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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

# Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1401

JANUARY, 2014

Get Fit  
Save Money  
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Volunteer

## A New Year, A New You!

The City of Rowlett has options right here at home to help YOU begin 2014 on the right foot!

## BAYLOR GARLAND PRESENTS ROWLETT FIRE RESCUE WITH "STEMI EMMY" AWARD

Targeted regional coordination directly leads to lifesaving action.

Baylor Medical Center at Garland recognized Rowlett Fire Rescue-Station 1 C-shift emergency medical service providers with the STEMI Emmy award for the third quarter of 2013. The STEMI Emmy is given quarterly to the EMS crew with the best overall response time



for a St-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Each year, more than half a million Americans experience a STEMI, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, or both. The majority of these patients fail

to receive appropriate treatment for their life-threatening conditions within recommended timeframes.

On July 22, 2013, a patient had a loved one drive him to Fire Station 4 in Rowlett. Upon arrival at the station, they

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It's hard to believe that 2014 is here, so as we step into this new year full of resolve to make this year better than the last, let us share some opportunities right here in your own hometown to help you stay on target!

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found that the crew was out on a call. So they called 911, and Medic 1 and truck 4 were dispatched to the location. Clinton Byrd, Chris Weinzapfel, Joe Wetmore and the firefighter/paramedics crew of truck 4, obtained an EKG within 3 minutes of their arrival, just 8 minutes from the time the patient called 911. With ST depression apparent, they activated the Cath Lab from the field. As a result, upon arrival, the Cath Lab team was in the ER waiting for the patient. This team performed angioplasty and implanted a stent.

*“This award recognizes Rowlett Fire Rescue’s commitment and efforts in saving patients’ lives.”*

Tom Trenary  
President, Baylor Medical Center at Garland

*In just 39 minutes – starting from the time the patient called 911 – the occluded artery was re-opened, the patient was pain free and transferred to the ICU in stable condition. The national standard for hospital door-to-balloon time is 90 minutes. Thanks to a rapid field assessment, this patient’s door-to-balloon time was just 15 minutes.* This is a testament to the relationship between EMS, and the Baylor Garland ED and Cath Lab.

Congratulations to these gentlemen, who truly made a difference in the life of their patient that day.

The Rowlett community is lucky to have not only Clinton, Chris and Joe on our team, but the entire Rowlett Fire Department, who collectively provide some of the best pre-hospital care in Texas!

# Get Fit!

## Rowlett Community Centre



### World Class Fitness at an Affordable Price

The Rowlett Community Centre features cardio machines, strength machines for both upper and lower body and free weights.

- 7 treadmills
- 4 recumbent bicycles with cardio theatre capabilities
- 4 ellipticals
- Pro Z series Total Body Bicycle
- Indoor Track

The fitness room is available to members and guests 16 years of age or older. Youth ages 14-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Weight vests are now available to check out, too!

### Racquetball Courts

- First come first served reservations in 1 hour increments.
- Guaranteed court reservations with a \$5 fee.
- Children between 7-15 years of age may use the court when accompanied by any person 16 years or older.
- Racquets, racquetballs and protective eye wear are available for rental.

*Memberships are affordable, just \$230 a year for the whole family! Affordable Individual, Senior and Youth memberships are also available.*

Monday – Friday 6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. Saturday 8:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. Sunday Noon – 6:00 P.M.

## Over 50 Ways to Get Healthy and Stay Active!

Browse the [Spring Lakeside Leisure](#) and find a class or activity perfect for you and everyone in your family to meet their New Year’s goals.

Registration is now open for a full slate of fitness classes, children’s activities, sports teams and activities for older adults offered by the Parks and Recreation Department at the Rowlett Community Centre.

Get fit with *Zumba, Body Works, Spin, Pilates, Yogalates* and many other exercise classes. Sign the kids up for *racquetball, basketball, soccer, hockey* and *volleyball*. Adults can get in on the team sports action as well with *basketball, volleyball, flag football* and *softball*. Other class highlights include *Tae Kwon Do* and *Jujitsu*. Kids can attend the *SOAR Spring Breakout Camp* and there are many activities for older adults too, such as *bridge, monthly lunch socials, fitness* and *computer classes* and *field trips*.

Looking for something for the preschooler in the

family? The Parks and Recreation department will kick off *Blastball* beginning in January. Blastball is an excellent introductory game for T-Ball and baseball for boys and girls, catering to the shorter attention span little ones experience with lots of action. Keep them busy for months with *Basketball Hot Shots* and *Little Athletes!*

Do your New Year’s goals include exploring your creative side? Art offerings at the RCC include *Pottery Painting, Glass Fusion* and *Innovative Art* classes.

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# Get Outside!

## City of Rowlett Parks Offer Outdoor Fitness Opportunities

### Paddle Point Park

6600 Miller Road on  
Lake Ray Hubbard



**K**ayaking and canoeing provide an excellent upper body workout and can be done at your own pace and fitness level. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Association designated this park the 30th paddling trail to join the Texas Parks and Wildlife statewide trail system.

**A**menities at the park include kayak and canoe rentals and a dock and information kiosk, both built by Rowlett Parks and Recreation staff. The paddling trail is protected from wind on all sides and is home to a dozen Blue Heron that nest within sight of Highway 66 and a large population of Egrets on the northern trail loop. There are also abundant schools of Black Bass, Sand Bass and Hybrid Bass. Paddlers can also glimpse a bit of Rowlett history as they travel to the partially submerged Old Highway 66 Bridge.

### Lakes of Springfield Park

5501 Antioch, just off SH66



**E**njoy a 1.7 mile bicycle and walking trail around the park's lake. Want to "go off-road"? There is also an unpaved walking and biking trail through the trees along Rowlett Creek. This stunning park offers an open play baseball field and two football fields, a disc golf course, a playground and a pavilion. When your workout is done, relax and fish with the kids in the lake!

**L**akes of Springfield Park is also home to Rowlett's radio-controlled airplane field where hobbyists of all ages gather to fly all manner of aircraft!

### Pecan Grove Park

5300 Main Street behind the  
Rowlett Community Centre



**T**he one mile walking trail at Pecan Grove Park is designated an Official Walking Trail by the American Heart Association! The trail offers abundant opportunities to view birds and other wildlife as it winds through the beautiful Pecan grove.

**V**eer right at the fork and the walking trail will take you near the historic Coyle House, which has undergone extensive renovations thanks to the generous \$150,000 donation by Vernon and Lorene Schrade in 2011, and is now home to the Rowlett Historical Society.

**W**ith childhood obesity on the rise, bring the kids and take advantage of this paved trail, it's a great workout for everyone!

# Go Green!

## Save Gas, Money & the Environment Use DART Light Rail!



**Have you and your family resolved to be Greener?**  
Consider using DART Light Rail to get to work or on your next family outing! Why?

- Save money on gas and vehicle maintenance.
- “Go Green” and help the environment. Taking a car off the roads helps the environment and air quality. Even if it’s not an everyday thing, every bit helps.
- Stress Reliever - No traffic! No rush hour! Get some work done...or just sit back and relax.
- Helps you stay fit. Walk or bike to the station! Even if you must drive to a station, you will be active and walking when you reach your destination. Every bit of activity counts!

### Did You Know?

The average weekday has 905 riders from the DART Light Rail Downtown Rowlett Station since it opened in December 2012.

The station had a high of 1,013 riders per day in August 2013

# Volunteer!

## Take an Active Role in YOUR Community



### **Volunteering is good for the heart...and soul!**

As a volunteer with the City of Rowlett, you will have an opportunity to put your knowledge, talent and energy toward improving the quality of life in your community...and in yourself.

Another advantage to volunteering with the City is a greater understanding and appreciation for how your City operates. Without volunteers, the services and programs that our citizens enjoy on a daily basis would surely be reduced or cut!

**In Fiscal Year 2013:**

**23, 378 hours were donated**  
**\$527,641 taxpayer dollars saved**  
**11.39 Full Time Employee equivalents!**



### **The Rowlett Library needs YOU!**

One example of a City department always on the lookout for assistance from volunteers is the Library.

**Crafty people wanted!!!** The Library is looking for a few good crafters to help assemble crafts for story time. The children of Rowlett thank you!  
For more information, please call 972-412-6161.

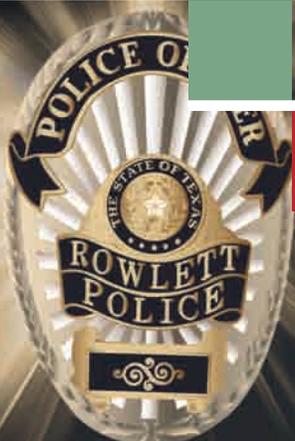
**Help with Saturday programs and events.** Volunteers will help patrons with set-up and clean-up and with crafts during these popular weekly programs.  
For more information, please call 972-412-6161.

For more information about volunteering for the City of Rowlett visit the [Volunteer Program](#) at Rowlett.com or contact Denise Perrin at 972-412-6192 or via [email](#)

# Volunteer! (cont.)

## Take an Active Role in YOUR Community

### Public Safety Volunteer Opportunities



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

The CPA is an exciting 11-week course held one night

### Join the VIPS: Volunteers in Police Service!

## Citizen's Police Academy

Spring session begins Thursday, February 13  
Register for class January 13 - January 31

per week that is designed to help you, the Rowlett resident, better understand what a police officer encounters while on duty.

Each week, a qualified police instructor will demonstrate how a different section of the Rowlett Police Department operates.

- You will learn about the:
- Code Enforcement Department
- Communications Department
- Crime Scene Unit
- Criminal Investigations Division
- Crisis Negotiation Team
- Detention Services
- Patrol Division
- Records Section
- SWAT Team
- Traffic Division

There is an evening at the shooting range with hands-on instruction in the use of police firearms and a driving course where students are able to drive a police squad car. You will also do a ride along with an officer on patrol.

*Upon graduation, participants are eligible to join the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS).*

The Rowlett Police Department's Citizens Police Academy held its first session in the Spring of 1998 and has been held twice yearly since its inception with participation from over 300 citizens to date.

To learn more about the program or to enroll, please contact Officer Greg Baldwin at 972-412-6242 or via [email](mailto:email).

### Become a Member of the Community Emergency Response Team

## CERT Class

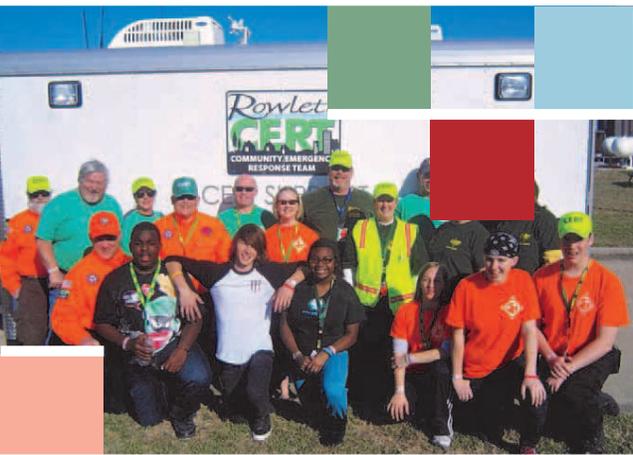
Saturdays, February 1 and 8  
8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

**The Rowlett area CERT team is actively recruiting residents to be trained in the CERT program, which includes Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue and Fire Suppression following FEMA guidelines. The Rowlett Citizen Corps Council sponsors this two-day class, which is open to the public.**

The Rowlett CERT program is well established and integrated into the City of Rowlett's Emergency Plan. It serves an essential role in disaster preparedness and emergency response in the Rowlett area. During a natural or man-made disaster, CERT teams assist Fire and Police in doing damage assessment, accounting for residents and securing quick, accessible routes into neighborhoods. Rowlett CERT is also an essential component of large

City events, providing access and traffic control, fire watch, courtesy patrols, communications and information technology services, first aid stations, public information and education.

A course fee of \$20 covers disposable materials used in the class. For more information or to register for the class, visit [www.RowlettCERT.com](http://www.RowlettCERT.com) or email [CERT@rowlettcitizencorps.org](mailto:CERT@rowlettcitizencorps.org).



*Being Prepared is Everyone's Responsibility.*

*Get Ready Today.*

# Get Involved

## Take an Active Role in YOUR Community!



### **Start a Crime Watch!**

Neighborhood Crime Watch is a partnership between the police and members of the community and is one of the most effective ways to prevent crime.

Neighbors get to know one another and become familiar with each other's habits and vehicles so that they will recognize when something is suspicious or out of the ordinary, and report it by calling the police. Crime Watch does not mean being a vigilante. Participants do not confront suspects or take any personal risks at all. When in doubt, always call 9-1-1. Many people don't want to bother the police because they are afraid that it may not be a real emergency or that they may be embarrassed if their suspicions turn out to be unfounded. Rest assured, the police would much rather be called out to investigate than to be notified after a crime has been committed! All of this doesn't make you a nosy neighbor - it makes you a good neighbor in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

Contact Officer Chad Caldwell at 972-412-6242 or by [email](#) for more information on starting a Crime Watch in your neighborhood today!

This doesn't make you a nosy neighbor - it makes you a **good neighbor** in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

# Rowlett<sup>TX</sup>



*In the coming months*, your City will once again be asking your opinion on how you would like to see your tax dollars spent going forward during the **Rowlett. My Community. My Money. My Choice.** campaign.

The organization, as a whole, prides itself on the great programs and services that are provided to Rowlett residents on a daily basis.

### **However...**

Rowlett citizens are paying, on average, \$106 less in taxes today than in 2007, yet are receiving a higher level of service.

Fiscal Year 2014 marks the ninth straight year that Rowlett residents have been paying the same tax rate, and this level of service will no longer be sustainable in Fiscal Year 2015.

More information on how YOU can provide input and **GET INVOLVED** will be provided in future issues of this newsletter...

# “Icemageddon 2013”

## City Staff Responds Quickly During Severe Ice Storm

**Downed trees, power outages, traffic accidents and failing lift stations are just a few of the issues that faced the City of Rowlett!**

On Thursday, December 5 through Sunday, December 8, the DFW area was hit by one of the most severe ice storms in the past 30 years. Like many other area cities, the City of Rowlett was greatly impacted by this storm event. At one point, there were a total of 14 sewer lift stations out-of-power, eight traffic signals were out, and one elevated water tank was off-line.

In addition, there were numerous ice related issues on roadways, public parking areas and City facilities along with downed trees or limbs in roadways all over the City. In response to this storm, all departments that comprise the City of Rowlett organization came together to provide citizens safe passage on the roads, a warm place to go if their power was out and ensure the water utility lift stations stayed online providing seamless sanitary sewer service.



### Public Works

- **43** essential emergency response staff members worked **12** hour shifts throughout the storm event, addressing **93** requests for service, **43** of which were for tree limb removal from streets.
- At one point, **14** of the City's **26** sewer lift stations were down due to power outages and only **two** portable generators were available so staff had to jockey them from station to station, pumping them down to keep levels safe and avoiding overflow into Lake Ray Hubbard. It took extraordinary teamwork and coordination to keep things moving.
- **70** cubic yards of *Ice Chat* and **1.4** tons of *Meltdown 20* was utilized to assist in assuring roadways, bridges and public parking areas were de-iced in **25** different locations.
- **E**ight traffic signals experienced interruption in power supply. Staff made routine inspections of the signals during this event to ensure the backup power supply was working adequately. When the backup power was no longer available, staff was assisted by the police department, who placed temporary stop signs until the signal power supply was restored.

### Police and Fire Rescue

- During this storm event, public safety staff processed over **300** calls for assistance. These included vehicle accidents, person and animal welfare checks, health emergencies, fires, motorist assistance, traffic stops and removing downed trees from roadways. The City's *Emergency Operations Center* was activated in case the storm escalated and caused more damage. Police and Fire Rescue staff also assisted in downed tree limb removal from City streets.
- **CERT** volunteers were also an integral part of the City's response. They volunteered over **60** hours, assisting with debris removal and providing safety perimeters for downed power lines. If you see a CERT member, thank them for their commitment and dedication to our community. When disaster strikes, CERT will always be there for us!

### Parks and Recreation Department

- Staff removed an excessive amount of downed trees and limbs from major streets and medians, ensuring Police and Fire Rescue had a clear path for responding to emergencies. In addition, Parks employees assisted Public Works in clearing neighborhood streets.
- Although City facilities were officially closed, the Community Centre was opened as a **24** hour Convenience Center, a place for citizens to come get warm and sleep, due to the extended power outages blanketing the City. Staff and CERT volunteers were on hand to provide a welcoming smile and a safe environment.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



## State of the City Address

Tuesday, January 21  
7:30 P.M.  
City Hall, 4000 Main Street

Mayor Todd Gottel presents this annual address at the regular City Council meeting. Citizens and visitors are encouraged to attend this special meeting to hear his report on the City's

numerous 2013 accomplishments. He will also report on the outlook for 2014. As with all City Council Meetings, this address will be aired live on RTN16, the City's Cable Access Channel and on [Rowlett.com](http://Rowlett.com).



## Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, January 23  
6:00 P.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre

This is an opportunity for citizens to freely speak with members of their City Council, in an informal setting, about what's going on in the City of Rowlett.

The City Council will share their goals and objectives for the future of Rowlett and City Manager Brian Funderburk will give an operational update. All City departments will have information booths set up and staff in attendance to visit with and answer citizen's questions.



## City Facilities Closed

Monday, January 20

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed Monday, January 20, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Trash and recycle collections will go on as scheduled.

Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services will remain in operation. In case of emergencies, please call 9-1-1.



## City Council Ballot

Wednesday, January 29  
City Hall

Monday, January 29 is the first day to apply for a place on the 2014 ballot. Visit the [Elections page](#) of Rowlett.com 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?



## Standard First Aid/CPR Class

Saturday, February 8  
8:00 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 2 year course completion card. Space is limited so for more information or to register call Fire Administration at 972-412-6230.



## Little Sweethearts Dance

Saturday, February 8  
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre

Dress up in your finest duds, Daddies, and treat that special little girl to a night she will never forget. Fathers and daughters will dance and twirl their way through this special evening created just for

them.

\$30 per couple if registered before January 20

\$40 per couple if registered after January 20.

\$15 for each additional daughter. Includes a keepsake photo and light refreshments.

# Monthly Financial Update

The City of Rowlett's monthly financial report is provided as one element in the City's effort to ensure financial transparency for its citizens and policy makers.

The Finance Department prepares the report and presents it to the City Council at a regular City Council meeting each month.

While the presentation made at the Council meeting usually provides a high level overview, the report itself is very detailed, providing information on each of the City's funds, key local, state and national economic indicators, and "dashboard" information about the City's primary operating funds, major revenue sources and overall fund performance.

This report is prepared in a way as to provide financially relevant information that is easy to read and understand. Staff uses a forecasting model based on historical data in order to provide a framework for comparing projected performance to actual performance.

The report provided to Council in December includes financial information through October, the first month of the City's fiscal year. As it is the very first month of the new fiscal year there is very little information to report.

*On the revenue side of the equation,* across all funds, the City has earned or received **\$5.3 million in FY 2014.**

This amount is 6.5% of the approved operating budget of \$81.4 million and is **10.7% more** than the forecast projected through the month of September.

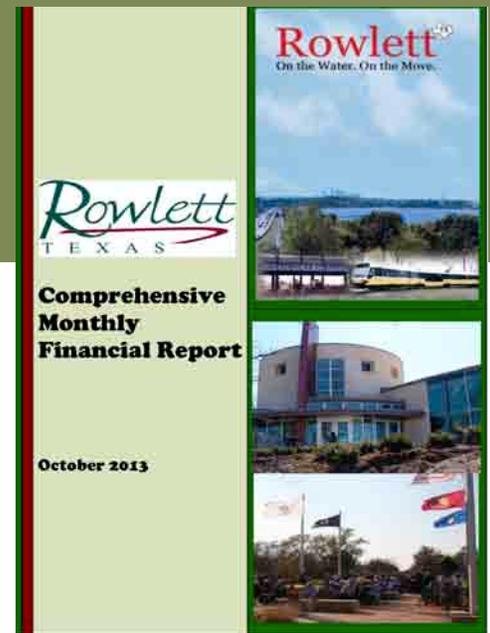
*Expenditures* have totaled \$4.9 million through the same time period. This amount is 5.9% of the approved operating budget and is **16.2% lower** than forecast through September.

Based on these figures, the net surplus from operations is \$0.4 million. This is **\$1.5 million better than expected at this point in the year.** This is a continuation of the positive trends we have seen during fiscal year 2013.

One of the items we report on each month is the Texas Leading Index. This is a single summary statistic that sheds light on the future of the state's economy, and is reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The index is a single composite of eight leading indicators – those that

*"The net surplus from operations is \$0.4 million. This is \$1.5 million better than expected at this point in the year."*

*Alan Guard  
Director of Financial and Information Services*



tend to change direction before Texas' overall economy. They include the Texas value of the dollar, US leading index, real oil price, well permits, initial claims for unemployment insurance, Texas stock index, help-wanted index and average weekly hours worked in manufacturing. For the most recent report, the index increased by 0.3% between the months of July and August.

You can find this information and much more when you [view the October report](#). If you have any questions please contact Alan Guard, Director of Financial and Information Services via [email](#) or 972-412-6288.

## SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Senior Computer Class Introduction to Computers

Tuesday - Thursday, January 14-16  
8:30 – 10:00 A.M.  
Rowlett Library

Free computer classes for Rowlett Seniors in conjunction with the Rowlett Senior Advisory Board. This class is limited to 18 participants, please plan to attend all three days. Call 972-412-6161 to register.

### Senior Lunch Social

Thursday, January 9  
11:30 A.M.

Bring a side dish to share and the Parks & Recreation Department will provide the main entree!

Call 972-412-6170 for more information.

### Regular Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

**FREE BAKED GOODS**  
MONDAYS, 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.

**TEXAS HOLD 'EM**  
1ST, 2ND & 3RD WED., 4TH THURS., 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

**BRIDGE**  
THURS., 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**SENIOR HEALTH CHECK**  
2ND TUESDAY 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.

**CANASTA**  
3RD WEDNESDAY, 10:00 A.M.

# ROWLETT LIBRARY GETS CREATIVE!

## Attention Cultural Arts Groups

### *Arts and Humanities Commission Offers Grants!*

The Arts and Humanities Commission awards small grants to support the activities of Rowlett based non-profit cultural art groups. Applications are due February 1, 2014.



→ Project applications must demonstrate how the funds will be used to promote the cultural arts in Rowlett. Grant recipients must agree to provide one program or exhibit to benefit Rowlett citizens during the grant year.

→ Grant applications will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Arts and Humanities Commission.

→ Grant applications are available at [www.Rowlett.com](http://www.Rowlett.com)

Email completed applications to:  
[ArtsHumanitiesComm@ci.rowlett.tx.us](mailto:ArtsHumanitiesComm@ci.rowlett.tx.us)

Or mail/deliver to:  
**Rowlett Arts and Humanities  
Commission  
Rowlett Public Library  
3900 Main Street  
Rowlett, TX 75088**

## February is Black History Month

# Black History Month Bookmark Contest

Deadline for entries - Saturday, January 25

*The Rowlett Public Library invites the children of Rowlett to design an original bookmark celebrating Black History Month. Feature a person, invention, or event with historical significance. Designs will be displayed at and used by the Rowlett Public Library with the winning designs printed and available in February!*

### **Rules:**

All children in grades K – 12 who live or attend school in the Rowlett area are eligible to enter the contest. Children who attend home school or who attend a school without grade levels should enter the comparable grade level.

All entries must be clear and reproducible.

Winning bookmarks become the property of the Rowlett Public Library.

One entry per person.

One winner for each category (five total) will be chosen: Kindergarten & Grade 1; Grades 2 & 3; Grades 4 & 5; Grades 6, 7 & 8; Grades 9 – 12.

Judging will be done by the Arts and Humanities Commission of Rowlett. **Winners will be announced on Wednesday, January 29, 2014.** Bookmarks will be reproduced, laminated and made available in the library during February, 2014.

Need some help with your creation?

Art Class for Kids: **Bookmarks!**

Saturday, January 25

2:00 P.M.



# WINTER WONDERLAND

## at the Rowlett Library

### **Saturday Movie at the Library**

Saturday, January 4 - *Happy Feet*

Saturday, February 1 - *Gnomeo & Juliet*

10:30 A.M.

Families, kids, teens and tweens are invited to enjoy a free movie and popcorn!

### **Homeschool: How?**

Saturday, January 11

11:00 A.M.

Shari Nelson of Christian Educators Resource Center speaks to parents who are interested in homeschooling but not sure where to start or what resources are available.

### **Paws for Reading**

Saturday, January 18

2:00 P.M.

Heart of Texas Therapy Dogs will be joining readers of all ages at the Library. The dogs are trained to sit quietly and be read to by students who have challenges in reading aloud. The program is designed to provide a more relaxed and non-judgmental atmosphere for readers to build confidence and overcome self-esteem issues.

### **Black History Month Celebration with the Lake Cities Chorale**

Saturday, February 1

2:00 P.M.

Celebrate Black History Month with special songs from the Lake Cities Chorale. Enjoy as they sing traditional favorites and wonderful classics.

## STORY TIME!

### **Shake, Rattle and Read Preschool Story Time**

Every Friday @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

January 3 - *no story time*

January 10 - *Button Up*

January 17 - *Winter Time*

January 24 - *Polar Bear Pals*

January 31 - *Darling Dogs*

Continue your child's introduction to letters and words through stories, books, rhymes and much more!

For children 3 years of age and older.

### **Prime Time Book Club**

Thursdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-11

January 9 - *Stink*

January 16 - *Wayside School*

January 23 - *Nancy Clancy*

January 30 - *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*

Weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 to 5. Each week, a book series or favorite book will be read and discussed, with a take-home activity to do relating to the books.

### **Pajama Story Time**

Thursday, January 16

7:00 P.M.

Families are invited to wind down the day with a blankie, pillow, lullaby and bedtime story. Yes, kids are encouraged to wear their jammies and parents should wear their slippers!

### **The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time**

Every Monday @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

For babies up to age 2

January 6 - *Pretty Colors*

January 13 - *See the Shapes*

January 20 - *No story time*

January 27 - *Down on the Farm*

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**

Every Wednesday @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

January 8 - *Let it Snow!*

January 15 - *Down on the Farm*

January 22 - *Getting Dressed*

January 29 - *Birds of a Feather*

Toddlers will have lots of fun learning as they are introduced to letters of the alphabet and new words to build their vocabulary. Ages 18 months to 3 years.



# ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!

## *Phil's Technology Corner*

### “Streaming” Entertainment

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

*The availability of online entertainment has exploded over the past five years. It's now easy to legally access all kinds of streaming media, both for free and on a subscription basis. Streaming means that no download is necessary, media is played directly from the website via a web browser. Here are some available sources for streaming both music and video.*



### **Music**

iTunes is the gold standard for online music purchases, allowing customers the freedom to buy either whole albums or just individual songs. Now they have launched iTunes Radio. There are plenty of preset stations, but the neat thing about iTunes Radio is that it “learns” your musical tastes and as you select and play more music, your stations will adapt to play more of what you like.

Similarly, Pandora adapts to user preferences by tapping into the Music Genome Project. For this project, musicians classified music using keywords to define each song’s characteristics. So, when you choose a station based on a song or artist, Pandora will play similar songs and artists, based on the assigned characteristics. Pandora is free for both your computer and mobile device, but there is a paid option that is ad free.

Spotify is another online music service. Rather than functioning like a radio station and playing songs at random, Spotify lets you build your own playlists.

There are quite a few more, including *Live365*, *Grooveshark* and *Last.Fm*.

### **Video**

YouTube is probably the most ubiquitous example. Anyone can upload a video to YouTube, which then allows other people to view and make comments on them. Initially, people just uploaded their own videos, allowing folks who otherwise would have had very narrow exposure to reach a larger audience. We’ve seen new filmmakers, musicians, comedians, and journalists all find a national audience because they were well received on YouTube. YouTube has expanded to include releases from more established organizations, many of which will have official YouTube channels, including the [City of Rowlett!](#) BlipTV, Vimeo and Veoh are some other websites that function similarly to YouTube.

Two newer services that focus on creating short videos have emerged recently. Twitter released Vine, which allows users to share looping, six second videos. The idea is that the limited time span forces people to be more creative with what they are showing. Similarly, Instagram has added video, which allows users to share 15 second videos.

Netflix started as a mail DVD rental service,

but now much of their business is through online streaming of movies and TV shows. They don’t have everything, as many movie companies are reluctant to put their newer films on the Internet for people to stream, however they do have a wide selection.

Hulu is another source for streaming TV. It carries most of the current season’s most popular shows (apart from those on premium channels, such as Showtime or HBO). Hulu is available free, but for access on portable devices and a better selection of shows and movies there is a monthly fee.

Streaming video can be a good alternative to traditional cable, with access to TV shows and movies without the large cable or movie theater fees. Until recently, the downside was that this only worked through a computer. Now there are devices to enable streaming from a computer to the television, such as certain BluRay players, Playstation and Xbox gaming consoles, Google Chromecast and Roku. Many newer “smart” TVs are networked on their own to enable streaming services like Hulu and Netflix.

To learn more about this, and other tech topics, visit the Rowlett Public Library!

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SERIES

Free classes at the Rowlett Library to educate Rowlett residents on the various ways technology can save time, money and generally make lives easier!

### **Intro to iTunes**

Tuesday, January 7  
10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

iTunes is a fun, popular and easy to use Apple program for purchasing and organizing music. Did you know you don’t have to have an Apple computer to use it? Come learn more about using iTunes!

### **Intro to Instagram**

Tuesday, January 14  
10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Instagram is a popular social media picture and video sharing program. It allows you to take a picture or video, apply filters, and share that picture or video with others through Instagram itself, or through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media services.

### **Creating an Email Address**

Tuesday, January 21  
10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Email is an essential tool for modern communication and an email address is required to take advantage of this service. Come learn how to create an email address with some free web based email programs that are available.

### **Online Job Searching**

Tuesday, January 28  
10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Learn to write effective resumes, cover letters and the ins and outs of searching for that perfect job online!

# ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

**Get fit and have fun at the Rowlett Community Centre!**



## **S.A.T. Prep**

**Saturdays, January 4 – February 8**

**Saturdays, February 15 – March 22**

**9:00 A.M. – Noon**

**\$75**

24 hours of classroom instruction in math, grammar and writing geared toward helping high school students get ready for the all-important S.A.T. Test. Students complete two practice tests and six essays.

## **Innovative Art**

**Sundays**

**2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

A series of adult classes for the beginner, which teaches three completely different forms of memorable art creation. One-stroke Acrylic uses acrylic paints on canvas or enamel paints on glassware. Scratch Art on Clay: using a sharp tool students will carve unique designs on to a black clay surface and showcase a vivid art piece! Doodle Art: students will learn to make complex, eye-dazzling designs to include abstract and animal sketches. Each class will feature a new variety of projects.

## **Pilates**

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**7:15 – 8:15 P.M.**

Strengthen, tighten and tone the entire body. Combining strength training with weights makes this revolutionary new Pilates plan work to rev the metabolism, have fun, and burn 400-500 calories in a one hour session. Adding resistance training and cardio makes this a full body work out that strengthens and tones without causing damage to the joints and muscles.

## **Spin**

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**7:15 – 8:15 P.M.**

Burn 500-800 calories in 1 hour! Spin class improves endurance, increases strength, builds muscle, tones and reshapes your body. Get noticeable results from this choreographed, cardiovascular cycling workout and push your endurance to the next level.

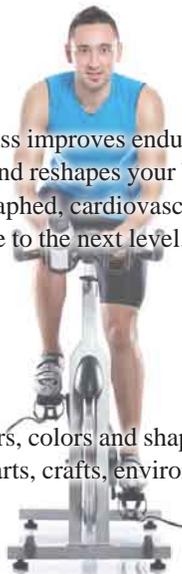
## **Parents Day Out**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

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

**Ages 3-6**

Children are introduced to numbers, letters, colors and shapes through monthly-themed music, stories, arts, crafts, environmental education and movement.



## **Skyhawks Minihawks**

**Wednesdays**

**5:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Ages 4-7**

This multi-sport program gives children a positive first step into athletics. Baseball, basketball and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun using a progression-oriented curriculum. Games and activities are designed to allow young athletes to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination and skill development at their own pace.

## **Skyhawks Multi-sport**

**Wednesdays**

**6:45 – 7:45 P.M.**

**Ages 7-12**

Designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. Soccer, basketball, baseball/softball and volleyball are all combined into one fun-filled session. Kids learn the rules & essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. By the end of session your child will walk away with knowledge of multiple sports along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and self-discipline.

## **Blastball**

**Thursdays**

**6:30 – 7:15 P.M.**

Before T-Ball comes BLASTBALL, an excellent introductory game for T-Ball and baseball for boys and girls. It allows for more action for a youngster's short attention span. More kids get to be involved, which helps them retain interest in the T-Ball/baseball concept. The game is safe and uses a foam bat and ball with no gloves required, teaching basic T-ball and baseball fundamentals of hitting, throwing, and fielding while emphasizing the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.

## **Art Zone**

**Saturdays, January 11 & 25**

**9:30 – 10:30 A.M.**

Paint, create, squish, dab, mold and doodle! Watch the creative genius pour out of your child as we create artwork using a variety of media.



**For more information and to register for programs, please contact the Rowlett Community Centre at 972-412-6170.**

# Stop Speeding Before it Stops You!



## The Rowlett Police Department Works to Save Lives by Reminding Drivers to Obey Speed Limits

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 3,015 lives were lost across Texas due to motor vehicle related crashes during 2011, in fact there were no “deathless days” on Texas roadways that year. There were also 79,573 serious injuries sustained by individuals as a result of crashes in 2011.

Speed, according to TxDOT, was a factor in 1,059 of the 3,015 persons killed in motor vehicle related crashes in 2011. This accounts for about 35 percent of all persons killed in traffic crashes. Speed was also a contributing factor in 19,013 of the 79,573 persons seriously injured as a result of traffic accidents. This accounts for about 24 percent of all persons seriously injured in motor vehicle related crashes.

NHTSA considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense, or if the responding officer indicates that the driver was driving too fast for conditions at the time or was exceeding the posted speed limit. In 2009, speeding was a contributing factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes nationally.

According to NHTSA, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater

*“Too many lives are lost and families are affected each year in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Speed limits exist for a purpose and when drivers obey and follow the posted speed limits they are doing their part to protect themselves and others. Please remember that you can help prevent traffic accidents by controlling your speed!”*

*Lt. Michael Godfrey  
Rowlett Police Department  
Traffic Division*

is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a

speed limit of 45 or 50 mph and nearly five times as likely as a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or below.

Speeding greatly reduces the driver’s ability to slow a vehicle when necessary or to steer safely around an unexpected curve, another vehicle or hazardous object in the roadway. In school zones or neighborhoods, that can include a child or an animal running across the road.

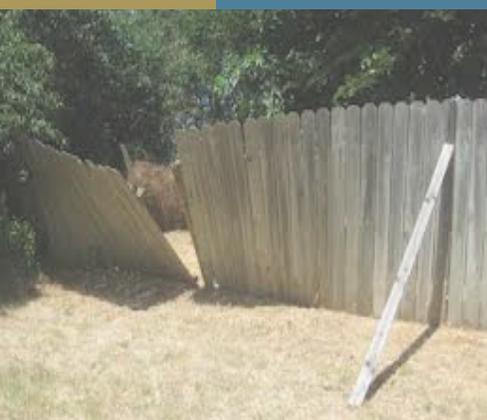
Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to have been found speeding. In fact, during 2009, 39 percent of male drivers ages 15-20 who were involved in a fatal crash were speeding at the time of the crash.

Speeding motorcyclists are also over-represented in crashes. In 2009, 35 percent of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of crash, compared to 23 percent for passenger car drivers, 19 percent for light-truck drivers and seven percent for large-truck drivers.

For more information visit the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

## CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP

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



### Fix the Fence!

As we move through the breezy winter months, the Rowlett Code Enforcement Department would like to remind you to keep your fences in good repair. The following would put your fence in violation of the City’s fence ordinance:

- Five or more missing or broken pickets..
- A 10 degree or more lean.
- Missing or detached sections.
- Externally braced or propped up
- If a fence protects a pool, there can be no holes bigger than 4” measured in any direction and it must have a self-closing/self-latching gate.

# Rowlett

## City Calendar

# January

			1 <b>New Years Day- City facilities closed</b>	2	3	4 <b>Saturday Movie:</b> <i>Happy Feet</i> 10:30am @ Library
5	6	7 <b>Intro to iTunes</b> 10:30am & 7pm @ Library <b>City Council Meeting</b> 7:30 pm @ City Hall	8	9	10 <b>One-on-One Tech Help @</b> Library	11 <b>ArtZone</b> 9:30am @ RCC
12	13	14 <b>Intro to Instagram</b> 10:30am & 7pm @ Library <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 7:30 pm @ City Hall	15	16	17 <b>One-on-One Tech Help @</b> Library	18 <b>Paws for Reading</b> 2pm @ Library
19	20 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - City facilities closed</b>	21 <b>Email Addresses</b> 10:30am & 7pm @ Library <b>City Council Meeting/State of the City Address</b> 7:30 pm @ City Hall	22	23 <b>Town Hall Meeting</b> 6:00 pm @ City Hall	24 <b>One-on-One Tech Help @</b> Library	25 <b>ArtZone</b> 9:30am @ RCC
26	27	28 <b>Online Job Hunting</b> 10:30am & 7pm @ Library <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 7:30 pm @ City Hall	29	30	31 <b>One-on-One Tech Help @</b> Library	1 <b>Saturday Movie:</b> <i>Gnomeo &amp; Juliet</i> 10:30am <b>Lake Cities Chorale</b> 2pm @ Library