!

Children, by their nature, are not the most cautious pedestrians. It is our job as adults to watch for students at ALL times, regardless of whether the proper crosswalk or assistance has been provided.

For more information on back to school safety in our community, please contact **Officer Chad Caldwell** at **972-412-6242** or via [email](#)

Rowlett

City Calendar

August

	1	2 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	3	4	5 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	6 Angel Swim 8:30am @ Wet Zone
7	8 Season Pass Day @ Wet Zone	9 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall	10	11 Senior Lunch Social 11:30am @ RCC Library Skills 4:30pm @ Library	12 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library Back to School Splash Bash @ Wet Zone	13 Library Skills 2pm @ Library
14 Pooch Plunge @ Wet Zone	15 BOGO Day @ Wet Zone	16 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	17 BOGO Day @ Wet Zone	18 BOGO Day @ Wet Zone Electronic Resources for Teens 4:30pm @ Library	19 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	20 Archery Play Day 10am-Noon Pet Adoptathon 10am-5pm @ Animal Shelter Electronic Resources for Teens 2pm @ Library
21	22	23 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall	24	25 Smart Snacks & Lunches 4:30pm @ Library	26 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	27 Smart Snacks & Lunches 2pm @ Library
28	29	30	31			