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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett

On the Move

ISSUE NO.1203
MARCH, 2012

New Stage 3 Water Restrictions

Bi-weekly Landscape Watering to Begin April 1, 2012

Amendments to the City's Water Management Plan, including new Stage 3 Water Restrictions, were adopted at the February 20, 2012 City Council Meeting to meet the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) requirements.

The City's comprehensive Water Management Plan (Plan) provides for water conservation goals, notification and education for customers, actions to be taken during drought and response measures during water emergencies. The Plan also provides detailed steps that must be taken during each water restriction stage initiated by NTMWD. Finally, it provides notification requirements on restrictions that require notification to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).



During the recent drought it was determined that the Plan did not meet the requirements of the City's contract with NTMWD, thus requiring amendments. For example, in Stage 3 NTMWD allows for outside landscape watering only once every two weeks. Rowlett allowed such watering once per week. In addition, there were water restriction stages where Rowlett's Plan was more restrictive than NTMWD requirements and still others where Rowlett allowed

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REALIZE ROWLETT 2020 PHASE II OPEN HOUSE MEETING

Saturday, March 31

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Realize Rowlett 2020 Phase II is now underway! Phase II will zoom in and flesh out the details in four target areas, giving special attention to the Downtown area. The end result will be regulatory tools - such as Form-Based Codes - that will help to achieve the vision for each individual area.

The City has moved on to Phase II of Realize Rowlett 2020 and now is the time for YOU to share your ideas and imagination to make it successful. Realize Rowlett 2020 Phase II will give this community strategy to shape its future in a few key catalyst areas, building on the results of Phase I. It will help Rowlett take advantage of opportunities available to the City now and will enhance the attractions that already make this community special and unique. This phase will delve deeper into four specific areas identified in Phase I which were determined to be catalyst areas for future development: Woodside Living, Signature Gateway, Healthy Living and Old Town.

This meeting will focus on Woodside Living, Signature Gateway and Healthy Living providing participants the opportunity to move around and give input on all three areas.

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 something that NTMWD does not allow.

As we talked about in the [February Rowlett on the Move](#) newsletter, the issue NTMWD is currently facing is one of water supply, this is no longer a drought situation. 28% of their supply is unavailable as Lake Texoma cannot be utilized because of the

“A bi-weekly watering schedule using address numbers allows the water system to better ensure adequate water pressure for everyone.”

Tim Rogers
 Utility Operations Manager

invasive Zebra Mussel infestation. Therefore we must remain in Stage 3 Water Restrictions with a continued 10% reduction goal.

The key changes are listed below. View the City of [Rowlett Water Management Plan](#) for complete information on all water restriction stages.

- Bi-weekly (once every two weeks) watering schedule has been modified from using trash pick-up day to using the ending number of the physical address. This allows the water system to more equitably spread the water pressure over seven days versus five days.
- Lawn irrigation watering is prohibited from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

The first Realize Rowlett 2020 Phase II Open House focuses on three target areas *(continued from page 1)*



WOODSIDE LIVING

This is the area west of Waterview and north of Liberty Grove Road. Woodside Living is envisioned as residential neighborhood that embraces traditional neighborhood development and the trees and open spaces along Muddy Creek.



HEALTHY LIVING

This is the area near Lakepointe Hospital and the future Scenic Point Park. Healthy Living is envisioned as a mixed-use residential neighborhood with a strong focus on health.



SIGNATURE GATEWAY

This is the area at the southern tip of Rowlett east of the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT). Signature Gateway is envisioned as a mixed-use area with the tallest buildings in Rowlett, providing an “address” and focal point.

REALIZE ROWLETT 2020 PHASE II OPEN HOUSE: FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN!

Thursday, April 5

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

This second meeting is your chance to share thoughts and ideas on the fourth area, Old Town, targeted in Phase II. This is the area near Main Street and the DART Light Rail Station known as Downtown. Downtown will continue to represent our community’s history but will also integrate denser mixed-use products supported by the DART Light Rail Station.



When Can I Water?

Bi-weekly watering schedule is determined by the last number of the address.

Address Ending In	Watering Day
0	Every Other Sunday
3 or 4	Every Other Monday
1	Every Other Tuesday
6 or 7	Every Other Wednesday
2	Every Other Thursday
8 or 9	Every Other Friday
5	Every Other Saturday

March is Clean-up Month in Rowlett!

MARCH CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

March 1 - 31, 2012

Dumpsters located at [1409 Castle Drive](#)
just east of Rowlett Road

Open Daily 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Clean out the garage, trim those trees and bushes, increase your property value and get a jump on spring cleaning! The annual March Clean-up Campaign allows Rowlett residents to dispose of brush and nonhazardous bulk items free of charge and without limits on the number of visits.

The program runs every day in March, including weekends, weather permitting. The site will be closed if it is raining. A driver's license or ID is required as proof of residence and a Wylie address with an East Fork water bill is acceptable.

For more information, please contact the City of Rowlett Action Center at 972-463-CITY (2489).



Hazardous and Unacceptable Materials Include:

- Televisions, computer components or monitors
- Tires, batteries or automobile parts
- Any chemicals or liquids such as paint, motor oil or solvents
- Dirt, rock or concrete
- Construction, demolition or roofing materials
- Herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers or pool chemicals
- Freon or Freon-containing appliances (such as air conditioners, freezers, or refrigerators)
- Commercial contractor discards

Rowlett Hosts Exchange Students

20 German Exchange Students Visit City Hall



A group of 20 German Exchange Students visiting Rowlett for three weeks came to City Hall on Wednesday, February 15 for a tour and to learn about the Council/Manager form of city government.

Mayor Todd Gottle spoke to them about the City Council and all the exciting progress happening in Rowlett. The students and their chaperones then enjoyed shopping in downtown Rowlett and lunch at Big Star Burgers!

Rowlett Police Department Reminds Motorists of Construction Zone Safety

Work zone safety and awareness are critical, both for drivers and the men and women that work on our streets every day.

While work zone fatalities and crashes have declined significantly, in fact TxDOT saw a 35 percent decrease in work zone fatalities in 2009 from the previous year because of increased safety measures and public outreach efforts, there is still work to do. With approximately 80,000 miles of roadways in Texas it is important for motorists to understand the necessity of safely operating their vehicle through road construction work zones.

Everyone knows that roadway construction zones are a dangerous place to work, however almost no one realizes that they can be even more dangerous to the motorists who drive through them. There are numerous hazards present to navigate such as narrowed and/or shifted lanes of traffic, debris in the road, trucks and heavy equipment entering and exiting the road at unexpected locations and obstructions in the road like construction barriers, barrels and concrete barrier walls.

“While work zone fatalities have decreased, the 108 fatalities in 2009 are still too many. Work zone safety is everyone’s responsibility; it is not the place to speed, drive aggressively or drive while distracted. The Rowlett Police Department asks that everyone take an active interest in their safety and the safety of the workers by increasing their alertness and driving defensively when traveling through construction zones.”

Lt. Leroy Brantley
Rowlett Police Department

Work Zone Safety Statistics

There are more than 1000 active road construction work zones in Texas at any one time

- Four out of every five work zone fatalities are motorists traveling through the work zone.
- 46% of all work zone fatalities for 2009 were aged 35 years old or younger
- 66% of all work zone fatalities for 2009 were male
- 40% of all work zone fatalities for 2009 were drug and alcohol-related.

Work zones have been improved through engineered traffic control plans featuring better signage, smoother transitions and more advanced warning systems but the most important safety factor in reducing the hazards associated with work zones and reducing crashes in them is an alert, knowledgeable and defensive driver. Motorists should always be alert to changing road conditions and not take existing conditions for granted, road construction conditions are dynamic and can change on a daily basis.



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Work Zone Driving Safety Tips

1 Slow Down!

Pay close attention to posted signs and reduced speed limits.

2 Stay Alert!

Expect the unexpected and drive defensively.

3 Back Off!

Leave ample space between you and the vehicle in front of you for evasive maneuvers.

4 Stay Off the Phone!

Pay attention to changing road conditions, eliminate distractions in the vehicle.

5 Watch for Flaggers!

Things change fast in work zones. Obey all traffic control devices in a work zone, especially road crew flaggers.

MARCH EVENTS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Eggstraordinary Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 31

10:00 A.M. - Noon

4000 Main Street

Join us in downtown Rowlett on Main Street for the Eggstraordinary Egg Hunt.

Kids, grab your Easter basket and hippity-hop on over to hunt for 20,000 treat-filled Easter eggs! Enjoy face painting, bounce houses, music, photos

with the Easter Bunny and much more.

Dress up your stroller or wagon for the best decorated wagon or stroller contest. Line up for the contest at 11:15.

Parking is available at Coyle Middle School and Herfurth Park



The hunt is divided by age group:

Babies to age 3
10:30 am

Ages 4 to 6
10:45 am

Ages 7 to 10
11:00 am

Angel Kids (on a separate field):

Babies to age 3
10:30 am

Ages 4 to 6
10:45 am

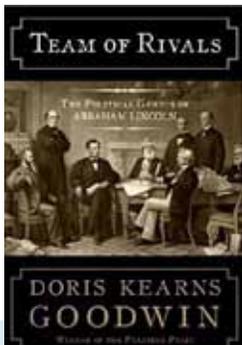
Ages 7 to 10
11:00 am

City Manager's Book Club

Finding connections in the most surprising ways!

Thursday, March 15 - 7:00 pm

Rowlett's most popular book club meets on Thursday, September 15 to continue the discussion of *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin as chapters 9-19 are reviewed.



a lively review and conversation are ensured in this monthly book club led by City Manager Lynda Humble.

Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, September through May.

A wide variety of book offerings followed by

2ND ANNUAL SPRINGFEST

Saturday, March 31

10:00 A.M – Noon



Hop into the Library before or after the kids hunt for eggs out front during the Eggstrordinary Egg Hunt for games, crafts and pictures with Dewey Duck!

Low Cost Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, March 10

12:30 - 2:30 P.M.

Rowlett Animal Shelter

4402 Industrial



With all the outdoor activities Spring is sure to bring, now is the time to ensure your pet's vaccinations are up to date!

SPRING BREAK AT THE LIBRARY

Check Out Five Days of Fun Activities!

LEGOS!

2:00 P.M.

Grades 1-6 (ages 6-11)

Monday, March 12

Grades 1-6 (ages 6-11)

Come and show your mad Lego-building skills!



HUNGER GAMES!

2:00 P.M.

GRADES 7-12
[AGES 12-18]

Tuesday, March 13

Celebrate the release of the movie based on the popular young adult book. Would YOU survive the Hunger Games? Play "survival" games and find out!



American Girl Party!

2:00 P.M.

Grades 1-6 (ages 6-11)

Wednesday, March 14

Bring your doll for a fun afternoon with others and their dolls!



St. Patrick's Day Cakewalk!

2:00 P.M.

All ages welcome!

Thursday, March 15

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the lawn with the Library's Dewey Duck, Haley Hippo from the Wet Zone, the Fire Department's Red E. Fox along with Joe Justice and Eddie Eagle from the Police Department! Win cakes and yummy baked goods from Rowlett bakeries and sponsors.



Titanic!

2:00 P.M.

Grades 7-12
(ages 12-18)

Friday, March 16

The Titanic went under 100 years ago. Would you survive the sinking of this "unsinkable" ocean liner? Find out your chances by playing "survival" games!



Construction Corner

an update on street construction projects around town



DART Light Rail Blue Line

Scheduled to open December 3, 2012 the DART Light Rail Blue Line extension is in the final stretch!

The track work is now complete with the exception of the final cut-over into the Downtown Garland Station, which is scheduled for mid-June. The Downtown Rowlett Station parking and bus loop was turned over to DART bus operations on January 30 in order for the existing bus area to be retrofitted

tests with a DART light rail vehicle, are scheduled to begin April 23. At the end of April, integrated communication system testing will begin to assure DART Operations/Train Control is receiving all communications from Blue Line signals and systems. This testing will precede final integrated testing which will include simulated rail service. This testing will begin August 28.

Once all systems have been certified for safety requirements, the system will be green-lighted to open for service on December 3...just in time to ride the train and enjoy holiday activities all over the Metroplex!

to expand parking space.

Installation of the overhead catenary system is under way, work began recently at the Rowlett station and is proceeding westerly at a rapid pace. The final tie into the existing overhead system will be included with the final track cut-over in June. Static systems testing (testing of crossing devices, traction power substations and Rowlett Station communications systems) will begin this month, followed by dynamic testing to include

Rowlett Road Phase 2

The City is delighted to share that this final phase of Rowlett Road, between Century and Miller Road, is significantly ahead of schedule with an anticipated May completion and opening!



Merritt Road Interconnector project will widen Merritt Road to four lanes

The final stages of Right of Way acquisition are underway to widen Merritt Road from two lanes to a four lane divided highway. This road will connect from the Merritt Road interchange at the President George Bush Turnpike in Sachse to the Liberty Grove Interconnector in Rowlett. This is a \$14 million multi-jurisdictional project funded at an 80% match with Regional Transportation Funding. The City anticipates going out for bid on the 18 month-long project in late spring.

National Flood Awareness Week

March 18 - 24

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters, except fire. As we move into the spring storm season here are some tips to assist you in developing a family plan and ensuring you are ready to act in the case of flooding in our community.



Springfield Park - January 2012

Floods can be slow or fast rising but generally develop over a period of days. Flash floods usually result from intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period. They occur with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes.

Neighborhoods located in low-lying areas are especially at risk for flooding, those near creeks, lakes and other bodies of water are vulnerable, too.

- If it has rained hard for several hours or rained steadily for several days, prepare for the possibility of flooding.
- Closely monitor a local radio station, television or NOAA Weather Radio for flood information.
 - A flood watch means a flood is possible in your area.
 - A flood warning means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Flash floods can take only a few minutes or a few hours to develop. Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice. If you think flooding has begun, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
 - A flash flood watch means flash flooding is possible in your area.
 - A flash flood warning means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

Prepare a family disaster plan

1. Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
2. Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places - a friend's home in another town, a motel or a shelter.
3. Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing:
 - First aid kit and essential medications.
 - Canned food and can opener.
 - At least three gallons of water per person per day.
 - Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags.
 - Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
 - Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
 - Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so (remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on).

Turn Around, Don't Drown!



Miller Road - January 2012

Do not drive through water running across the road ... you have no way of knowing how deep it is. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

Rowlett

City Calendar

March

				1 March Clean-up Campaign begins	2	3
4	5	6 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	7	8	9	10 <u>Low-cost Pet Vaccinations</u> 12:30-2:30 @ Rowlett Animal Shelter
11	12 Legos! 2pm @ Rowlett Library	13 Hunger Games 2pm @ Rowlett Library	14 American Girl Party 2pm @ Rowlett Library	15 St. Patrick's Day Cakewalk 2pm @ Library City Manager's Book Club 7pm @ Library	16 Titanic 2pm @ Rowlett Library	17 St. Patrick's Day 
18 National Flood Awareness Week (3/18-24)	19	20 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <u>RR2020 Open House</u> 9-Noon @ Community Ctr. <u>Eggstrordinary Egg Hunt</u> 10am-Noon Main Street Springfest @ Rowlett Library