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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

REALIZING ROWLETT 2020!

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Adopted

The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget was adopted at the regular City Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 20.

ISSUE NO. 1610
OCTOBER, 2016



Having spent many months discussing the current needs of the City, most notably in the areas of public safety, streets and infrastructure, the City Council determined that this year would not be the appropriate time to lower the tax rate by one penny, as was presented in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

With rising material costs, there is concern that funds allocated for these purposes will not be sufficient and may cause projects to be deferred.

Public safety, always a priority, was also a consideration. To that end, this budget does provide for the purchase of tactical vests for our police officers. Very soon though, the new growth our community is experiencing will strain the current level of resources, both in Police and Fire Rescue. Staffing levels will need to be addressed in order to meet the new demands and continue to provide the exemplary services citizens currently enjoy.

Two years ago, Council took action by approving a 4 cent increase in the tax rate to address issues such as our aging infrastructure, a high employee turnover rate, and several years of deferred maintenance. Continuing down the same path was no longer an option. Since that time, strategies have been developed and implemented to retain employees through pay plan changes, for bringing streets and alleys to a minimum acceptable standard, enhancing economic development efforts to attract new business into this community, and to enact zoning changes to provide for a more diversified housing inventory so that Rowlett can be sustainable far into the future. And we have made great progress. The first form-based code project, Harmony, welcomed their new residents on September 1. The Homestead at Liberty Grove now has several homes under construction. Restaurants and new businesses are going vertical downtown and all along SH66. Rowlett is becoming an attractive option in the development community, a prime example is Bayside!

We won't begin to see a positive budget impact from new development until at least Fiscal Year 2018. Two years cannot offset the 5-6 years when maintenance was deferred, projects were delayed, employee turnover increased, infrastructure was impacted due to drought, and a decline in home values occurred. Although the City has made extraordinary progress, it is not sustainable yet.

For the average home value of just under \$160,000, that penny on the tax rate equates to just \$1.33 per month. That same penny kept on the tax rate could fund more street repairs, police officers and firefighters.

In Fiscal Year 2017, City staff and the City Council will continue this discussion and develop strategies to identify the deliverables that must be attained, such as when our new development actually impacts revenues, in order to reduce the tax rate in the future. The City Council's decision Tuesday night to maintain the existing tax rate was very difficult and not entered into lightly. ***The promises made to Rowlett citizens when the tax rate was raised are taken very seriously and this budget reflects that commitment!***

However, the City is not yet sustainable. The December 26, 2015 tornado heavily impacted this community. Although the response was swift and aid from all over poured in, construction projects were delayed for months.

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Fiscal Year 2017 - Realizing Rowlett 2020



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.



So, What’s Notable in the FY2017 Budget?

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.

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.

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.

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 as well that further eroded reserves.

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.

Budget Impact & Recovery 2015 Tornado

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. 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 there. 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.



“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 and it will be uniquely Rowlett. Truly, this is an exciting time to live in Rowlett.”

Rowlett Welcomes New *Director of Public Works*

After an exhaustive search and a comprehensive interviewing process, Rowlett welcomes Shawn Poe as Director Public Works. No stranger to Rowlett, Shawn served as City Engineer and Assistant Director of Public Works for the City in 2004 through 2009.



With well over twenty years of significant public works and public service experience, Shawn is an outstanding addition to our team! He possesses a master's degree in engineering management and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He holds Professional Engineer licenses in both Colorado and Texas and is a Certified Floodplain Manager in Texas. He has previously served in the capacity of Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director and City Engineer in cities in Texas and Colorado. Shawn is also a multiple award winner from the American Public Works Association (APWA): Professional Manager of the Year (Engineering and Technology) and Project of the Year for Traffic Engineering. He is a state officer for the Texas Chapter of APWA and sits on the Board of the Texas Municipal League as an affiliate representing Public Works and is considered a subject matter expert.

As if all of that isn't enough, Shawn is also a certified Firefighter EMT and has a thorough knowledge of emergency response!

Two New City Beautification Awards

We appreciate the efforts demonstrated by so many Rowlett residents to create and maintain such impressive green spaces!

The City of Rowlett is excited to debut two new neighborhood beautification awards, Property of the Season and the Lone Star Smart Yard, which will be presented to those residents that go "Above and Beyond" in their efforts to maintain their property. A photo of each winning yard will be featured on Rowlett.com, social media and the Rowlett On the Water, On the Move monthly news show, hosted by Mayor Todd Gottel and City Manager Brian Funderburk. Winners will receive a yard sign to display for the season and certificate signed by the Mayor, the president of Keep Rowlett Beautiful and the Code Enforcement Officer.

The **Property of the Season** debuts this month, with a recipient in each quadrant of the City chosen by the Code Enforcement Officer servicing that area. Winners will be chosen on the following criteria:

Properties...

- ✓ *must be located within the city limits of Rowlett.*
- ✓ *may be residential or commercial.*
- ✓ *may be personally or professionally maintained.*
- ✓ *must have no visible code violations.*
- ✓ *are one of the most aesthetically pleasing in the area.*
- ✓ *must comply with any North Texas Municipal Water District outdoor irrigation restrictions published on Rowlett.com.*
- ✓ *are eligible to receive the award once every three years.*

The **Texas Smart Yard Award** recognizes those whose yards are in harmony with the Texas native flora, soil and topography. Awarded through an application or nomination process and chosen by a committee of Code Enforcement Officers and Keep Rowlett Beautiful representatives, the Lone Star Smart Yard winner must meet the same criteria as Property of the Season in addition to following these Smart Practices:

- ✓ *Create a landscape that has the right plant in the right place.*
- ✓ *Demonstrate wise management of soil and mulch.*
- ✓ *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.*
- ✓ *Reduce storm water runoff and its pollutants.*
- ✓ *Provide an environment for beneficial insects, birds and small wildlife.*



Great job and congratulations to (l to r) Denise Gomez, Patricia Saenz, Wendy Badgett, Terri Doby, Kim Wilson, Tara Lopez, Brandie Gustafson, Kim Jones and Kaitlin Watkins!

recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Here in Rowlett, our CAFR is also a critical component of the commitment to complete financial transparency we have made to our citizens.



Property of the Season
*will be awarded five times
per year*
Fall – October
Holiday – "Light Up
Rowlett" December
Winter – January
Spring – April
Summer – June



Texas Smart Yard
*will be awarded three
times per year*
Fall
Winter
Spring

**Contact Community
Advocate Coordinator**
Elise Bowers
972-412-6165
ebowers@rowlett.com
for more information

Accounting Department **Recognized for Excellence**

The City of Rowlett mission is "A Citizen-Centered Organization That Provides Great Value to Our Citizens for Their Tax Dollars." A key element to fulfilling that mission is strong financial stewardship, and the Accounting Department truly delivers just that every day.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) agrees! For the 12th straight year, GFOA has awarded their prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rowlett for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of

Annual Photography Contest Winners

2016 Theme – “Reflections”



First Place
People category
Destiny Malone



First Place
Things category
Audrey Bell



First Place
Places category
Michael Ficarra



Best in Show
Destiny Malone



Mayor Pro Tem Appointed to *Emergency Preparedness*

Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Dana-Bashian has been appointed to the North Central Texas Council of Government’s (NCTCOG) Emergency Preparedness Council. NCTCOG is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, established to assist local governments in planning for common needs,

cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. The Emergency Preparedness Planning Council serves in an advisory role to the NCTCOG Executive Board. The Council has responsibility for providing policy direction and oversight functions to the development and maintenance of a coordinated and integrated regional approach to emergency management planning and response systems. The Council may also make recommendations as to how the region can most efficiently and effectively utilize state and/or federal financial assistance made available for emergency and disaster planning, mitigation, and recovery. Mayor Pro Tem Dana-Bashian is well prepared for this role, having previously served as an alternate member.

“I believe regional involvement and exposure is absolutely crucial to our city, and certainly with our December 26, 2015 tornado, emergency preparedness is front and center.”

Long-time City Volunteer Retires

Emergency Management volunteer, Lee Shaw, has retired from her long-time position with the City’s Fire Rescue Department. Lee has been a resident of the City of Rowlett for 11 years and previously worked for North Little Rock, Arkansas for 31 years as the Emergency Services Director for Emergency Management and the 911 Center.



When the City needed to update its Emergency Management Plan several years ago, Lee spent months working on the document to submit to the State of Texas. She was instrumental in helping to prepare all the documentation after the 2013 ice storm and the tornado in 2015.

In the years that Lee has volunteered for the City, she has received several awards at the annual Volunteer Banquet, hosted by the City since 2009. She was nominated for Volunteer of the Year four times – 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013 – receiving the award in 2009 and 2013. Lee also received the Diamond Award in 2014, given annually to the volunteer with the most hours. *Since she began volunteering in 2009, Lee Shaw has given over 5,000 hours to her community.* Lee, you will be missed!!

City Manager Receives NAACP Bridge Builder Award



Congratulations to City Manager Brian Funderburk! He was honored with the 2016 Bridge Builder award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Garland Branch at their annual Freedom Fund Brunch on Saturday, September 17. This annual award recognizes individuals who continuously strive to make a positive difference in diverse communities.

Keep Texas Beautiful has recognized Keep Rowlett Beautiful as a recipient of a 2016 Anheuser-Busch Community Restoration Grant. Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) has worked in partnership with Anheuser-Busch and Keep America Beautiful (KAB) to give three KAB/KTB affiliates, \$3,000 each to help assist in replanting, restoring public spaces and strengthening the communities that have been damaged by the unforgettable severe weather and devastating flooding.

Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) volunteers are excited to partner

Keep Rowlett Beautiful Receives Anheuser-Busch Community Restoration Grant



with Anheuser-Busch, KAB, KTB, and the City of Rowlett to restore the sand volleyball court located in Lakeside Park, which was destroyed in the December 26, 2016 tornado.

Since 1996, Keep Rowlett Beautiful has been committed to educating and encouraging our community to keep Rowlett clean and green through a variety of projects and programs that promote the conservation of air, water and land resources. Visit www.keepprowlettbeautiful.org to learn more about KRB.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rowlett Sales Tax on Frontier Cable Bill

Recently, we've been asked about the way sales taxes charged to customers appear on their Frontier cable bill. More specifically, under the section entitled **"Detail of State Taxes and Other Charges."** To provide some clarity, the Texas state sales and use tax rate is 6.25%, but local taxing jurisdictions (cities, counties, special purpose districts, and transit authorities) may also impose sales and use tax up to 2% for a total maximum combined rate of 8.25%.

Frontier COMMUNICATIONS	
DETAIL OF TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES	
DETAIL OF VIDEO*	
Frontier	1.99
Broadcast TV Surchage	4.42
Rowlett Franchise Fee	.83
Rowlett PEG Fee	2.42
Regional Sports Fee	9.66
TOTAL VIDEO	
DETAIL OF FEDERAL TAXES AND CHARGES*	
Frontier	.08
FCC Regulatory Recovery Fee	.08
TOTAL FEDERAL TAXES AND CHARGES	
DETAIL OF STATE TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES*	
Frontier	1.03
Rowlett Local Sales Tax	1.00
Rowlett Sales Tax	6.47
TX State Sales Tax	6.53
TOTAL STATE TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES	
TOTAL TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES	18.27

*Includes Basic Charges

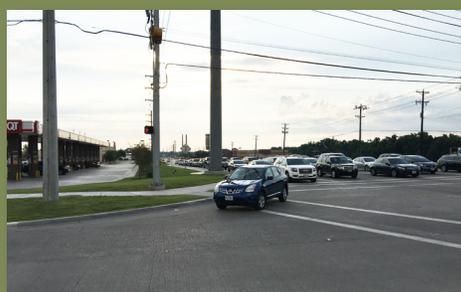
In Rowlett you pay:

6.25% to the state of Texas

1.00% to Rowlett for local uses (general fund for various services)

1.00% to Rowlett that goes to DART (which was approved by voters decades ago). Some Non-DART cities collect the other 1% for economic development corporations in lieu of DART (Sachse, Rockwall and Wylie as an example).

So, what appears to be a duplication on your Frontier cable bill is not and is actually correct!



FUN FACT!

4,000 vehicles PER DAY are utilizing the new right turn lane from Highway 66 onto the northbound access road of PGBT. **That's the equivalent of 15 miles of cars!** Line them up one after another beginning at this corner and they would extend all the way to the downtown Rockwall square and back again!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Camp Fear!

Friday & Saturday
October 28-29
5:00 P.M. – 11:30 A.M.
Pecan Grove Park



Rowlett's favorite Halloween party is back! Pack up your family, tent and sleeping bags and embark on an overnight camping adventure! Participate in a large number of family activities including games, a haunted hayride, tent trick or treating, s'mores, and spooky storytelling. Deck out your tent and compete in the Best Tent Decorating competition! **Space is limited, register now!** For more information please call 972-412-6170.



Electronic Recycling & Document Shred

Saturday, November 5
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Rowlett High School

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 document shredding! First three boxes are free, limit additional four @ \$3 each. Email info@keeprowlettbeautiful.org or call 972-463-3929 for more information.



Veterans Day

Friday, November 11
11:00 A.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

Join us as we recognize and honor our local veterans. Veterans Day is a time when the community gathers together to give thanks to

those who have served our country. Please come show your support and appreciation to those who have made so very many sacrifices for our freedom.

SAVE THE DATE...



Main Street Festival and Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 3
3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

What better way to kick off the holiday season than with a fun-filled night of live music, Santa, and lots of festive holiday activities. The Parade will take place from 3:00pm-4:00pm, live music from 4:00pm-6:00pm and the tree lighting ceremony from 6:00pm-7:00pm.



Tornado Anniversary Remembrance

Monday, December 26
Schrade Bluebonnet Park

Mark the one year anniversary of the EF4 tornado that so devastatingly affected Rowlett by attending the unveiling of a memorial sculpture. More details to come in next month's issue of this newsletter.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...

9/11 Memorial



Thank you to the CERT, Fire Corps, Explorers, members of Boy Scout Troop 1188 and their families for installing the Maltese Crosses commemorating 9/11.

Fall Cleanup



Keep Rowlett Beautiful's Fall Cleanup Day 2016 took place on Saturday, September 10. Volunteers of all ages pitched in to do their part and clean up Rowlett!

Special Olympics Fundraiser



On Friday, September 9, the Rowlett Police Department spent the day at the Dunkin' Donuts in Rowlett, raising money for Special Olympics. A big Thank You to all who stopped by and helped them meet the fundraising goal!!

Neighborhood Crime Watch Summit



Representatives from neighborhoods all around Rowlett attended on September 12 at the Rowlett Community Centre. This was a great opportunity to learn about starting a Crime Watch group, get great information about crime prevention, and get tips on how to help make neighborhoods safer by all working together.

VIPS Awards



Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) were celebrated at the 2016 Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to these 2016 VIPS winners, and thank you for your dedication to the Rowlett Police Department!
Officer of the Year: DeWayne Gates
Rookie of the Year: Stephen Kanouse
Chief's Award for Excellence: Glenn McGowen, Doug Hakala, Fred Sweeney & Frank Merrimack

Your Bond Dollars at Work!



The two practice soccer fields at Katy Park soccer fields are well underway, topsoil, turf and irrigation have been installed !



**Animal Shelter Maintains
a 99% Live Release Rate!**



The Story of Brennan!

Brennan is a sweet dog with a lot of energy who needed someone that matched his enthusiasm levels! Staff noticed right away that he was not a fan of other dogs, which endeared him to them, but created a bit of a challenge to find that special owner he wouldn't have to share. Brennan spent almost two full months at the shelter before they finally found each other. Brennan now has a best friend to call his own, one that exercises both his mind and body!

Pet Adoptathon!

Saturday, October 22

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



Pull in Your Polycarts!

Do your part to help keep our streets clean and safe!

In an effort to prevent possible spillages and traffic hazards, it is a violation to leave your trash and recycle containers at the collection point.

Chapter 50, Section 50-2, Rowlett Development Code:

No polycarts shall be placed at the collection point before 6:00 pm on the day before collection and after 6:00 am on the day after collection.

For more info please call [Rowlett Code Enforcement at 972-412-6283](tel:972-412-6283) or visit Rowlett.com

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES...

...at the Rowlett Library



Star Wars Reads Day

Saturday, October 8 @ 2:00 P.M.

Worldwide celebration of a galaxy far, far away. Bookstores, libraries, and retailers will participate in the annual installment of the global event, featuring signings, parties, and more.

Love on a Leash Therapy Dogs

Wednesday, October 12, 3:30 P.M. @ City Hall

On the second Wednesday of each month, doggy reading companions listen to a story read by an independent, young reader. Call or sign up at the Library Service Desk today at 972 412-6161.

Spooky Skeletons

Saturday, October 15 @ 2:00 P.M.

Biology with a boo! Have fun with a workshop about bones and then create spooky skeletons with pasta.

Food to Fear

Saturday, October 22 @ 2:00 P.M.

Sample scary looking treats that are actually yummy...if you dare!

Mini-Pumpkin Decorating

Saturday, October 22 @ 2:00 P.M.

A craft for all ages! Accessorize a mini pumpkin of your very own to take home. Embellishments such as feathers, stickers, and googly eyes will be provided.

Halloween Treats at the Library

Monday, October 31 - All Day

Families, dress up in your Halloween costumes and come to the Library for treats!



Whatever on Wednesdays

Wednesdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 13-18

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

Crazy 8's Math Club

Thursdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-12

Elementary-age children learn that math is fun! Every week, kids build stuff and make a mess with math!

STORYTIME!

The Young & the Restless *Baby Story Time*

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

For babies up to age 2

Giggle, Wiggle *Toddler Story Time*

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

Ages 2-4

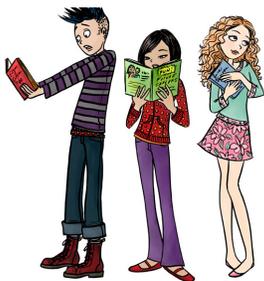
Shake, Rattle and Read *Preschool Story Time*

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

Preschoolers

TEEN READ WEEK IS OCTOBER 10-15

2016 Theme - "Read for the Fun of it!"



The American Library Association urges all tweens and teens to read during Teen Read Week. The Rowlett Public Library will be celebrating with contests and prizes for reading,

encouraging kids to explore all the Library has to offer by showcasing the Young Adult Collection of books and audio books, media and DVDs, Reference materials and the PC Lab.

Monday, October 10 – Celebrate *Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children* by *Ransom Riggs*, by participating in a caption contest for old photographs.

Tuesday, October 11 – Celebrate *Maze Runner* by *James Dashner* with some very elaborate mazes.

Wednesday, October 12 – Celebrate the *Lightning Thief* by testing your knowledge of heroes of old.

Thursday, October 13 – Celebrate the *Fifth Wave Series* by *Rick Yancey* by constructing your very own tin foil hat to protect yourself from the outer space alien mind control.

Friday, October 14 – Celebrate *The Hunger Game series* by *Suzanne Collings* with video game archery contests.

Saturday, October 15 – Celebrate the *Harry Potter series* by *J.K. Rowling* with some Bertie Botts All Flavour Beans and more!

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Here at the library we're excited to offer access to a new online resource for cardholders called Pronunciator, an exciting way to learn new languages. 80 languages are available, and the service can be accessed through a computer or with the mobile app.

To access Pronunciator, log into your account on our catalog web page (<https://rowlett.biblionix.com>) using your library card and PIN. If you do not have either of those numbers, please give the Library a call at 972-412-6161 and we'll be happy to look them up for you. Once you've logged into the library's catalog, scroll down and look at the left side of the screen, under "Electronic Resources." Find the link for Pronunciator and click it. At the landing page you'll have the option to register for the site, or just enter your email address to use the service as a guest. If you want to track your progress, or use the app on your smart phone, make sure to create an account for the website. If you'd like to use the app, first register for an account. Then, go to your device's app store and download the Pronunciator app. Once it's installed, log into the app with the account you just created.

Once you've launched Pronunciator, you'll have the option to choose the language you speak, and then the language you want to learn. Depending on which language you choose, you'll have different options. For example, Spanish is a

Phil's Technology Corner

Learn a New Language with the Pronunciator Database

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

very common language to learn, so there are several learning modules available. For others, there may be fewer. Each language has at least the Main Course module. The Main Course is a series of exercises that use words, pictures, and audio to help the student learn common words and phrases. These exercises are centered on different topics, like essential expressions, shopping, going to the doctor, etc. There are also culture notes, to give the student additional insight into the language. Once you've gone through a lesson, there are drills to help you remember the words and phrases, and quizzes to test your comprehension. If you're not able to sit in front of your computer to view the lessons, you can stream or download the audio tracks and listen to them separately. The Main Course also has ProRadio, which plays popular music in the language you're learning.

So, just in the Main Course module of each language there is a lot available to help you learn. In addition to the Main Course, many languages also have Learning Guides. The lessons in the Learning Guides are similar to those in the Main Course, but are a bit more focused. For example, for Spanish, there are Learning Guides focused on learners 3-6 years old as well as for 7-12 years old. There are also guides that are more topically focused, such as the 8-Week Travel Prep guide. Finally, there is a Grammar Reference guide for those who want to drill into the

grammar of a language.

Some languages also offer live conversation practice called ProLive. On the languages where it's available, there are scheduled conversation classes. Each class works using GoToMeeting software. You sign in to the session, and practice speaking with other people who are also trying to learn that language. For the conversation practice you'll need a microphone so you can talk to the other attendees.

I've used Spanish as an example, but there are many other languages available, about 80 in total. Some of the other available languages are French, Arabic, Chinese (including Mandarin and 3 other dialects), Malay, Russian, and Vietnamese.

We're able to get access to Pronunciator through participation in the TexShare program. Because Rowlett Public Library is accredited through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, we're able to provide access to 75 different online databases at a significant cost savings. So when you go to try Pronunciator, make sure to also check out one of the many other databases available to you.

We hope you get a lot out of using this new service. If you have any questions about Pronunciator, or any of our other online resources, please give us a call at 972-412-6161 or come in to the library!

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

Fall Programming at the RCC!

Young Anglers Club

6:00 P.M. Tuesdays, October 4-25

Sessions also available in November and December
\$25

This fun program will get your kids outdoors and teach them how to do some good ole fishing. We will take turns fishing different fishing spots around Rowlett just to show that you do not need a boat to fish. We will learn techniques and skills for bank fishing. Each participant will get a Rowlett Young Anglers Club patch!

Archery

6:00 P.M. Wednesdays, October 5-26

Sessions also available in November and December
Ages 6-14, \$20

Go on an archery adventure with a fully trained and experienced guide and learn the basic skills of archery, such as safety rules, terminology, bow and arrow identification and uses. All equipment will be supplied. The class is suitable for those that have no experience, or those that may just need a refresher.

ACT Prep

Saturdays, October 8 – November 12

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 14-18, \$40

Improve the chances of entry into the college of choice by increasing ACT scores. The ACT Prep course is 18 hours of classroom instruction in math, grammar, writing and science reasoning. Students complete two practice ACT tests. The ACT course book is not included in the class fee.



Saturdays are for Soccer!

Soccer Techniques and Teamwork

Saturdays, November 5-December 14 * 3:00 P.M. * \$77

Players will learn dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, defense, etc. Fun skill games are played at every session, and every participant will have a ball at his or her feet. Small-sided soccer matches will be introduced gradually. Shin guards are required after the first meeting, soccer cleats are optional, shorts and a t-shirt are fine. All participants receive a Kidz Love Soccer jersey!

Tot Pre-Soccer

Saturdays, November 5-December 14 * 3:45 P.M. * \$77

Teaches the basic techniques of the game and builds self-esteem through participation and fun soccer activities. Children learn to follow instructions in a nurturing, age appropriate environment. Shin guards are required after the first meeting, soccer cleats are optional, shorts and a t-shirt are fine. All participants receive a Kidz Love Soccer jersey!

Mommy/Daddy and Me Soccer

Saturdays, November 5-December 14 * 4:30P.M. * \$77

Introduce your toddler to the “World’s Most Popular Game!” As you and your child participate in our fun age appropriate activities, your child will be developing their large motor skills and socialization skills. The fun happens on the field, and parents are part of the action, not watching from the sidelines! No specific equipment is required for the Mommy/Daddy & Me class. All kids receive a Kidz Love Soccer jersey!



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Halloween Safety Tips

Trick or Treat!

Make sure older kids go out with friends, younger children with an adult. Set a time limit and together map out a route so you know where they’ll be. Remind them not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields. Remind kids not to enter a strange house or car.

Pranks Can be a Little Tricky

Halloween is notoriously a night of pranks—toilet papering a house or filling mailboxes with shaving cream are not unusual. Explain to kids that while you want them to have a good time, some tricks could hurt other people or vandalize property. Emphasize that you disapprove of vandalism.

Eating the Treats

Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. Feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand to curb temptation. Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted room and discard any opened or homemade treats. Remind kids not to eat everything at once or they’ll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while.

Keep the Costume Safe

Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren’t in danger near candlelit jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards. Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night. Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.

Make your Home & Neighborhood Safe

Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights. Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors. Ask your Neighborhood Watch or citizens’ group to patrol the community. Drive slowly all evening - you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path!

*For more information and to register for programs
please call 972-412-6170.*

Rowlett

City Calendar

October

						1 Diversity Day Noon-4pm @ RCC
2	3	4 National Night Out	5	6	7 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	8 Star Wars Reads Day @ Library
9	10 Teen Read Week begins @ Library	11 Senior Health Checks @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall	12	13 Senior Lunch Social 11:30am @ RCC	14 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	15 Spooky Skeletons 2pm @ Library
16	17 Teen Read Week @ Library (Oct. 19-23)	18 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	19	20	21 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	22 Prescription TakeBack Day 10am-2pm @ RCC Pet Adoptathon 10-5 @ Animal Shelter Food to Fear 2pm @ Library
23	24	25 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall	26	27	28 Camp Fear 5pm @ RCC	29 Mini-Pumpkin Decorating 2pm @ Library
30	31 Halloween					