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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1702

FEBRUARY, 2017

Inaugural Session Begins in March!

Citizen City Academy

Free academy offers a fun opportunity to learn all about the inner workings of YOUR city government.

Get an inside account from the people who make the decisions and who are responsible for your streets, water, parks and public safety. The Rowlett Citizen City Academy is an 11-week course offered annually in the spring in which Rowlett residents learn how their elected officials interact with City staff, and how the nine major departments work to deliver City services on time, on budget and with an eye to the future. Participants gain a deeper understanding of how local government works by getting to know the people who are making the daily decisions, and also learn how, and most importantly why, decisions are made.

Attendees will...

...gain a deeper understanding of how local government works from the people who directly serve them.

...meet the leadership and staff members and tour the facilities in which they work.

...participate in discussions with City staff about community successes and challenges.

...serve as role models for other community members.

...help foster an environment that contributes to the quality of life for all residents.

...gain the insight necessary to become a successful Board or Commission member.

The new, no-cost Rowlett Citizen City Academy is being produced through the Office of Neighborhood Life. Open to Rowlett residents over 18, applications are due by February 20 and the class begins March 2.

Visit www.rowlett.com/CitizenCityAcademy for more info and to apply!





Assistant City Manager
Jim Proce
Credentialed by ICMA

With over 35 years of professional local government experience, 20 of that at the executive level, Jim Proce has achieved the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Mr. Proce is one of over 1,400 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; completed the applied knowledge assessment; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

“Jim Proce is not only immensely qualified but also well deserving of this ICMA designation. He is a steadfast leader in our community who demonstrated exceptional poise and fortitude during and immediately after the tornado that devastated Rowlett. I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition!”

State Representative
Cindy Burkett

ICMA’s mission is to create excellence in local governance by promoting professional management worldwide and increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world.

Annual Police Awards

The Rowlett Police Department held their Annual Awards Presentation on Friday, January 13. Although every member of this fine department is profoundly committed to providing exemplary service to citizens on a daily basis, here are those who shone brightly in 2016.



Chad Caldwell
Chief's Award for Excellence



Chris Sawyer
Officer of the Year



Oscar Cantu
Supervisor of the Year



Jason Welk
Rookie of the Year



Officer Davison was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his extraordinary efforts to curtail Driving While Intoxicated during 2016.



Jackie Lozada
Civilian of the Year

Officers Bryson Burt, David Norberg and Tim Coykendall received the Lifesaving Award for successfully removing a passenger from a burning vehicle.



Rowlett Fire Rescue Achievement Ceremony

Every year Rowlett Fire Rescue takes time to recognize those who have promoted to higher ranks, come off of probation, or completed their paramedic certification. On Thursday, January 19, the department came together to acknowledge the following achievements from 2016:

Completion of Probation

Tanner Fowler
Cody Furrh
Cody Holt
Keith Izzo
Kevin McCann
Mike Messner

Completion of Paramedic School

Kyle Spry

Promotion to Driver

Andrew Alman
Josh Dodson
Wayne Dornich
Matt McWhorter

Promotion to Captain

Brett Grant
David Moore
Gregg Pharr
Michael Ray

Promotion to Battalion Chief

Chris Brown
Tim Gauthier



*Chris Brown and Tim Gauthier
Battalion Chiefs*



*Andrew Alman
Driver*



*Brett Grant, Michael Ray and Gregg Pharr
Captains*



*Kevin McCann and Cody Furrh
Completion of Probation*



City Council

Elections for City Council will be held May 6, 2017, filing period for candidates is January 18 through February 17.

The events of the past year have presented many, many opportunities for Rowlett citizens to become more involved in our community. Indeed, we've become a stronger, closer community because of "ordinary" citizens stepping up and unselfishly giving of themselves, their talents and skills for the betterment of Rowlett residents and this City as a whole. And none have worked harder than your Rowlett City Council members, we all owe them our gratitude for the strong leadership exhibited during their tenures!

Are you interested in participating in YOUR local government by running for a place on the City Council? Places One, Three and Five will be on the ballot in May, candidate filing to run will be accepted Wednesday, January 18 through Friday, February 17. Visit the [Elections page of Rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com/Elections) for more information including Councilmember qualifications.

Did You Know?

- ...members of the City Council set your property taxes?
- ...members of the City Council set your water and garbage rates?
- ...members of the City Council approve funding for road and alley repairs?
- ...members of the City Council approve the budget for the entire City?



Update:

Water Meter Antenna Replacements

Have you seen these trucks in your neighborhood and wondered what they're doing? Well, the City of Rowlett has partnered with Pedal Valves, who has begun replacing the radio antennas for an upgrade to the water meter reading system. These new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) antennas will transmit water consumption data directly to the City's Utility Billing Department, thereby eliminating the need to drive by locations to acquire the meter readings. When the system is fully implemented in late 2018, water customers will have the ability to access daily water consumption online, giving you an extra tool to help save water and money!

Please read the [front page story](#) in the November, 2016 issue of this newsletter, or visit www.rowlett.com/MeterAntennaFAQ for more info!

Terra Lago *Update*



Transcontinental Realty Investors Inc., a real estate investment and development firm, is one step closer to completing the high-end apartment community along the shore of Lake Ray Hubbard in Rowlett. In all, Terra Lago will bring 447 apartment homes to Rowlett by the end

of the year. The Dallas-based firm plans to begin pre-leasing the apartments to residents this May, with the site work on the project completed. Plans also include a fitness center, a community room for residents, a courtyard pool area and an outdoor kitchen, as well as a parking garage, slated for completion in April. Adjacent to Scenic Point Park, the four-story Mediterranean-style apartment complex sits on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard within a mix of old-growth trees and scenic rocky banks.

New Directional Sign *Kiosks*

The volume of development within the City of Rowlett is at an unprecedented level, and the builders and developers want to direct the traveling public to their developments with off-site directional signs. In an effort to control the clutter of signage and make our community more aesthetically pleasing, new directional signage has been put in place. These directional signs are more easily identifiable in consistent locations throughout town, which also allows for greater safety of the vehicle traveling public.



Martha Lane Water Tower *Demolished*

The water tower located on Martha Lane, which was severely impacted by the December 26, 2015 tornado, was demolished on Monday, February 6. After undergoing extensive months-long examinations and testing by City staff, consultants, the Texas Department of Emergency Management, FEMA, and the Texas Municipal League (TML), the water tower was determined to be damaged beyond repair thus warranting

removal. Funding for the demolition process is provided by FEMA and the City's insurance through TML. This was one of the City's oldest water towers and will not be replaced, it has been offline for over a year and the water utility system has absorbed the functions it previously performed.

Watch a video of the tower demolition on the [City of Rowlett Facebook page!](#)



“Over the past year, the Martha Lane water tower became an icon throughout our community, an unofficial symbol of Rowlett’s resilience and of the bonding that occurred as a result of the tornado. To commemorate the closing of this chapter in our history, pieces of the structure will be preserved for use in future Arts and Humanities Commission public art installations in our community!”

Mayor Todd Gottel

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...

Castle Road Resurfacing



The City of Rowlett Asphalt Maintenance Program has begun the asphalt resurfacing work on Castle Road from Merritt to Miles Road, which should be completed mid-February. The City of Garland completed their portion (Rowlett Road to Miles) in January.

Volunteers Recognized



Cheryl Sinner Stewart, (second from the right), who ran the Tornado Relief Center, along with other volunteers were honored at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 17. All of the volunteers worked tirelessly over the past year devoting countless hours to those that lost everything on the night of the tornado, December 26, 2015. Thank you all for your selfless acts of kindness.

Community Centre Renovations



The Rowlett Community Centre is officially under renovation. The deck has been removed, the cement on the bottom layer has been saw cut and is now being removed. The next steps include pouring new cement, installing a roofing system under the deck and reinstalling the deck. This project was funded through the 2015 CIP Bond election.

Village of Rowlett Construction



Construction is really coming along on downtown's Village of Rowlett. If you haven't driven down Main Street lately, come check it out! This development will house the Rowlett Library, which plans to move in this fall!

Rowlett Fire Rescue Training



Members of Rowlett Fire Rescue recently attended Confined Space training in Allen. There they were skilled on the proper way to rescue citizens in a restricted space. The overall objective of this training is



to protect those entering or working around a confined space. In this course they learned the physical, chemical, and biological principles related to safe working within confined spaces.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



ROWLETT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



SPRING 2017 EVENTS



LITTLE SWEETHEART DANCE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH
7:00 - 9:00PM
ROWLETT COMMUNITY CENTRE



EASTER EGG HUNT:

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH
10:00AM - 12:00PM
PECAN GROVE PARK



PUP-A-PALOOZA:

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH
2:00 - 4:00PM
HERFURTH PARK



KID FISH:

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH
9:00AM - 12:00PM
COMMUNITY PARK POND



CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA:

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH
1:30 - 2:00PM
COMMUNITY PARK POND



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY TOUCH-A-TRUCK:

SATURDAY, MAY 27TH
10:00AM - 1:00PM
ROWLETT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Free Courses

Register at Dallas.TAMU.edu

Lawncare

Feb. 18, 2017
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Water Efficient Landscaping

April 15, 2017
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

City of Forney Council Chambers

101 W Main St
Forney, Tx 75126



NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT

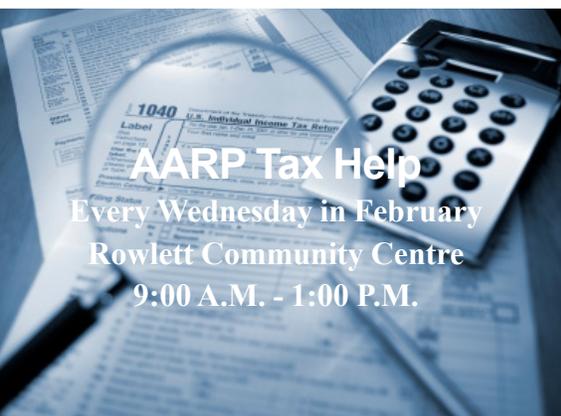


TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
RESEARCH



WATER
UNIVERSITY

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



AARP Tax Help

Every Wednesday in February
Rowlett Community Centre
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



Mardi Gras Party

Monday, February 20
Rowlett Community Centre
11:30 A.M.

Interested participants will need to register in person with the AARP representative, phone registration is not available.

Come join your friends for a Mari Gras-themed party that will be a blast. We will have King Cake and Cajun appetizers, so come hungry!

Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

SENIOR HEALTH CHECKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

SENIOR POTLUCK LUNCH
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
11:30 A.M.

BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE!

SENIOR FITNESS PROGRAMS:
S.A.I.L.
P.A.C.E.
SENIOR FITNESS FUN
SENIOR STRETCH



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

The Story of Cooper!

Two-year-old cuddly, playful Cooper finally got the family he had always been looking for! His first visit to the Animal Shelter was as a puppy back in May of 2015. Quickly adopted, sweet Cooper found himself back on the streets as a stray again in December and we picked him up. The owners were notified, but chose to surrender him. Shelter staff and volunteers went to work finding Cooper his forever home. He was taken to a couple of adoption events and was adopted! Cooper found a home in time for the Christmas Holiday. Sadly, two weeks later the adopters returned him because he wasn't a good fit for their family. As luck would have it, just days later an older couple came in to look at him. Very sweet, they also own a small schnauzer mix with whom Cooper got along famously. They all fell in love and Cooper is now home!



Pet Adoptathon!

**Saturday, February 18
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



Clear those Dead and Dangerous Trees & Shrubs

A variety of environmental conditions can cause trees and vegetation to become diseased or to die!

Ord. No. 036-14, § 1, 11-18-2014

(1) Dead or damaged trees that, through danger of falling or of falling branches or limbs, may cause injury to persons or damage to property and that constitute a threat to public health, welfare or safety; and

(2) Diseased trees that, through spreading disease or infestation to healthy trees, constitute a potential threat to other trees.

To ensure you do not have a potential hazard or code violation on your property, please remove dead trees and vegetation promptly!

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



Valentine Fun at the Rowlett Library

February is Love Your Library Month!

Valentine's Craft for Kids

Saturday, February 4 - 2:00 P.M.

Have a love-ly time creating heart-felt cards and crafts.

Home Buyer's Seminar

Saturday, February 11 - 2:00 P.M.

Buying a home can be a daunting task! Come talk to the professionals who do this every day. They will cover topics such as renting versus owning, determining your budget, common loan programs, the home buying process and more. Local realtor Megan Victor presents this program in cooperation with loan officer Jennifer Willie, escrow officer Christie Mauldin, and insurance agent Rachel Salvaggio.

Celebrate Black History with Gospel Music

Saturday, February 18 - 2:00 P.M.

Celebrate Black History Month at the Library with an inspiring gospel music performance by Symyntha Phillips.

Family Story Time

Saturday, February 25 - 2:00 P.M.

Listen to stories about love and friendship and create a "love bug" to give or keep.

Senior Book Club

Wednesday, March 1 - 1:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Held monthly on the first Wednesday. In March, the group will discuss *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman.

Little Crazy 8's Math Club

Tuesdays @ 4:30 P.M.

Ages 5-8

Nothing like your usual math club! This recreational, after-school math club just for Kindergarten through second graders helps kids enjoy the math behind their favorite activities, such as building glow in the dark structures or cracking secret spy codes!

Love on a Leash

Second and fourth Wednesday - 3:30 P.M.

City Hall

Children can practice their reading-aloud skills by telling stories to canine reading companions. Call or sign up at the Library Service Desk today at 972 412-6161.

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 8-12

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

STORY TIME!

The Library offers story times for all ages...

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.

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.

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.



ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Phil's Technology Corner

Get Automotive Assistance with the Chilton Database

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

This month I'd like to feature another excellent online database we offer at the library. You may be familiar with the Chilton Repair manuals. They're offered for many different kinds of cars and provide a lot of useful information for people who like to do their own vehicle repair. Chilton offers an online database made up of the information they put into those manuals, and Rowlett Public Library customers have access to that database.

You can access Chilton Library from a link on our catalog's website (<https://rowlett.biblionix.com/catalog/>). Just sign in with your library card number and PIN. To begin using the database, input your car's year, make and model and click "select". Once you've done that, there are several tabs across the top that contain information for your vehicle. The first tab is Repair. You can search if you know what you're looking for, but it also separates the entries into categories and subcategories for easy browsing. For instance, if you need

information on brake repair, you'd click on Brakes, then on the subcategory you needed, like brake system bleeding or front disc brakes. The Repair section probably has the most information, since that's what the Chilton manuals are used for the most. However, for those of us who aren't savvy enough to repair our own cars, there's information in the database that's still useful. The next two tabs on the site provide that.

The next tab is Maintenance. Here, you can put in your current mileage, and it will give you what the next suggested maintenance tasks are. You can also bring up the full chart of how often different tasks should be performed. Looking at that full chart you can see the pattern for how often certain tasks need to be done. It's not a replacement for a knowledgeable mechanic, but it's good to have an idea for how frequently work needs to be done. The next tab is Labor Estimating. This gives you an idea of how long different kinds of repair work should take. Again, not a replacement for a knowledgeable mechanic, but if you don't already have someone you trust, it can give you a frame of reference if the people you're talking to are giving you

an honest estimate.

The next tab is Bulletins/Recalls. This section lists any important announcements or recalls put out by the manufacturer for your car. You can browse all of them, or search for a particular one by the TSB number or by keyword. The last tab is test prep for ASE certification. If you're looking to take any of the ASE tests, you can find practice questions there.

So, the Chilton Library online database can be very useful for those who do a lot of their own car work, but there's also good information for those who don't! If you have any questions about this, or any of our other online resources, please give us a call at 972-412-6161 or come in and see us.

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!

February is National Heart Month

Be prepared! Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner shares the keys to performing HeartSaver CPR correctly... remember, your actions in an emergency might save a life!

Cardiovascular disease is our nation's number one killer. According to the American Heart Association, about 95% of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved. Heartsaver CPR is designed to teach CPR and relief of foreign-body airway obstruction. It is a great tool for babysitters, parents, grandparents, and those who have elderly parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends.

CPR and Compression Basics

- Confirm that a person is unresponsive by shaking them.
- For infants, tap their feet to prevent any injury that might result from shaking them.
- Once unresponsiveness is confirmed, look at their chest, mouth and nose to see if they are breathing.
- If they are unresponsive and not breathing, immediately call 9-1-1 and begin CPR.
- For an adult or child, place the heel of your hand on the lower half of their breastbone (sternum) and begin chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.
- For an infant, place 2 fingers just below the nipple line along their breastbone (sternum) and begin chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.

Interested in Learning More?



Standard First Aid/CPR Class

**Saturday, March 18
8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
\$30**

Rowlett Fire Rescue sponsors the American Heart Association Standard First Aid/CPR class, which is open to anyone 16 years or older. Classes are limited to 12 students, who will receive a book and a two year course completion card.

Space is limited, for more information or to register call Fire Administration at 972-412-6230.

Plan Ahead and Be Prepared

“Time” to Change Batteries!



Daylight Savings Begins March 12

Rowlett Fire Rescue Urges Homeowners to Change Smoke Detector Batteries when you ‘Spring Forward’!

Smoke is responsible for three out of four fire-related deaths. One of the best ways you can protect your family from fire is to make sure you have good working smoke detectors inside your home for early smoke and fire detection. Change your batteries when you set your clocks forward each spring and back in the fall!

**Do you or someone you know need assistance with changing smoke detector batteries?
Call Fire Administration at 972-412-6230.**

Rowlett

City Calendar

February

			1	2	3 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	4 Valentine's Crafts 2pm @ Library
5	6	7 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	8	9 Seniors Pot- luck Lunch 11:30am @ RCC	10 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	11 Home-buyers Seminar 2pm @ Library
12	13	14  Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall	15	16	17 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	18 Pet Adoptathon 10am-5pm @ Animal Shelter Gospel Music 2pm @ Library
19	20 Seniors Mardi Gras Party 11:30am @ RCC	21 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	22	23	24 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	25 Family Story Time 2pm @ Library
26	27	28 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall				