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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

One Year Later

ROWLETT REMEMBERS

Community Continues to be #RowlettStrong!

On December 26, 2015 around 7:00pm CST, Rowlett, Texas was hit by an EF4 Tornado.

The path through Rowlett was 1/2 mile wide and 3.5 miles long.

1,296 homes and businesses were impacted.

23 individuals were injured, one fatality.



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

Going out into our community after the tornado was a very sobering experience, the damage done was significant and the road to recovery will be long. However, this year has been absolutely amazing. More people donating than anyone could ever have imagined, local businesses continue to give with no end in sight, organizations from all over the country set up shop to help the people of Rowlett. Churches all over the City immediately opened their doors to help, regardless of the denomination or background of those needing assistance, turning their churches into donation centers and shelters. Thousands of volunteers descended upon this community to assist those impacted. 47 agencies and municipalities from all over sent manpower and equipment to help out City staff. Oncor and Atmos teams worked around the clock to ensure power and gas services were restored as soon as possible. More food donated to feed all of those working and all of those displaced than anyone could imagine. The outpouring of love and services has been astounding, the generosity shown our community indescribable.

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ISSUE NO. 1612

DECEMBER, 2016

Tornado Anniversary Remembrance

Monday, December 26

4:00 P.M.

Schrade Bluebonnet Park
(4701 Sunnybrook)

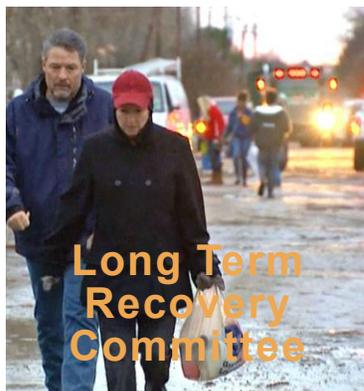
Mark the one year anniversary of the EF4 tornado that so devastatingly affected Rowlett with music, fellowship and the unveiling of a 30' memorial sculpture design, which is being created by local artist Troy Connatser. This event will also serve as



an unveiling for the new park design, which when complete, will feature a splash pad, playground, pavilion and restrooms, along with a reflection area housing the tornado memorial sculpture!

One Year Later - Rowlett Remembers

In the past year, we have made significant strides as we work together to rebuild our community. Over 190,000 cubic yards of storm debris was cleared. Most of those displaced are either back in their homes, or in various stages of rebuilding or repairing their homes. Businesses such as Walmart Neighborhood Market and Tatiano's Restaurant are open, with others, for example Sandra Trollinger Insurance and Rowlett Health and Rehab, well into their rebuilding process.



In January, the City formed a Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), the role of which has been absolutely essential to ensure the wellbeing of those affected by the tornado. There continue to be many unmet needs and the collective goal of this committee is to help residents get those needs met. The purpose of the LTRC is to meet the need for ongoing coordination among agencies providing volunteer, financial, spiritual and emotional/physiological support. In addition, leadership is provided in the discernment of long-term needs for recovery and rehabilitation, which can be most effectively met or assisted by this collaboration. Advocacy for the people most vulnerable to having their needs overlooked in the public recovery processes has also been provided.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please visit www.rebuildrowlett.org.

Citizens and groups creatively found ways to raise funds, here are just a few...

The **Rowlett High School Jazz Band** held a benefit concert in March, which raised **\$1,000**.

Born from a Facebook post, Steve Walker took the bull by the horns and approached the Rockwall Running Club about doing a benefit run. Together, they planned and executed the First Annual **Rebuild Rowlett 5k**. Almost 2,000 runners participated, raising **\$40,655!**

Rowlett resident **Troy Cox** raised more than **\$5,650** by creating beautiful home decor art pieces from tornado debris and selling them as a fundraiser. This effort grew from one Facebook post wherein he posed the question "If I create some art from fencing debris, would anyone be interested in purchasing it to benefit those who have lost everything?" The response was an overwhelming YES! Troy also created special pieces to honor Rowlett's first responders. One for all four fire stations, one for the police department and one for our very own Bat Mayor!

Rockwall Sports Center owner K.R. Hooks designed and sold **Rise Together t-shirts**, raising **\$29,797**.



Community Organizations Rallied Around Rowlett...

Community Emergency Response Team

50 Rowlett Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members responded and were staged within an hour, setting up a command center inside the Rowlett Community Centre. CERT organizations from EastTex, Sachse and all of the mutual aid CERT program partners then responded. Almost 280 CERT members representing 22 CERT programs came to the aid of Rowlett citizens, braving the cold, driving rain, trudging through mud and debris to assist with search and rescue operations and to complete a windshield type damage assessment. In the days following the tornado, Rowlett CERT members walked the debris field day after day, handing out water, supplies and information to those still in their homes without power.

Interested in joining this invaluable community organization? Visit www.rowlettcitizenscorps.org for information on the next training classes!



Keep Rowlett Beautiful

KRB held a special document shredding and electronic recycling event just to ensure affected residents had a way to safely dispose of debris as they cleaned up their homes.

KRB also held a "Love Your Neighbor" event to help Rowlett residents affected by the tornado with their debris cleanup. Hundreds of volunteers from all over showed up to assist!

And now, as the recovery phase is a bit farther along, KRB is working with RETREET on Saturday, December 10 to plant 400 trees in the yards of those who lost theirs. Want to help? Visit www.keepprowlettbeautiful.org to sign up!

In 2016, 6,588 hours were volunteered at a value of \$155,213.28!

The City of Rowlett would like to recognize the extraordinary actions of your City staff, along with the tireless work by countless volunteers and relief organizations, over the past year. Without this coordinated effort, our community would not be nearly as far along in our recovery!

One Year Later - Rowlett Remembers

Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

In the moments following a disaster, first responders can quickly become overwhelmed with calls for help. Our Rowlett community really pulled together on that evening, with neighbors helping neighbors in many cases when access to areas presented a challenge and every moment counted. These are just a couple of those stories...

During the tornado, **Bruce Hargrave and Sammy Walker** each took shelter in their own homes, Bruce and wife Cathy in their laundry room, Sammy and his family in the 10x10 tornado shelter he had previously built in his garage. Once it had passed, they came out to survey the damage and make sure neighbors on Willowbrook Drive were all ok and accounted for.

Hearing calls for help across the street, they ran to neighbor Barbara Griffith's home, which was severely impacted. Her adult son, along with other neighbors, were attempting to free Barbara and her brother, Neil Heslop. Uninjured, Barbara was able to make her way out of the room she was semi-trapped in. However, Neil was trapped inside under about two feet of debris, which included brick and mortar. Sammy, Bruce and the others, which included Sammy's son Daniel Walker and son-in-law Travis Griswold, dug Neil from the rubble. Neil was in shock and had several noticeable severe injuries, among them an obvious compound fracture of his arm, including arterial bleeding. A neighbor, who is a nurse, used Bruce's belt as a tourniquet and slowed the bleeding. At that point, first responders arrived on foot, they were unable

to drive into the area due to all the debris so they grabbed their medical bags and response equipment and hiked in. They stabilized Neil and installed him on a backboard, then loaded him into the back of Sammy's SUV, radioing ahead to Lake Pointe Medical Center. Sammy and Bruce, along with Barbara and her son, raced him to the hospital, driving over storm debris and downed power lines and dodging around congested traffic stalled by the storm by traveling on roadsides and over medians, flattening all four tires in the process. When they arrived at Lake Point, the hospital was itself overwhelmed with those injured, but Sammy, an Olympic weight lifter who also competed in shotput and discus, was able to demonstrate that Neil's injuries were such that getting him to another hospital would not be an option.



Both Mr. Hargrave and Mr. Walker have expressed that they did not do anything out of the ordinary, nothing that anyone else wouldn't do and in fact what their whole

neighborhood DID do, that they just each had a pair of hands and a willing heart.

Mr. Heslop passed away at Parkland Hospital on Sunday, January 10 due to complications from his injuries.

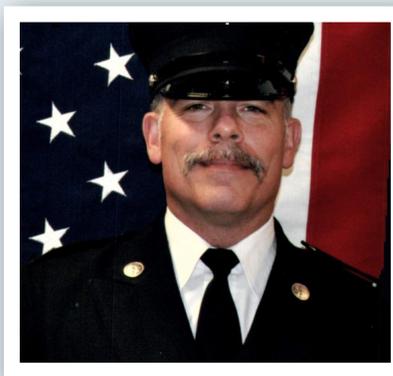


After heeding the alert received on his cell phone, Atmos Energy employee **Roy Moss** and his family took shelter in a closet under the staircase in their home. When the freight-train roar and sounds of breaking glass and flying objects receded, Roy opened the door, looked up and saw the sky. The roof was gone. He was unable to believe the destruction in his home, but so grateful they had all lived through this. After pushing through

the debris that once was his home, Roy opened the front door and was astounded at the destruction in his neighborhood: overturned cars, crushed houses, and debris littered yards and clogged the streets.

Alarmingly, the streets were also filled with an overwhelmingly strong odor of natural gas. Roy was well aware that the possibility of explosion or fires existed, so safety was a top priority. He also knew he was "boots on the ground" at this point. He immediately ran back inside, waded through his own debris and grabbed some tools, hard hat, safety goggles, gloves and an old pair of Air Force combat boots. He then proceeded up and down the neighborhood streets, shutting off his neighbors' natural gas.

Roy's insurance adjuster commented that he has been all over the United States assessing damage from natural disasters and he has never seen a greater sense of community than here in Rowlett, mostly due to citizens like Roy, willing to put their own personal safety aside to protect and assist their neighbors. Roy and his family have also expressed they are overwhelmed with gratitude from the volunteer spirit and kindness they have seen from the Rowlett community.



A Fire Fighter's Story

Rowlett Fire Rescue's Scott Martinez exemplifies the word "service."

After viewing the devastation Rowlett experienced firsthand during the immediate aftermath, Scott felt called to help the people whose lives were so severely impacted. For just that reason, to simply help. His first volunteer "project" was a home the Fire Fighters Association identified, turned out he had volunteered with some repairs and paint a few

years back. The homeowner recognized him, came to shake his hand and say thank you for helping. Her "thank you" was so heartfelt and meaningful, Scott felt determined to help those in this community he serves.

In those first few days, the Fire Fighters Association president asked Scott to be point person for those wishing to help. They jointly coordinated projects

and manpower, driving the affected areas in the morning to identify those needing assistance, then putting a team together to respond. As he tackled more and more projects and picked up members along the way, the teams ended up consisting of firefighters from all over north Texas, as well as Rowlett citizens. He worked with many relief organizations, one of which said they do work across the country and have never seen a better, harder working, friendly and happy group of volunteers.

Selflessly and quietly, on his off duty time, Scott spent months helping residents tarp roofs, clear debris, pack up and move belongings, and make repairs to their homes, often spending his own money for supplies such as chain saws and drinking water. He was very moved by the Rowlett citizens. They may have cried, not known what to do next and been overwhelmed, but they never stopped smiling nor did they give up hope.

Scott is truly the embodiment of the level of dedication Rowlett public safety personnel have to this community.

The City of Rowlett would like to extend a heartfelt
Thank You
to all who have assisted in our community's recovery efforts...

Businesses

24 Hour Fitness
AT&T Satellite
Advantage Storage
Anytime Fitness
ASSI Gymnastics
Atmos Energy
Autobahn Transportation
Baker, Donelson, Bearmon,
Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Barrett Motors
Baylor, Scott & White Medical
Center - Lake Pointe
Big Bass Towing
Black Tie Moving
Body Enhancement Spa
Bowl-A-Rama
Cabi Clothing
Cathey Towing
Copper Express, Inc.
Crowder Gulf
DFW Metropolitan New Car Dealers
DFW Scrap Metal
Dallas Mavericks
Debbi Romeyn Photography
Discount Tire
Dish Network
Duracell
First Step Chiropractic
Forever Floors
Frito-Lay
Garland Chamber of Commerce
Golden Eagle Roofing
Goody Goody
Heart Homes
Jordan's Goodyear
K104
Lakewood Cafe
Lifestyle 180
LA Fitness
Lifetime Fitness
Lowe's
Manufacturer's Transportation
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith
Oncor
Regency Roofing
Rowlett Gold and Silver
Rowlett Rustic Creations
Servepro
S&H Waste Disposal Service
Spirit Outfitters
TFR Enterprises, Inc.
The Home Depot
The Woodlands Chamber of Commerce
Tide
Tom Thumb
TriCon
True North Emergency Management
Uhaul
Verizon Wireless
Walmart
Waste Management

Assistance Agencies

Billy Graham Rapid Response Team
Catholic Charities
Christian Aid Ministries
Crisis Response International
Daughters of the American Revolution
Disabled American Veterans
Disaster Assistance Church of Christ
Duck Team 6
Heartfelt Counseling
Islamic Council of North America
Life Message
Lone Star Santas
Operation BBQ Relief
Operation Blessing
Red Cross
Rockwall Exchange
Rockwall Helping Hands
St. Vincent de Paul
Salvation Army
Samaritan's Purse
Scientology Volunteer Ministers
Sheds of Hope
Storm Assist
Texas Baptist Men
Thirst No More
VFW 5076
Victim Relief

Community Support Groups

Rowlett Citizen Corps Council:
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

Area CERT agencies:

Allen	Keller	Parker County
Arlington	Lucas	Plano
Bedford	McKinney	Rockwall
Dallas	Minuteman Disaster Response	Sachse
Denton County	Murphy	Saginaw
EastTex	North Richland Hills	Southlake
Hurst		

Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB)
FDB
Looter Booters
Rockwall Running Center
Rowlett Chamber of Commerce
Rowlett Community Centre
Rowlett High School
Rowlett Long Term Recovery Committee
Rowlett Strong, Inc.
Texas A&M Commerce
Transitional Resource Accessibility & Community Engagement

Animal Assistance

Animal Hospital of Rowlett
Four Paws Animal Hospital
Friends of Rowlett Animals
Hot Diggity Dog Grooming
Premier Vet Care
Rowlett Animal Shelter
Stonebridge Veterinary Hospital

Regional Support

Dallas Area Rapid Transit
Dallas County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste
Federal Emergency Management Agency
City of Flower Mound
City of Garland
Garland Independent School District
North Central Texas Council of Governments Public
Works Emergency Response Team
City of Richardson Emergency Management
Rockwall Independent School District
Texas Department of Emergency Management
Texas Department of Health
Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Team

Elected Officials

Special thanks to our elected officials, who went above & beyond on our behalf.

Governor Greg Abbott
Attorney General Ken Paxton
State Representative Cindy Burkett
Congressman Pete Sessions

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins
Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell
Mayor Todd Gittel and the Rowlett City Council

Churches

C3 Church
Central Park Church of God
Church in the City
Cornerstone Church
Crossroads Church
Eastridge Church of Christ
Firewheel Church
First Baptist Church
First Christian Church Rowlett
First United Methodist Church
Grace Fellowship Church
Holy Trinity by the Lake
Lake Cities Community Church
Lakepointe Church
Lighthouse Baptist
Mt. Hebron
New Horizon
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Stillwater Community Church
Zion Baptist

Restaurants

Burger Island
Chick-fil-A
Chili's
Chiloso's
Chipotle
Dickey's BBQ
Dunkin Donuts
El Centro
Hubbard's
Jimmy John's
Kyoto
Lakewood Cafe
McCalister's Deli
McDonald's
Moe's Southwest Grill
Mr. Jim's Pizza
Napoli's
Olive Garden
Opa
Original Pancake House
Palio's Pizza
Raising Cane's
Sammee's Pizza Ghetto
Scooter's Coffee
The Track

And, most importantly...the CITIZENS of Rowlett, Texas, who have so selflessly given of themselves over the past year to create a stronger, more resilient community!



Holiday Neighborhood Beautification Award

The City of Rowlett and Keep Rowlett Beautiful are excited to announce the inaugural “Light Up Rowlett” awards!

Saluting the time and effort that goes into outdoor décor, one home in each quadrant of the City will be selected for their outstanding holiday displays during the week of December 12-16. Police and Fire Rescue staff will have this honor, as they are the folks out and about in the evenings enjoying the festive decorations!

Touring our neighborhoods to see lights and yard displays is a holiday tradition and a great way to create lasting memories with family and friends.

Another great way to share the holiday season is to decorate your neighborhood entryway feature. The City will feature festive entryway features on Rowlett.com and Facebook pages throughout the holiday season. So make everyone’s holidays merry and bright, gather your neighbors together to hang a wreath or decorate a tree and enjoy the display every time you enter your neighborhood.

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

Property of the Season Winners!



***Southeast Quadrant:
Hortensia Duran
Code Enforcement Officer David Gensler***



***Northeast Quadrant:
Henry and Misty Phillips
Code Enforcement Officer Keith Hall***



***Northwest Quadrant:
Bobby and Sherry Wilks
Code Enforcement Officer Keith Hall***



***Southwest Quadrant:
Kirby and Kathy Ray
Code Enforcement Officer Carlton Bush***

The City of Rowlett is proud to announce the inaugural winners of the Property of the Season Award. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of residents throughout the City. The winners were chosen by the City of Rowlett Code Enforcement Officers based not only on aesthetic values but also because there are no code violations, the residents water within the guidelines posted on Rowlett.com and they are located within the City limits. Each officer presents an award to a home in their district of the City. These awards will be presented in October, January, April and at the end of May.

Texas Smart Yard Winner!

The City of Rowlett is also proud to announce the inaugural winners of the Texas Smart Yard Award, which recognizes the outstanding effort made by local residents who maintain their green spaces using environmentally sound principles. **Rob and Debbie Rose**, chosen by Keep Rowlett Beautiful board members, included some great information about the environmentally sound practices they use in their yard in their application. The Rose’s home is located in the Southwest area of the City. They are pictured with Lonnie Cornwell, President of KRB, along with one of the four rain barrels they use to collect water. Besides utilizing this catchment system to water their foundation plantings, the Roses have incorporated expanded shale into their soil, they plant mainly Texas natives and they only use organic fertilizer on their kitchen garden. They keep a close eye on their water consumption and last month only used about 30 gallons per person per day, compared to the average 100 gallons per person per day. They also compost most of their waste and recycle almost all of their trash.



Two Texas Smart yards are awarded each year. To apply for the 2017 spring award, visit Rowlett.com and fill out an application – or nominate a “green” neighbor! Environmentally friendly practices help keep pollutants out of our watershed, reduce the amount of waste that must be treated and also provide habitats for beneficial insects and birds.

Rowlett Fire Rescue Hosts National Honor Guard Academy - Class Honors the "Dallas Five"

For the second consecutive year, the Rowlett Fire Department hosted the National Honor Guard Academy (NHGA), which ran November 6-November 11. The NHGA specializes in providing honor guard training to firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel. 57 students from all over the DFW metroplex, Texas, and the United States, including Florida, Louisiana and Arizona, attended this year. This is one of only a handful of National Honor Guard Academies held annually nationwide, and is the only one in Texas.

Each class develops their own name. "The Dallas Five" was chosen this year, to honor the five officers who made the ultimate sacrifice last July in downtown Dallas.

The NHGA was founded by fire service honor guard members who appreciated the need to elevate the professionalism and presentation of Emergency Service Honor Guards. The training focuses on how to care for the family of an emergency service provider on their greatest day of need – the day they bury their loved one. Exercises included the mock "Line of Duty Death," which included training at a funeral home and cemetery with color guard, casket guard, and parade march. The NHGA is dedicated to enhancing the ceremonial knowledge and skill level of public safety honor guard units while reinforcing a sense of pride and compassion by upholding honor guard traditions with precise attention to detail. The academy allows those in attendance to take what they learn and incorporate their expertise into their respective departments' Honor Guard. The attendees are dedicated to providing Honor, Dignity, and Respect to those who make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

All 57 students capped the week of training off by participating in the City's Veterans Day Ceremony, held at the Rowlett Community Centre on Friday, November 11.



Congratulations to Rowlett Police Officer Ryan Doherty and Corporal Jimmie Graves for graduating this year's National Honor Guard Academy!

Rowlett Veterans Day Ceremony Friday, November 11

The City of Rowlett honored those who have served our country with a Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Rowlett Community Centre on Friday, November 11.

Thank you to each of our veterans for your service to our country!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



RETREET

Saturday, December 10

Volunteers and Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB), in partnership with RETREET and Texas Trees Foundation, will show some love to Rowlett residents who lost trees in the December 26, 2015 tornado. Trees are an often overlooked part of restoring neighborhoods after a disaster. Their goal is to plant 400+ trees during the Rowlett RETREET event, bringing joy, hope and cheer to those in need! Volunteers, who will meet and deploy from the Church in the City Disaster

Relief Center's parking lot on planting day, register to help at www.keepprowlettbeautiful.org!



Senior Holiday Pot Luck

**Thursday, December 8
11:30 A.M.**

Rowlett Community Centre

Come enjoy a holiday luncheon with your friends! Bring your favorite side dish to share and the Parks & Recreation Department will provide the main entrée!



City of Rowlett Holiday Closings

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed for the Christmas holiday:

Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed for the New Year's Day holiday:

Monday, January 2

Waste Management Holiday Closings

As Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sunday this year, Waste Management will conduct garbage pick-up on their regular schedule.



Annual Stop a Cop for Christmas Toy Drive

Saturday, November 26 – Saturday, December 23



Help the Rowlett Police Department and the Rowlett Needy Children's Fund give a less fortunate child living in Rowlett a Merry Christmas this year. Wave down any officer out on patrol, if not responding to a call, they will be happy to accept donations of toys and other gifts appropriate for children of all ages.

Don't forget our teens, there is always a great need for gifts in this age group!

Toys may also be dropped off 24 hours a day at any of the Rowlett Fire Stations or the lobby of the Rowlett Police Station.

Other collection sites include the Community Centre, City Hall, Fire Administration Building and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce.

ROWLETT POLICE OFFICERS AND ROWLETT VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE (VIPS) MEMBERS WILL ACCEPT TOY DONATIONS IN THE WAL-MART PARKING LOT ON:

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 10
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 17
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

All toys and gifts donated go to the Rowlett Needy Children's Fund and will be distributed to families living in Rowlett.

For more information, contact Officer Chad Caldwell at ccaldwell@rowlett.com or 972-412-6242.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Heritage on the Lake Says Thank You

Citizens from the Heritage on the Lake community presented Chief Brodnax a plaque thanking the department for solving a string of home burglaries in their neighborhood. They also donated a collection of holiday decorations for the police station and brought along some great food for the officers!



"Top Gun" Award

Councilmember Martha Brown won the "Top Gun Award" at the shooting range during the Rowlett Police Department's Citizens Police Academy! A novice, Martha noted "All I can say is that we had great instructors and I can follow instructions!"



City Council Cooks Lunch for City Employees

On Friday, November 4, members of the Rowlett City Council provided food, cooked and served at their annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon. Council holds this event to show City staff



how much their hard work and dedication to the citizens of our community means to them!



Emerging Leaders Academy

City of Rowlett staffers Ed Balderas and Will Plexico attended the American Public Works Association (APWA) Emerging Leaders Academy in Kansas City last month. A year-long national program, the Emerging Leaders Academy provides intensive leadership and management training, encouraging professional growth through a strong network of peers. Ed and Will were selected from a long list of applicants from all over the country and not only represent Rowlett, but the North Central Texas Branch of the Texas Public Works Association as well.

Construction Updates



Terra Lago, located at Scenic Drive and Lakeview Parkway, is finalizing construction on the parking garages and is now going vertical with the apartment units.

Chipotle, Pie Five, and El Pollo Loco, located in front of Sprouts, has all exterior brick up and is working on utilities and installing windows.



Dalrock Crossing, located next to Walmart Neighborhood Market, is moving forward as they complete brick work on the exterior of the building.

Rowlett Public Works **ICE TEAM** is Ready!

The Rowlett Department of Public Works is ready to protect drivers from storms during the upcoming snow and ice season.

You may recall the unprecedented ice storm that hit north Texas in December of 2013. The City responded with spreaders that applied aggregate and solid de-icing material throughout the 4-day event. It was an extremely busy time for Public Works snow responders, and it showed that no matter when bad weather hits, the Rowlett Team is ready to spring into action to clear roads and

keep them safe for travel.

The Rowlett Team uses a darker aggregate (known as Ice Chat – an ultra-light granular aggregate used to promote traction and augment de-icing materials), which allows drivers to more easily recognize where material has been applied and drive on treated surfaces with increased confidence. The Rowlett Team also uses Meltdown 20 brand magnesium chloride, a granular de-icer, to keep roads safe.

During snow and ice events, the Rowlett Team goes on high alert, with crews working 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, until the weather passes. Here is how the Rowlett Team will clear snow and ice:



All workers are well-trained to operate the application equipment.



Sanding/de-icing routes include City maintained bridges, intersections and inclines on major and secondary thoroughfares.



Five vehicles are set up to distribute de-icing materials and aggregate.



120 cubic yards of Ice Chat.



Over eight tons (16,800 pounds) of Meltdown 20.



Community Services News

Keep it Clean!

It is a code violation to have *trash, rubbish, impure or unwholesome and/or standing water* on private property in Rowlett.

Welcome family and friends by keeping your property clean during the holidays! Utilize the Waste Management unlimited brush/bulk collection on a weekly basis, just place unwanted items at the front curb for pick up.



**Code Enforcement
tip of the month**

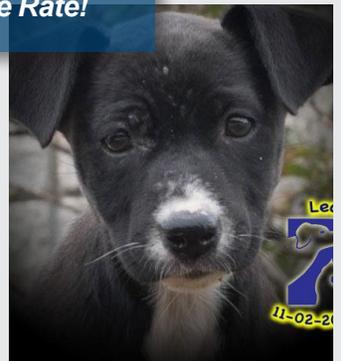
Happy Holidays from the Rowlett Code Enforcement Department! Thank you for your assistance and ongoing vigilance in keeping Rowlett a safe, clean community where families enjoy life and feel at home!

The Story of Holly and Lea

It's the time of year when pets are looking for their forever "homes for the holidays!" The Rowlett Animal Shelter is happy to report that two lucky puppies recently were adopted, and just in time to celebrate with their new families. Boxer mixes Holly and Lea were brought to the shelter as surrenders due to the owner's inability to care for them any longer. These sweet girls did not stay long, though! Holly was adopted first, by a family with a big yard for her to play in. Lea was adopted the very next day by a family in search of their very first dog. These sisters are so grateful that they now have a home for the holidays!



Animal Shelter Maintains a 99% Live Release Rate!



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS at the Rowlett Library

Frozen Story Time

Saturday, December 10 - 2:00 P.M.

Queen Elsa from Frozen will visit the Library for a special, interactive story time. Afterwards, take pictures with Elsa and make snowflakes to create your own frosty kingdom. Sponsored by Magic Matters Princess Parties.

Family Story Time

Saturday, December 17 - 2:00 P.M.

Does your family want to have a *fawn* time at an endearing story time devoted to reindeer? Listen to stories like *Olive the Other Reindeer* and create a reindeer craft.

Noon Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31 - 11:30 A.M.

Party down at the Library with a New Year's Eve celebration just for kids! The fun begins with stories, party hats and dancing. After the balloon drop at noon, there will be games, crafts and a snack.

Whatever on Wednesdays

Wednesdays @ 4:00 P.M. (no meeting 12/21 & 12/28)

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. (no meeting 12/22 & 12/29)

Ages 6-12

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



Winter Reading Club

Wednesday, December 14 - 30

School is out and the weather is cold, so join the club and let's all read over the holidays! Read as much as you can to earn "snowflakes" to put up in the Children's Area.

The program is free and open to children ages 5 to 18. Register at the Rowlett Public Library Service Desk starting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. The Winter Reading Club will continue through the Christmas Break until Friday, December 30, 2016.

There will be prizes for the students who have read the most over the holidays!

STORY TIME!

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

An interactive story time between baby and caregiver, which includes board books, songs, nursery rhymes, baby sign language, peekaboo, bubbles and parachute play.

Giggle, Wiggle Toddler Story Time

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

Ages 2-4

Toddlers will have lots of fun learning as they are introduced to letters of the alphabet and new words to build their vocabulary.

Shake, Rattle and Read Preschool Story Time

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

Preschoolers

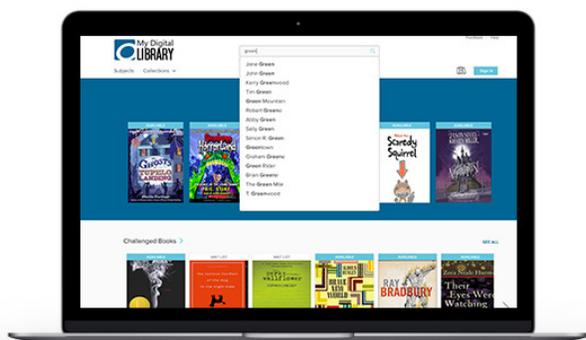
Continues a child's introduction to the alphabet and promotes early word recognition by encouraging little ones almost ready for school to read along and learn rhymes.



**NO STORY TIMES DURING THE WEEKS OF
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.**

*In observance of the Christmas holiday, the Library will be closed
Friday, December 23 - Monday, December 26.*

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



For several years now, the library has offered eBooks for checkout through a service called OverDrive. There are recent changes to both how we order books and the OverDrive website, so it seemed like a good time to update all of you about the service.

The Rowlett Library is a part of the Northeast Texas Digital Consortium in OverDrive. As members, we are able to pool our resources with many other libraries in the area and offer our customers (that's YOU!) access to more books and audiobooks. However, because there are a lot of libraries in the consortium, we're sharing those books with a lot of people, so wait times for popular items can be really long. To address that issue, last year we started ordering additional items that are only available to our customers. We also increased eBooks funding. Because of this, we're now able to not only offer more books, there are shorter wait times for the more popular titles. Now, I can't promise you'll never have to wait for anything, but hopefully you won't have to wait as long. If it's been a while since you took a look at our eBooks, check again. We'll probably have something to pique your interest!

Phil's Technology Corner

eBooks and OverDrive - An Update!

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

OverDrive recently overhauled their website as well. You can still access it through the [library catalog](#) or [Rowlett.com/Library](#), but the direct link to the OverDrive catalog is different. It's now <https://netldc.overdrive.com>. The old address still works, at least for now, but if you've got the website bookmarked it might be a good idea to update your link.

When you go to the OverDrive website, it still shows the covers of featured books. You still click on the picture of the book in order to bring up the individual record for that book. One difference is that rather than icons that change color to indicate if an item is checked in or not, now a bar displays checkout status at the top of the book cover. It'll say "WAIT LIST" if an item is checked out or "AVAILABLE" if it's ready now. Another difference is that much of the information about the books is just displayed underneath it, including title, author, and material type (ebook, audiobook). The links to check out, place a hold, or wishlist an item are all right there as well. You don't have to hover over the book to bring up those links. It's a small change, but it means more information is clearly available to you, and there are fewer clicks to check out an item.

The interface has changed some, but functionally still works the same. You can use the app to download a book to a phone or tablet. If you're using the Kindle format (either for a Kindle app or Kindle device), the download button will still take you to Amazon's website, where you'll log in to your Amazon account to download your library book. If you have another kind of reader, such as a Nook or Kobo, you'll still use the epub format, not the Kindle format. So if you're already familiar with OverDrive, checking a book out won't be a whole lot different; there's just a slightly different interface.

I've focused on eBooks for this article, but audiobooks are also available through OverDrive. There's even a small, but growing collection of videos for streaming. Checking out an item through OverDrive for the first time can be confusing, no matter which method you're using. If you have any questions, please give us a call so we can walk you through it. You can also sign up for a one-on-one session, and I'll sit down with you and walk you through it. To schedule one, please give me a call at 469-971-6471 or email me at pbarott@rowlett.com.

One-on-One Technology Assistance



The library offers **FREE** one-on-one sessions to help you get the most from your computers and personal devices such as cell phones or tablets.

One-on-One Tech Help

Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times

Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Information Systems Administrator Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or pbarott@rowlett.com. Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

Holiday Season Fire Safety

Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner Offers Tips to Protect Your Home Against Fires During the Holidays

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, some of these decorations may increase the chances of having a fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Follow a few simple safety tips and help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.



Chimney Fire Safety

Homeowners: Have the Chimney Swept and Inspected Annually by a Professional Chimney Sweep

When wood is burned in a fireplace, by-products of combustion condense inside

the chimney flue leaving a flammable deposit called creosote. A chimney fire occurs when that creosote ignites. Creosote is highly combustible so there doesn't have to be a large build-up to cause a fire, 1/8 of an inch is all it takes!

Chimney fires can burn up to 2000 degrees, which is much hotter than chimneys are built to handle. The rapid rise in temperature can crack liners and damage the outer masonry. The season's first chimney fire might not do any noticeable damage, while the second might burn your house to the ground. Rowlett Fire Rescue has already responded to several chimney fires this year!

For more information on fire prevention, please contact Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner at 972-463-3940 or visit Rowlett.com



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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Select a Fresh Tree

Make sure the needles are green and hard to pull back from the branches. They should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Bounce the tree trunk on the ground. If a lot of needles fall off, it has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and could be a possible fire hazard.

Keep the Tree Watered

Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees drastically reduce the chance of fire but a dry and neglected tree can be a serious fire hazard right in your living room.

Place the Tree Away from Heat

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heating vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Do not drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.

Inspect Your Lights!

Look for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Don't link more than three strands together and connect them to an extension cord before plugging into the outlet. Check the wires frequently to make sure they are not warm to the touch and don't leave the lights on unattended!

Discard Tree Promptly

Once the holidays are over, discard your tree promptly. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. Take it to a recycling center or put it out on your regular trash day for pickup by Waste Management Service.

Rowlett

City Calendar

December

				1	2 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	3 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
4	5	6 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	7	8 Senior Holiday Luncheon 11:30am @ RCC	9 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library Main Street Fest 5:30pm, Pecan Grove Park	10 RETREET Tree Planting Day Frozen Story Time 2pm @ Library Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
11	12	13 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall Annex	14 Winter Reading Club begins @ Library	15	16 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	17 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart Family Story Time 2pm @ Library
18	19	20	21	22	23 City Facilities Closed	24
25	26 City Facilities Closed Tornado Anniversary Remembrance - 4pm @ Schrade Bluebonnet Pk.	27 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	28	29 Noon Year's Eve Family Party 11:30 am @ Library	30 Winter Reading Club ends @ Library	31