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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1405

MAY, 2014

City Adopts Form-Based Codes for North Shore Area

Third phase of the Realize Rowlett 2020 process.

This newly-adopted set of codes will provide the framework for the ultimate development of the City's North Shore area!

On April 15, the Rowlett City Council adopted Form-Based Code (FBC) Zoning Districts for the City's North Shore area. The rezoning of North Shore represents the third phase of the Realize Rowlett 2020 process, which began almost three years ago. The adopted FBC's will provide the framework for the ultimate development of the City's North Shore area. While the North Shore planning process was a fast-paced, intensive six-month process, there were numerous property owner, stakeholder and public meetings to allow for community input into the ultimate plan that was adopted.

The manner in which the North Shore ultimately develops will have a direct impact on the long-term fiscal sustainability of this community. To that end, it is imperative that the City gets this right... the first time. The development pattern represented in the North Shore FBC represents a mix of land uses that both complement the City's vision as well as provide for the necessary commercial tax base that the City of Rowlett will need in the future!

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Once Every Two Weeks Landscape Watering Restrictions Extended Through at Least May 31

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT *STAGE 3* WATER RESTRICTIONS

Another Dry Winter and Spring Results in Critically Low Lake Levels

In an effort to preserve the resources and water supplies available now, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has voted to continue the winter watering strategies of Stage 3 of its Drought Plan.

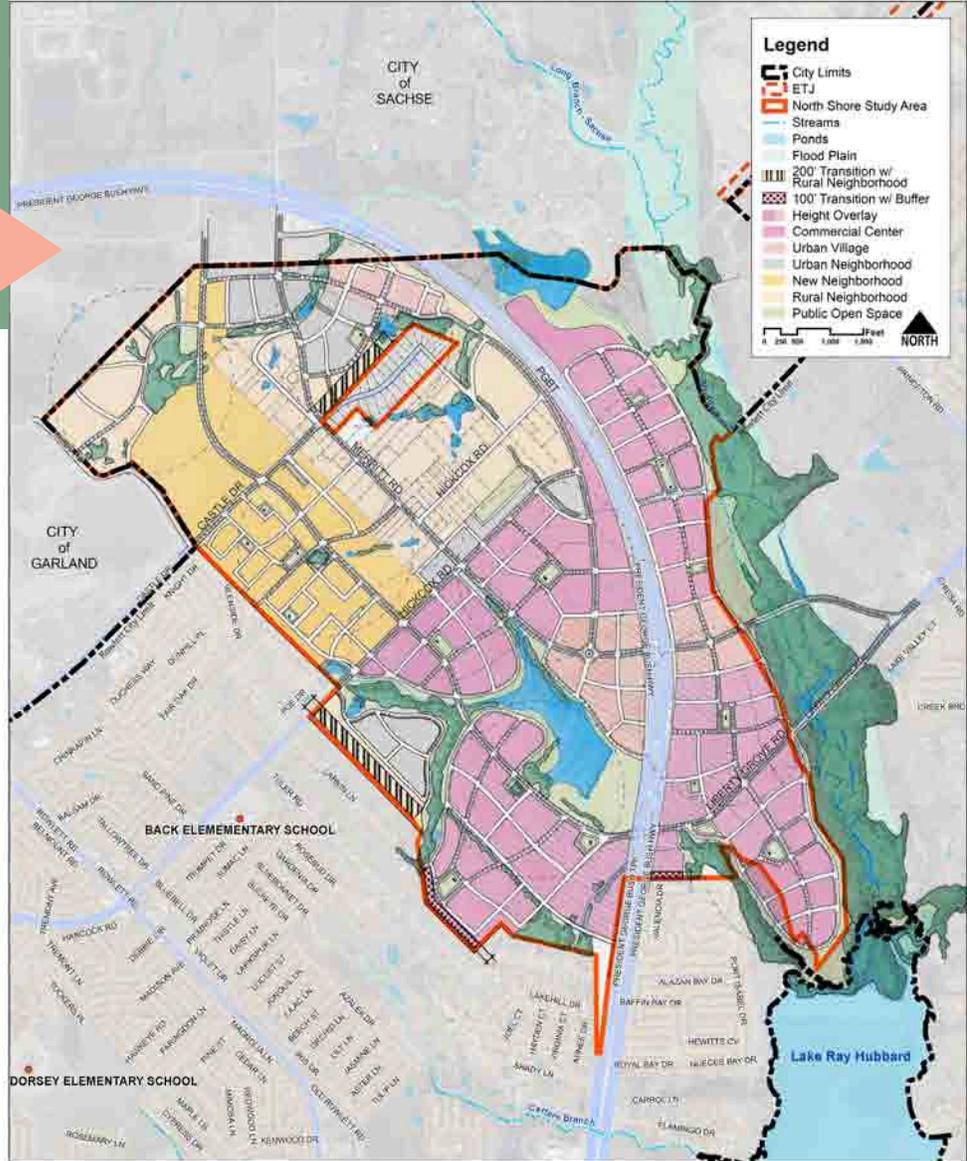
The City of Rowlett purchases its water from the NTMWD, and as a "Customer City", must comply. The goal of Stage 3 is a 10% reduction in water use and increased awareness in ongoing water conservation efforts.



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Why did the City rezone this area?

The North Shore Master Plan Initiative is the next step in implementing the Realize Rowlett 2020 Comprehensive Plan that was adopted by the City Council in September 2011 and the City's Form Based Code that was adopted in November 2012. While the vision for this area has largely been the same for 17 years, the next step in the process has been to refine the vision based on market realities and ultimately to rezone individual properties in the area to be in further alignment with the vision. This rezoning allows a wider array of uses, densities, and eliminates minimum acreage requirement for development. It also allows additional flexibility to existing homeowners who wish to improve their homes.



ROWLETT | NORTH SHORE MASTER PLAN

What do the different zoning categories in the map's legend mean?

Commercial Center

A designation for mixed-use, commercial and flex employment building types. The residential fabric is more intense and intended to support employment uses in this area. Public space will be more urban (i.e. plazas, pocket plazas, squares, etc.) and integrated with a tight network of streets with wide sidewalks, trees and buildings set close to the sidewalks.

Urban Village

A designation for mixed-use and more intense residential and commercial development served by smaller, more urban open space such as plazas and pocket parks, yet tied to the larger City by streets, trails, bike lanes and paths.

Urban Neighborhood

A mixed-use but primarily a residential area. This designation has a wide range of building types with small apartment, shop front and mixed-use buildings placed on corner lots, with townhomes, cottage homes and live-work units occupying interior lots. Designed to create a pedestrian friendly neighborhood, as compared to Urban Village, which is interspersed with public open space.

New Neighborhood

A designation for largely single-family neighborhoods geared to creating more pedestrian-friendly communities interspersed with public open space.

Rural Neighborhood

A designation for single-family neighborhoods that are rural in nature, such as estate homes, farmhouses and agricultural buildings, which are centered on large parks, greenways and existing vegetative corridors. New construction will still adhere to a build-to zone rather than a minimum setback in order to support successional urbanism for future generations.



City Manager Presents Mid-year Update

City is at the Fiscal Year 2014 Mid-point – Here is a Progress Report!

Each year, City staff develops an organizational work plan based on the goals established to support the City’s mission. On Tuesday, April 15, City Manager Brian

Funderburk shared with the City Council some of the great news and real highlights in the operation of the City of Rowlett thus far in Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 2014).

“Fiscal Year 2014 has been a busy year, and we’re just getting started!”

Brian Funderburk
City Manager

A Citizen Centered Organization that Ensures its Citizens Receive Value for their Investment

City of Rowlett Mission



Mayor Gottel serves at the annual appreciation luncheon the City Council sponsors for employees.



The City held six Rowlett, My Community, My Money, My Choice community meetings.



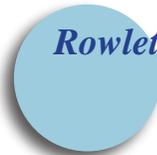
As a community, we owe our City Council a debt of gratitude. They are not only the governing body of our City, but are all extremely active in our community, never missing an opportunity to attend events, meetings, citizen gatherings...you name it, they are there! As a testament to this leadership, and to the commitment of your City staff, Rowlett was named the **#1 Small City to Move To** by Movoto Real Estate AND the **#19 Safest City in Texas** by Safewise.



In December of 2013, Brian Funderburk was named City Manager. A 10-year City employee, Brian previously held the positions of Director of Finance and Administration and Assistant City Manager.



Mayor Gottel delivered the Annual State of the City Address at the City Council meeting on January 21. Watch it on the City’s YouTube channel [here!](#)



Rowlett held a Town Hall Meeting at the Community Centre on January 23. The format of this year’s event was a much more intimate, conversational atmosphere as Council opted for an open “living room” setting versus a formal dais to encourage dialogue with the citizens attending.



The Rowlett, My Community, My Money, My Choice series of six meetings just wrapped up in April. This educational campaign engaged citizens in an honest conversation about what the City’s financial future looks like.



Leadership Rowlett Class XXIII enjoyed a City of Rowlett Day



The City now provides a School Resource Officer at Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary.



Now in its tenth year of operation, the Rowlett CERT program has volunteered nearly 40,000 service hours valued at over \$870,000!

Leadership Rowlett Class XXIII

enjoyed a City of Rowlett Day as part of their training schedule. Leadership Rowlett develops personal, organizational and leadership skills and the City is a proud participant in this invaluable program. City staff graduates of this session, which wrapped up on March 26, include Assistant Police Chief Paul Sandman, Community Services Officer Chad Caldwell and Assistant Director of Infrastructure Services Robbin Webber. Councilmember Debby Bobbitt also attended this session.

In October,

the City participated in the 30th Annual National Night Out event. 20 Rowlett neighborhoods held events and enjoyed visiting with Mayor Gottle and City Councilmembers, along with City staff who brought all kinds of City vehicles and equipment.

The 32nd Citizen Police Academy

ran in the fall and graduated 16 participants, the 33rd session began in March and has a class of 34! Citizens who attend this engaging, hands-on weekly class learn about the inner-workings of the Rowlett Police Department, enjoy ride-alongs and a trip to the gun range. After graduation, participants are eligible to join the police department's VIPs program, Volunteers in Police Services.

The City Council approved a resolution

to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Rockwall Independent School District for the City to provide a School Resource Officer at Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary School in the Rockwall County portion of the City. School Resource Officers are already in place in the Rowlett schools that fall in the Garland Independent School District.

The City implemented

a new mass notification service, Connect Rowlett. This service has enhanced functionality and efficiency, allowing citizens to create their own profile of what information they want to receive and when, and any health conditions family members might have. This information is extremely valuable to emergency services personnel and can save valuable minutes in an emergency.

Volunteers make a difference!

10,015 volunteer hours have been donated so far this fiscal year, which equals 10 full time employees, for a cost savings of \$226,033!

Volunteers are celebrated at an annual banquet, held this year in January.

This year's honorees are:

Volunteer of the Year – Lee Shaw

Platinum Volunteer Award – Benny Stovall

Diamond Award – Sharon Porter

Richard Huff Excellence in Community Service Award – Jerry Barshop

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT),

in conjunction with the Fire Marshal's Office, held a smoke alarm blitz last fall. They targeted 203 homes in an older neighborhood for a door-to-door campaign to replace non-working smoke alarms and batteries. CERT also joined 16 other CERT agencies for the North Central Texas Urban Shield Exercise in November. This is an important training tool in the functional readiness of the 105 Rowlett CERT members who stand at the ready for disasters or other emergencies in our community!



2nd Second Year Award

Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Gold Member

Strong financial stewardship of taxpayers' dollars continues!

Strong Financial Stewardship update:

- Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) raised the City of Rowlett's GO bond rating from AA- to AA, including a stable outlook and Moody's Rating Services affirmed the City's Aa2 rating.
- The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rowlett for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012.
- Rowlett has been recognized as the Gold Standard of Transparency from the State of Texas Comptroller's Office for proudly offering the City's monthly check register by the 15th of each month, financial reports, the complete budget and more at Rowlett.com.
- As it has for the past ten years, the City received the GFOA award for the Annual Budget.
- 385 Purchase Orders valued at \$17.9 million have been issued
- 10.1% savings from next low bid to high bid
- Utilized 67 interlocal agreements for volume buying power totaling \$1.9 million
- \$1.9 million in value awarded to Rowlett vendors thru April 1!

Four departments are working toward accreditation, which

provides the opportunity to evaluate what we do and how we do it measured against recommended standards of excellence, to ensure we are providing the right service, the right way.

Fire Rescue – 10%, expected completion – 2015

Parks & Recreation – 90%, expected completion – fall 2014

Public Works & Development – 20%, expected completion – summer 2015

Police – 75%, expected completion – summer 2014

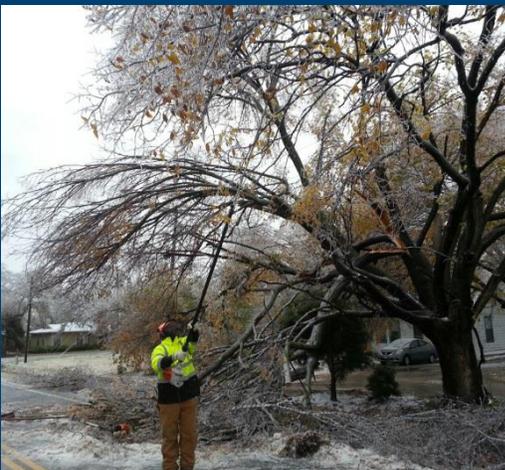
The Rowlett Library, already an accredited agency, received the Achievement of Library Excellence Award. This is the ninth consecutive year, and only 28 out of 560 public libraries in Texas received this award.

Icemageddon! The ice storm of December 2013.

- Oncor said it was the worst ice storm in the history of their company.
- 800,000 lost power in North Texas, 7,000 in Rowlett alone, some for several weeks.
- Rowlett had 14 sewer lift stations out of power at one point.
- Rowlett opened the RCC as a warming station for those without power.
- Rowlett staff immediately deployed to clear debris from thoroughfares, lay deicing solutions, distribute alternatives to traffic signals until power was restored to them, etc.
- Cleanup took 2 months. 2,200 tons of debris were removed at a cost of \$285,637.
- Cleanup effort was completed by February 3.



Library recieved the Achievement of Library Excellence Award...one of only 28 out of 560 libraries!



Cleanup efforts from December's ice storm took 2 months. 2,200 tons of debris were removed at a cost of \$285,637.



DR Horton broke ground on a two-story, 25,000 square foot office facility bringing 50-60 new jobs to Rowlett!



115 City of Rowlett employees were recognized for their Above and Beyond level of customer service.



Over 130 volunteers took part in the Lakeside Park Cleanup Day in April.

Economic Development activity:

- 47 Certificates of Occupancy issued
- 19 Commercial construction permits at a value of \$3.2 million
- 160 New jobs created

Three high quality projects were approved, *The Homestead at Liberty Grove, Terra Lago and Harmony Hills* have the ability to add nearly \$200 million in private investment with 1,133 new units. Over 10 years, this could add over \$10 million just in property taxes alone.

The City participated in DR Horton's groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, Feb. 28. They are building a two-story 25,000 square foot office facility to house mortgage and title operations relocating from Plano. The project is estimated to generate a private investment of \$4 million and 50-60 new jobs!

Life Saving Awards

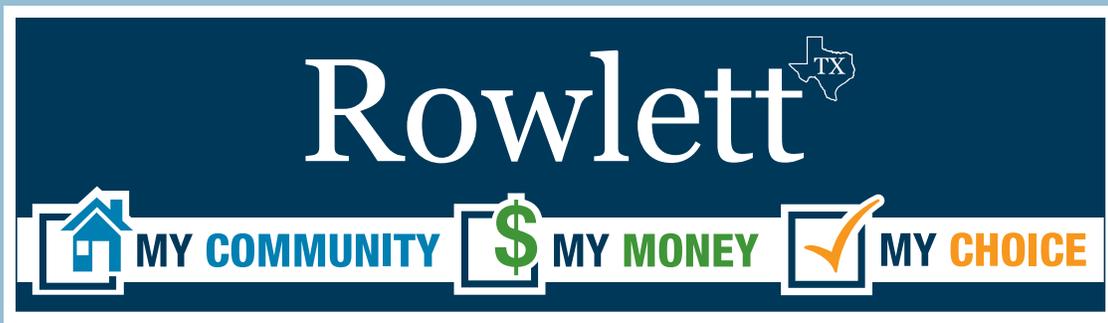
Baylor Medical Center at Garland recognized Rowlett Fire Rescue-Station 1 C-Shift emergency medical service providers with the *STEMI Emmy* award for the third quarter of 2013. This award is given quarterly to the EMS crew with the best overall response time for a St-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).

Officers Ryan Doherty and Edgar Borusqueta were awarded the *Police Lifesaving Award* for an incident in January. Both officers had a direct impact on saving an individual's life who was actively demonstrating his ability to commit grievous bodily injury to himself. Without the Officers' immediate actions, this call could have ended tragically.

City Employees are Here to Serve! The 3rd Annual Employee Recognition Reception and Ceremony recognized 115 employees who exceeded the high standards of customer service set forth in our citizen centered organization.

A joint project at Lakeside Park between Parks and Recreation and Public Works has protected our community's investment and enhanced this beautiful City amenity. Due to the drought, erosion is threatening Lakeside Park. In considering various options, staff opted for a pilot project to stabilize the shoreline and protect the natural beauty of the park. On April 5, the City held a Lakeside Park Cleanup Day with over 130 volunteers making playground and landscaping improvements and cleaning trash from the lake shore. The project cost a total of \$20,613 for materials and will be used as a model for additional work at the park.

The City held its Putts for Paws Golf Tournament at Waterview Golf Course on Thursday, October 17. \$6,231 was raised, which was used to purchase a surgery/exam table.



Frequently Asked Questions

Recently, the City held a series of six community meetings to receive citizen input on the City's financial future. If you were unable to attend one of them and provide YOUR input, please take a moment and take the survey online. The cumulative

results of input offered at the meetings and from this online survey will be presented to the City Council on Tuesday, June 10 and will be available on the City's website after that at www.rowlett.com/myrowlett.

1 What is the Rowlett, My Community, My Money, My Choice Campaign?

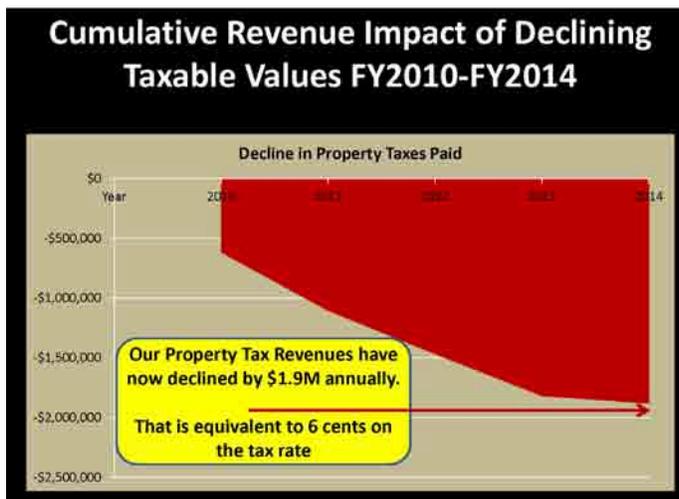
The My Rowlett Campaign is a community based program to engage our citizens in an honest conversation about what our future looks like. The purpose of the program is to educate our

citizens on the value of the programs and services they receive for their tax dollar and gauge the willingness of our citizens on possible service reductions or increases in the property tax rate.

2 Why is the City considering reducing services or increasing taxes?

The simple answer is that we cannot sustain the levels of service we currently provide to our Citizens without additional funding. Since Fiscal Year 2010, our property tax revenues have declined \$1.9 million dollars. As you can see from the chart below, that is the equivalent of 6 cents on our property tax rate.

After cutting employees, operating costs and deferring maintenance over the past 6 years to accommodate revenue decline, we have a dilemma. Our infrastructure (streets, alleys, parks, etc.) are aging. Therefore, the question we have to ask ourselves now, as described in the chart below, is this...if nothing changes between now and FY2015, what happens?



Our Dilemma - If Nothing Changes Between Now and FY2015, What Happens?

Raise Taxes and Fees

How much of an increase in taxes or service fees will Citizens accept?

If we do not diversify our development, we may not be able to stabilize or grow our tax base.

The vision of *Realize Rowlett 2020* is important to help the City realize its potential and grow its tax base.

Cut Services

With no additional funding, we must cut or reduce services and amenities –

Who will visit here? Who will build here? Who will move here?

Like the rest of America, the cost of doing business has increased

All services...like the ones that made Rowlett the #1 Small City in America to Move to...are at risk.

3 Why can't the City bring more business into Rowlett and shift some of the taxpayer burden off of residential properties?

Rowlett is already over 65% built-out. And, 81% of our taxable value is residential. Furthermore, based on our land use plan, only 10% of the remaining land left to develop is zoned commercial. Therefore, we will always be primarily a residential community. That means that while we will increase

our commercial tax base over time, it won't be at a level necessary to significantly shift the tax burden. In addition, although there are several promising developments on the way, it will take years for those developments to completely build out and provide much needed tax revenue to the City.

4 How much will the average homeowner pay if the City increases the property tax rate?

The average taxable value of our residential properties for the current fiscal year is \$133,429. Based on that value, each penny will add \$13.34 annually or about 4 cents a day. For reference, we have added the table below to show the amount of taxes

the average homeowner would pay per penny tax increase. In addition, we've also included approximately how much revenue each penny will generate to the City.

Penny on the Tax Rate	Annual Cost to Average Rowlett Homeowner	Daily Cost to Average Rowlett Homeowner*	Annual Revenue Impact to City
1¢	\$13.34	\$0.04	\$311,650
2¢	\$26.68	\$0.08	\$623,300
3¢	\$40.02	\$0.12	\$934,950
4¢	\$53.36	\$0.16	\$1,246,600
5¢	\$66.70	\$0.20	\$1,558,250

*Note: rounding

To find out how much each penny of the tax rate currently costs you for your home, find your market value from the appraisal

district (Dallas County is www.dcad.org, Rockwall County is www.rockwallcad.com) and [use this handy calculator](#).

5 How much of a tax increase is the City considering?

Although the City is still working on developing its budget proposal for the next two years, realistically, it is possible that our shortfall will be equivalent to about 4-6 cents on the tax rate. There are three factors that will influence the final amount.

- An overall increase or decrease in taxable value; and/or
- The amount of fees increased or cuts identified by staff through its budget scrubbing exercise; and/or
- Actual services reduced through the budget process this summer.

6 Will a tax rate increase affect seniors over 65 years of age?

The answer is no. The City of Rowlett is among 7 cities out of 31 in Dallas County that has adopted the **Senior Tax Freeze**. By a constitutional amendment from the State of Texas, any city who adopts this *Freeze* cannot “un-adopt” it later. In addition, **the freeze is based on the amount of annual taxes paid when the senior tax exemption is first awarded**. The statute refers to this as the tax “ceiling”. Even if the taxable value increases, seniors who receive this benefit now will not pay any additional property taxes to the City beyond the initial tax ceiling they received when they first turned 65.

taxable assessed value of \$133,429 after receiving the Regular Homestead Exemption of \$5,000. Based on that value, they would pay \$997 in property taxes to the City of Rowlett. When that individual becomes 65 in 2015, they would receive an additional \$67,000 Senior Tax Exemption reducing the total assessed value to \$66,429. The annual property taxes paid would drop by nearly 50%, from \$997 to \$496. In the example below, since the City of Rowlett adopted the Senior Tax Freeze, the amount of property taxes paid would cap at \$496 in the future even if the market value increases over time. This is because the Freeze, or ceiling, is based on the property taxes paid and not the taxable assessed value as illustrated in the table below.

For example, an individual who is 64 in 2014 and owns a residence with a total market value of \$138,429 would have a

Example Chart

Year	Age	Market Value	Taxable Assessed Value	Annual Property Taxes Paid
2014	64	\$138,429	\$133,429	\$997
2015	65	\$138,429	\$66,429	\$496
2016	66	\$138,429	\$66,429	\$496
2017	67	\$142,582	\$70,582	\$496
2018	68	\$142,582	\$70,582	\$496
2019	69	\$142,582	\$70,582	\$496



7 What is the breakdown of the taxes paid by the Rockwall County taxpayer?

This is a great question and should have been included in the presentation. The City of Rowlett is located in two counties, approximately 1/6 of our taxable value is in Rockwall County and the remaining portion is in Dallas County. While the City's

portion of property taxes paid is still about 1/4 in both counties, the remaining taxing entities are quite different. The chart below shows the comparison between the two.

Dallas County			Rockwall County		
Taxing Entity	2014 Tax Rate*	Percent of Total Tax Bill	Taxing Entity	2014 Tax Rate*	Percent of Total Tax Bill
Garland ISD	\$1.2533	47.2%	Rockwall ISD	\$1.4700	56.5%
Rowlett	\$0.7471	28.1%	Rowlett	\$0.7471	28.7%
Dallas County	\$0.2531	9.5%	Rockwall County	\$0.3864	14.8%
Parkland Hospital	\$0.2760	10.5%			
DCCCD	\$0.1247	4.7%			
*Per \$100 of Assessed Value			*Per \$100 of Assessed Value		

2014 Tax Rate for Rowlett Residents in Dallas County

2014 Tax Rate for Rowlett Residents in Rockwall County

8 What are we unnecessarily spending and how is that spending prioritized against infrastructure?

As mentioned in the *My Rowlett* presentation, the decline in the City's property tax revenues has reached the level of \$1.9 million since Fiscal Year 2010. As a result, we have reduced employees, cut operating costs, and deferred maintenance, all typical reactions to a revenue decline during a recession. Therefore, there isn't much left in our operating budget that we would consider "unnecessary". Aside from that, the City already sets aside \$6.1 million per year out of its operating funds to

repair, maintain or otherwise protect our infrastructure. What that level of funding cannot do is address streets, alleys and other infrastructure that are in such a state of deterioration that they must be "reconstructed" or essentially rebuilt. For that, the City will need to sell general obligation bonds that will require voter approval. This election is currently planned for May 2015 and will provide a much needed source of funding for these types of major expenses.

9 Does the City have a five year budget?

The City of Rowlett believes that long-term planning is an essential ingredient for success. As a result, we prepare and submit a two-year budget as part of our annual budget process. Based on our Home Rule Charter, the City Council then adopts the first year; therefore, the second year is for planning purposes. In addition to the two-year budget, the City also prepares a five year financial model to assess risk, evaluate policy changes, and evaluate revenue needs based on known or predicted expenses. This five year financial planning model allows us to see how the decisions we make today will impact our future. In most cases, the model doesn't change

the decisions we make today but it allows us to see their future impact. Identifying these impacts today provides opportunities for strategic planning rather than encountering "unintended consequences" of today's decisions in the future. Another benefit that financial planning has provided us is that it allowed us to develop a much needed "bridge" to Fiscal Year 2015, in order to provide time for economic development to begin to occur as a result of the opening of President George Bush Tollway (PGBT) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and the completion of the City's comprehensive land use plan, Realize Rowlett 2020.

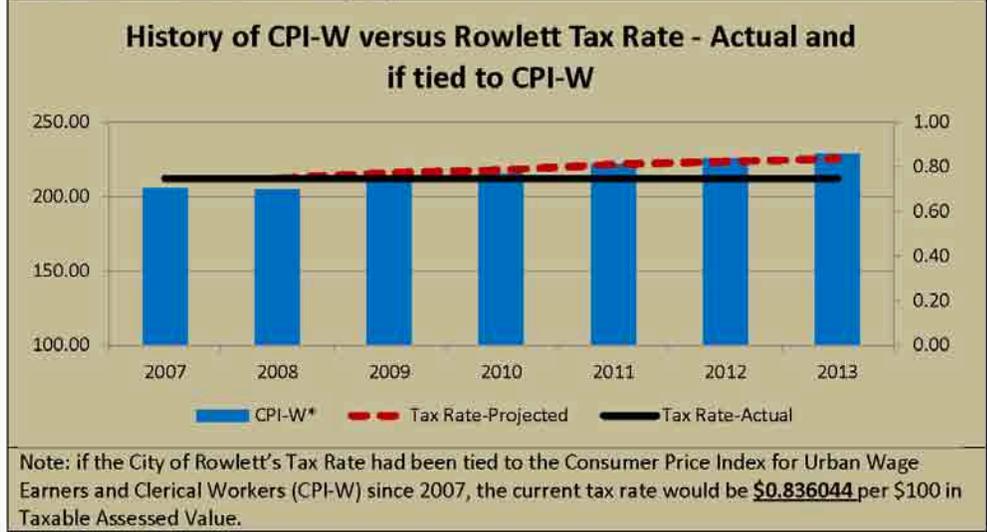
10 What would happen to the property tax rate if the City tied it to an index such as the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)?

Tying the City's tax rate to an index comes with certain challenges. For example, since 2007, the CPI-W has increased 11.4%, from 205.777 to 229.174. Hypothetically, if we had tied the Rowlett Tax Rate to the CPI-W since 2007, the tax rate in FY2014 would be \$0.836044, or 8.88 cents higher than today and would bring in an additional \$2,770,560 annually (see chart

below). For the sake of this analysis, we have assumed that the rate would not have been reduced in 2008 which was the only year that the index declined by roughly 1/2 of one percent. We would have to also remember that this increase would have occurred during the Great Recession and while overall property values were declining.

Calendar Year	CPI-W*	Percent Change	Tax Rate-Projected under CPI-W	Tax Rate-Actual
2007	205.777	4.3%	0.747173	0.747173
2008	204.813	-0.5%	0.747173	0.747173
2009	211.703	3.4%	0.772308	0.747173
2010	215.262	1.7%	0.785292	0.747173
2011	222.166	3.2%	0.810478	0.747173
2012	225.889	1.7%	0.824060	0.747173
2013	229.174	1.5%	0.836044	0.747173

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Dec)



How much are we spending on crime because of DART?

While it is difficult to attribute the number of crimes directly associated to the presence of DART, we would note that we have responded to over 128 suspicious person calls in the downtown area since DART began. However, while we believe that most of the calls have been related to DART riders, the number of reported incidences roughly add up to one per week and have had only a minimal impact. Our Police Department continues to monitor the DART traffic very closely to help ensure the safety of our citizens.



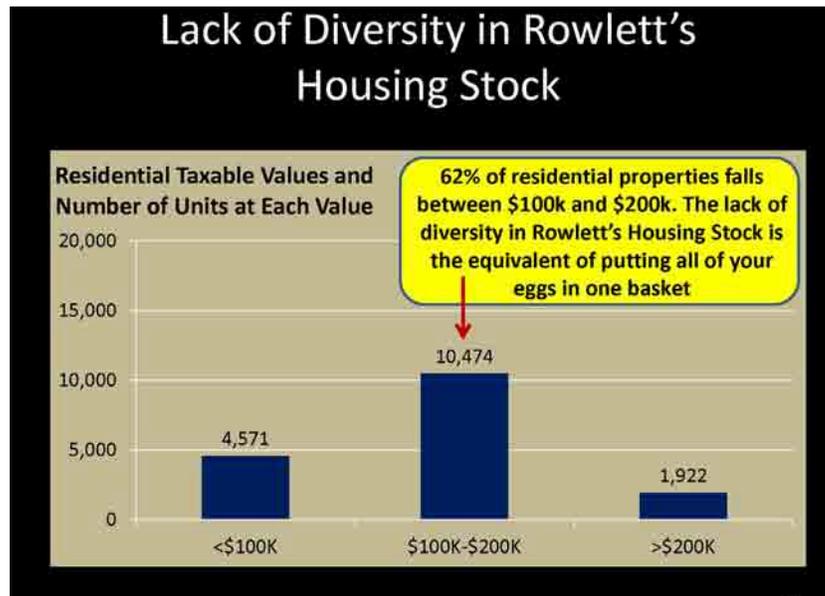
12 Can you explain the correlation about the housing diversity slide?

In the My Rowlett presentation, the City has recognized that the lack of diversity in our housing stock is one of the reasons that some DFW cities performed better (i.e. had a lower decrease in property tax values) during the Great Recession (roughly 2008-2012) than Rowlett. Some notable examples included Plano, Richardson, Frisco, etc. We note that 62% of our residential properties have a taxable value between \$100,000 and \$200,000 as seen in the charts below.

While not conclusive, the correlation that we have drawn is similar to that of an investment portfolio. The fundamental principle of investing is not to put all of your eggs in one basket. This principle suggests that you provide balance between your investments to include multiple asset types such as stocks,

bonds, mutual funds, etc. The idea is that if you buy only stocks and the market declines, you may have all of your portfolio decrease at the same time. However, if you owned both stocks and bonds (or other instruments), one market may decline while the other actually increases, thereby providing a level of stability for your portfolio as a whole.

In Rowlett, since so much of our housing stock was within such a tight market segment (i.e. single-family homes between \$100,000-\$200,000), when the market for that particular type of housing decreased in value, it had a bigger impact on our overall tax value, and therefore, our annual revenue for the City's budget.



13 How has the cost for School Resource Officers increased?

The City provides five school resource officers whose primary function is to work at and with the schools. The Garland Independent School District (GISD) pays 50% of the salaries and benefits for these officers for a fiscal year and the City of Rowlett is responsible for the remaining 50%. Last year, we received \$205,579 from GISD for those services at a cost

of approximately \$411,159. The net fiscal impact to the City of Rowlett, just for the salaries and benefits, was \$205,580. The City is also 100% responsible for the cost of outfitting, equipping and training those officers - for which we do not receive any reimbursement.

Fiscal Year	Gross Salaries and Benefits	GISD Contribution	Net Cost to Rowlett
2011	\$422,504	\$211,252	\$211,252
2012	\$423,837	\$211,918	\$211,919
2013	\$411,159	\$205,579	\$205,580
2014	\$424,390	\$212,195	\$212,195

We appreciate the time and interest our taxpayers have provided us. Your feedback is invaluable!
 For more information, including the four-page flyer mailed to every home in Rowlett prior to the campaign, the presentation delivered at the six community meetings, and even take the online survey, please visit www.rowlett.com/myrowlett/

Once Every Two Week Landscape Watering *in Effect Through AT LEAST May 31!*



North Texas Municipal Water District Continues Stage 3 Water Restrictions

DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE RESULTING IN CRITICALLY LOW LAKE LEVELS

The City of Rowlett is a customer city of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), meaning the City purchases its water from the District and is subject to their implementation of water restrictions and the rules each level brings. Last April, the NTMWD Board of Directors voted to implement Stage 3 of its Drought Plan, and we remain there today due to below average rainfall and low lake levels.

The goal of Stage 3 is a 10% reduction in water use and increased awareness in ongoing water conservation efforts.

As of April 29, Lake Lavon was only 50.4% full. Lake Chapman, another NTMWD water source, was down to 39% full. In addition, the water district still cannot use water from Lake Texoma due to the presence of invasive zebra mussels. Lake Texoma normally provides 28% of NTMWD's total raw water supply.

A new pipeline is being constructed to transport water from Lake Texoma directly to the Wylie water treatment plant, bypassing Lake Lavon, but the first phase of that project will not be online until June of this year.

STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE:

PROHIBIT
OPERATION OF
ALL ORNAMENTAL
FOUNTAINS TO THE
EXTENT THEY USE
TREATED WATER.

PROHIBIT WASHING
OR RINSING OF
VEHICLES BY HOSE
EXCEPT WITH A
HOSE END CUTOFF
NOZZLE.

EXISTING SWIMMING
POOLS MAY NOT
BE DRAINED AND
REFILLED (EXCEPT
TO REPLACE
NORMAL WATER
LOSS).

PROHIBIT USING
WATER IN SUCH
A MANNER AS TO
ALLOW RUNOFF OR
OTHER WASTE.

PROHIBIT
HYDRO-
SEEDING,
HYDRO-
MULCHING, OVER-
SEEDING, AND
SPRIGGING.

WHEN CAN I WATER?

Landscape watering is allowed once every fourteen days based on the last number of your physical address.

No landscape watering is allowed between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Exceptions to this Schedule

Foundations, new landscaping, new plantings (first year) of shrubs, and trees may be watered for up to 2 hours on any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a drip/bubbler irrigation system.

Registered and properly functioning ET/Smart irrigation systems and drip/bubbler irrigation systems may irrigate without restrictions.

Golf courses, using NTMWD water, may water greens and tee boxes without restrictions.

Locations using other water sources such as well water, water reuse, or reclaimed water for irrigation may irrigate without restrictions.

Public athletic fields used for competition may be watered twice per week.

MAY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				NO WATERING		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	3 & 4	1	6 & 7	2	8 & 9	5
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
NO WATERING						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
0	3 & 4	1	6 & 7	2	8 & 9	5
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NO WATERING						
						Watering Day: Use Last Digit In Address



View the [NTMWD Water Plan](#).
For More Information call the City of Rowlett
Action Center at 972-412-6100.

City Council Elections

Offices up for Election:
Place One
Place Three
Place Five



The City of Rowlett elects its Councilmembers on the uniform election date in May, this year that will be Saturday, May 10. For this election, there will be three positions on the ballot: Councilmember Place One, Councilmember Place Three and Councilmember Place Five.

Why vote?

96% of registered voters in Rowlett did NOT vote in the last local election. Ask yourself: Did my water turn on this morning? Did my trash get picked up today? Can I get to work driving on a road that is not chock full of potholes? Will someone put out the fire if my or my neighbor's house catches on fire? Will someone apprehend the suspicious person

lurking in the alley?

Those questions are all answered by your city elected officials. The City Council are the officials who set the property tax rate, which allows for the budget that provides for water and sewer services, street department staff and materials, public safety staff and training. The Council also approves the trash collection and mowing contracts that ensure Rowlett is a beautiful community. The Council determines the allocations that provide for the services that happen without you having to think about it. These are the things that affect you daily.

Early Voting - April 28 through May 6
Election Day - Saturday, May 10

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Lakeside Park Cleanup Day

On Saturday, April 5, the Parks and Recreation Department partnered with Public Works and Keep Rowlett Beautiful to host the Great American Cleanup at Lakeside Park from 9:00am – 2:00pm. 130 volunteers, including church and scouting groups and a class from Schrade middle school, assisted with landscape projects, litter removal along the shoreline and implemented playground surface improvements.



Scouts Help Out at the Library

Boy Scouts from Troop 1020 “spiffed up” the Library on the morning of Saturday, March 29. Led by Assistant Scoutmaster Gary Pittman, the Scouts oiled wooden benches and cleaned the Mark Twain and “Bookworms” statues, leaving a fresh look for spring and upcoming community events. Caring for the statues, gifts of Friends of the Library, Inc., has been a long-standing project of Troop 1020.



Animal Shelter - 96% Live Release Rate!

The 96% live release rate is an astounding accomplishment, considering the statewide average typically hovers between 30-40%. This truly illustrates that the caring and compassionate staff at your Rowlett Animal Shelter are extremely motivated to place every pet possible. They accomplish this through the creative utilization of an online service called Petfinder, by advertising animals for adoption on the City’s website, partnering with the Friends of Rowlett Animals (FRAS) and various breed-specific and other rescue groups, four adopt-a-thons per year, they even hold extra adopt-a-thons when the shelter is at capacity.

For example, on April 4, a female Lab mix was picked up in the industrial area off Grisham after wandering into one of the manufacturing shops. The business owner noticed she was dragging her swollen, broken leg and immediately called. Her x-rays indeed showed two clean breaks in that leg. After she was treated, shelter staff immediately started networking in hopes that a rescue would step forward and pick her up.

Sure enough, on April 7, Bones Pet Rescue (aka God’s Dogs) called saying that they would take her. They picked her up that very day and recently sent an update saying she is healing very well and on her way to becoming best friend to a new family!

“Icemaggedon 2013” Update

Cleanup Costs Result in Refuse Fee Surcharge

\$3.02 MONTHLY SURCHARGE IN EFFECT MAY – SEPTEMBER

What happened?

The North Texas region experienced an extreme ice storm event the weekend of December 7-8, 2013. Damage from the ice storm was extensive across the City of Rowlett, including downed power lines and trees. In the aftermath of the

event, both City forces and Waste Management provided additional effort to collect the tree and brush debris from thoroughfares and residential neighborhoods.

Why did the City contract extra assistance?

The City’s contract with Waste Management allows them to provide additional services for an additional charge to the City for these types of cleanups. Starting in mid-December Waste Management scheduled additional crews specifically for storm debris cleanup on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

By mid-January, it became apparent that additional resources would have to be contracted

in order to expedite the cleanup effort and clear the massive amount of debris in a timely manner. At the City’s request, Waste Management engaged a tree and disaster relief service to facilitate this effort. The City also negotiated permission to dispose of this debris at the C.M. Hinton Landfill, owned by the City of Garland, at a competitive rate. This significantly reduced turnaround times for these cleanup crews, which cut costs exponentially.

How much did this cost?

The resultant costs to the City of Rowlett totaled **\$285,637**. This includes additional expenses for Waste Management’s efforts, the disaster relief

sub-contractor that worked from January 23 until February 3, and the C.M. Hinton landfill charges.

Why are the citizens being asked to cover this cost, why aren’t tax dollars being utilized?

This was an unbudgeted expense. The Refuse Fund exists primarily to collect fees from customers and disburse funds to Waste Management. The rate paid by Rowlett citizens is calculated to cover the cost of this service and provides a nominal amount for street and alley repair. The rate does not take into consideration the expenses for this type of extreme event.

The City Council considered three options:

First, a transfer from the General Fund could be made to the Refuse Fund to pay for these expenses. However, this would impact reserve levels and could possibly reduce reserves below the 13% required by City policy. That would necessitate a review of the operating budget and cuts to other operations in the General Fund to keep reserves at the required level. The City Council decided against this option.

A second option would be to reduce the amount of funds transferred for street and alley repairs. The City Council considered this; however, given the current state of many of the City’s alleys, decided against this option.

The third option considered was the surcharge. The City Council reached consensus that this was the best option to make sure the Refuse Fund remained solvent.

How did the City come up with a \$3.02 surcharge for the next five months?

The expense occurred in Fiscal Year 2014. It is prudent financial practice that the amount be collected in the same fiscal year to offset the expense. The total amount paid to Waste Management for debris removal and disposal is

\$285,637. Based on 18,909 refuse customers, that equates to \$15.10 per customer. There are five months remaining in the fiscal year to bill the surcharge, or \$3.02 per month.

How will customers be billed?

Starting with the City utility bill in May, customers will see a separate line item on their bill regarding the FY 2014 Storm Cleanup Surcharge.

The City Council directed staff to include this on the utility bills for May through September of 2014. The surcharge will expire in October.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Memorial Day/Touch-a-Truck

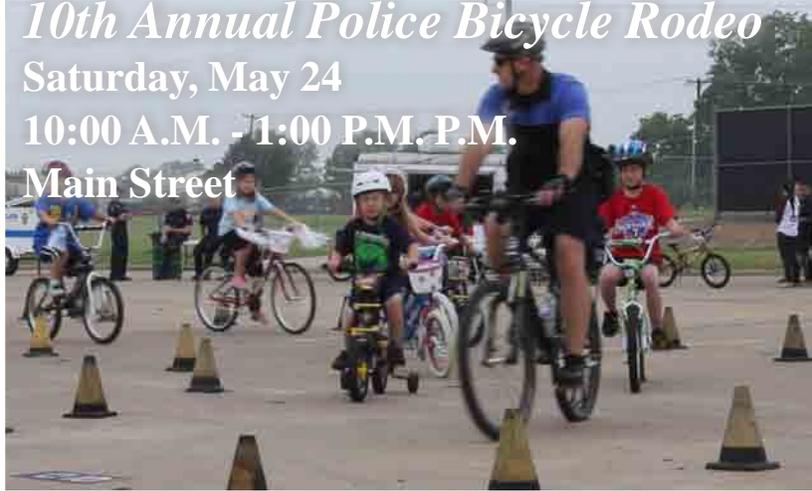
Saturday, May 24
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Main Street



The City of Rowlett comes together to honor the brave men and women who dedicated their lives to preserving our freedom. The day begins as citizens, friends and family gather at Veterans Park to pay homage to our fallen soldiers at 10:00 A.M. This special day continues with Touch-A-Truck, a fun and educational opportunity for children of all ages to touch, climb on and explore over 25 trucks lined up on Main Street. We will have a fire truck, ambulance, 18-wheeler, school bus and much more!

10th Annual Police Bicycle Rodeo

Saturday, May 24
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Main Street



Join the Rowlett Police Department for this always-popular, fun, free family event designed to teach kids 12 and under the importance of bicycle safety and the traffic laws that apply to bicycles on the roadway.

Please bring your bicycle, safety helmet and don't forget your camera! Children participating in the rodeo will ride on a special bike course and can get their photos taken with members of the Rowlett Police Department Bike Patrol Unit. Don't miss out on the door prizes and drawings for new bicycles! We ask that all children be accompanied by an adult.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES



Silver Cinema
Monday, May 5 -
"Gone with the Wind"
2:00 P.M.
Rowlett Library

Relive the glitz and glamour that was the Golden Age of Hollywood with this series of free, monthly showings of classic, old

Hollywood productions. Free popcorn, too!



AARP Smart Drivers Class
Saturday, May 3
9:00 - 1:00 P.M.
\$20 for Non AARP Members
\$15 for AARP Members

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older and has helped millions of drivers remain safe on today's roads. It is designed to help tune up driving skills and update knowledge of the rules of the road.



Fire Extinguisher Operations
Tuesday, May 6
10:00 A.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner will speak on the importance of having a home fire extinguisher, the correct way to operate the

device and how to put out a small fire at this free program for Rowlett seniors.



Mother's Day Breakfast
Friday, May 10
8:30 A.M.
Rowlett Community Centre
\$5

Mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters come together and celebrate Motherhood! Treat Mom to a special catered breakfast just for her.

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 26

UNSUNG PUBLIC SERVICE HEROES!

May is a Unique Month in City Government

May contains Memorial Day, honoring members of the armed forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our country and its freedoms, National Public Works Week, National Police Week and National Emergency Medical Services Week. Therefore the City of Rowlett is celebrating our Unsung Public Service Heroes, as well as employees who have served, or are still serving, in the military!

National Police Week

May 11 - 17



In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in

1962, National Police Week is dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community, paying special recognition to those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

YOUR ROWLETT POLICE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A SIX-MINUTE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME!

National Public Works Week

May 18 - 24



This week celebrates the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. In Rowlett, these employees are truly our unsung heroes. They are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Christmas, Easter, 4th of July and all the other family holidays. They are called out in the middle of the night to repair water issues that affect Rowlett residents' daily quality of life, and often those repairs are complete by the time we wake up and we never know anything was wrong. They are the first to respond when the

roads become icy, applying sand and de-icing materials so that we might all get to work and school the next morning safely. This is all in addition to planning, engineering, constructing, maintaining and repairing every aspect of the City's water, sewer and streets on a daily basis.

We owe our Public Works Department a debt of gratitude every morning when our toilets flush, our showers clean and refresh us with adequate water pressure and as we travel to work and school on well-maintained streets.

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR SHOWER THIS MORNING? TRAVEL ON WELL-MAINTAINED STREETS? DID YOUR TOILET FLUSH?

THANK YOUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT!

**National Emergency
Services Week**

May 18 - 24



This celebration brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

In Rowlett, citizens are served by an award-winning EMS team who collectively provide some of the best pre-hospital care in Texas on a daily basis.

In fact, 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.

"This award recognizes Rowlett Fire Rescue's commitment and efforts in saving patients' lives,"

says Tom Trenary, president at Baylor Medical Center at Garland.

This award is given quarterly to the EMS crew with the best overall response time for a St-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).

**City of Rowlett
employees have
a proud record of
exemplary service to
this community.**

**We would like
to take this
opportunity
to thank these
employees
for their service to our
country as well!**

POLICE

- William Alsbrook, *United States Army*
- Horace Anderson, *United States Marine Corp*
- Leroy Brantley, *United States Air Force*
- Joe Cabler, *United States Air Force*
- Jeffrey Carey, *United States Air Force*
- Anthony Castiglione, *United States Navy*
- Timothy Coykendall, *United States Air Force*
- Ryan Doherty, *United States Air Force, Air National Guard*
- Jose Duran, *United States Marine Corp*
- David Erickson, *United States Air Force*
- Jeffrey Gentry, *United States Marine Corp*
- Mace Granado, *United States Army*
- Jimmie Graves, *United States Air Force*
- Timothy Hardman, *United States Army*
- Kevin Harrelson, *United States Air Force*
- Brandon Herring, *United States Air Force*
- Bill Hoedebeck, *United States Army*
- Charles Hoff, *United States Air Force*
- Ben Holmes, *United States Marine Corp*
- JJ Jones, *United States Air Force*
- Darsel Moore, *United States Air Force*

- Dean Poos, *United States Marine Corp*
- Nilan Reid, *United States Navy*
- Bruce Richardson, *United States Marine Corp*
- Gracie Richardson, *United States Marine Corp*
- Robert Rudisill, *United States Army*
- Paul Sandman, *United States Marine Corp*
- Eric Shing, *United States Air Force*
- Andres Spivey, *United States Army*
- Robert Steed, III, *United States Army*
- Juan Vallejo, *United States Army*
- Bob Williams, *United States Air Force*

- David Waters, *United States Marine Corp*
- Adam Whitt, *United States Army*
- Bob Williams, *United States Air Force*

HUMAN RESOURCES

- John Murray, *United States Air Force*

LIBRARY

- Elaine Rowe, *United States Air Force*

FACILITIES

- Oscar Ornelas, *United States Army*
- Karl Taylor, *United States Marine Corp*

FIRE RESCUE

- Greg Deere, *United States Marine Corp*
- Wayne Dornich, *United States Army*
- Brent Grant, *United States Navy*
- Matthew Milles, *United States Air Force*
- Joe Moore, *United States Army*
- Jeremy Morphis, *United States Navy*
- Eric Zimmerman, *United States Navy*

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Alan Lee Reitmire, *United States Army*

PUBLIC WORKS

- Patrick Bramlett, *United States Navy*
- Tony Creonte, *United States Navy*
- Robert Harris, III, *United States Navy*
- Brandon Goetz, *United States Marine Corp*
- Ja'mel Waits, *United States Army*

\$2.5 Million North Central Texas Council of Governments Downtown Sustainability Grant Project is Underway!



The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Downtown Sustainability Development Infrastructure \$2 million project grant is a prime example of the City of Rowlett leveraging City taxpayer dollars with other grant money available.

The City's contractor, Phillips/ May Corp., began work in early February with construction of underground infrastructure between Coyle Street and Main Street, which is largely complete.



The next steps will involve the installation of the concrete pavement for the extension of Martin Drive between Coyle Street and Main Street. After the installation of Martin Drive is complete, other surface improvements will continue. This will involve the installation of additional street trees and landscaping, pedestrian plazas, lighting, and other pedestrian amenities along Main Street, Martin Drive, Coyle Street and Industrial Drive.



The project is utilizing Silva Cell technology, which will allow healthy growth and maintenance of street trees for years to come! What is Silva Cell? It is a modular

suspended pavement system that holds lightly compacted soil, while supporting traffic loads beneath paving. This healthy soil serves two important functions: growing large trees without root damage to the street paving and treating storm water onsite!

The work on this project continues to progress and is expected to be open for the annual Fireworks on Main event.



**Saturday, May 31
Rowlett Community Centre
Ages 11-16
\$60
Register at 972-412-6230**

SAFE SITTER CLASS - REGISTER NOW!

When people hear "babysitting training", what generally comes to mind? Many immediately think diaper changing, bottle feeding and keeping kids entertained. Yes, caring for infants and children does involve all of these important tasks. However, this well-rounded youth development program with a medical basis focuses on so much more. It presents serious life skills in a fun way!

Safe Sitters are not just highly-qualified babysitters. They're young business owners with practical life and safety skills-many already with an eye toward future endeavors! In addition to being knowledgeable about safe childcare (including first aid, choking child rescue and CPR) Safe Sitters gain confidence in themselves.

SAFE SITTERS...

...learn beginning business skills such as how to market themselves as qualified babysitters, how to assess job requirements and decide whether or not to take a job, how to negotiate an hourly rate, and how to deliver a proper handshake.

...are encouraged to be active participants in making a difference in their communities.

...feel comfortable staying home alone (and perhaps taking care of their younger siblings while parents are away) because they've learned about personal safety and what to do in an emergency.

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.

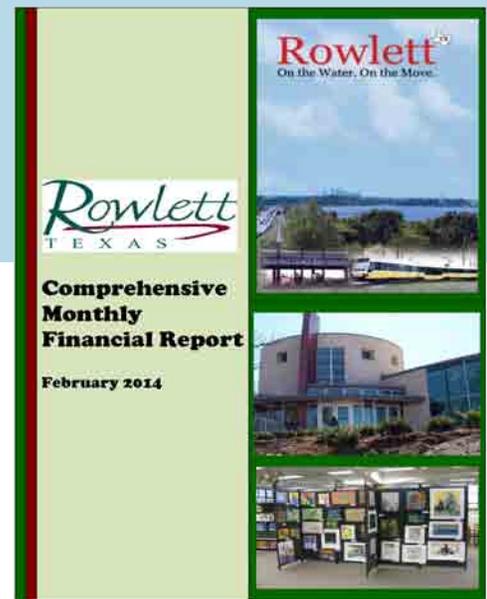
This report is prepared in a way as to provide financially relevant information that is easy to read and understand. Staff uses a forecasting model based on historical data in order to provide a framework for comparing projected performance to actual performance.

"The net surplus from operations is \$10.3 million. This is \$1.3 million better than expected at this point in the year. The figures for February continue to project a positive trend so far this fiscal year!"

*Alan Guard
Director of Financial Services*

The purpose of this effort is two-fold. First, the report informs the City Council and public regarding the status of the City's financial position. In other words, where we are versus where we projected we would be at this time of the fiscal year. Second, it informs the staff and City Council about significant variances in projected versus actual revenues and expenditures. This allows the Council to monitor and make adjustments, and to make decisions appropriately for future budgets. You could say that this report serves as an early warning system!

The report provided to Council in April includes financial information through February. We are now five months through our fiscal year.



On the revenue side of the equation, overall, the City has earned or received \$45 million for all funds in Fiscal Year 2014. This amount is 55.3% of the approved operating budget of \$81.4 million and is **1% higher** than the forecast projected through the month of February!

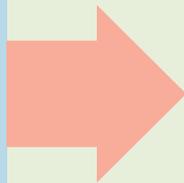
Expenditures have totaled \$34.7 million for FY 2014. This amount is 42.8% of the approved operating budget of \$81 million and is **2.5% lower** than forecast through the fourth month of the fiscal year.

View the [February Financial Report](#).

SECOND QUARTER UPDATE

22 New Businesses

73 New Jobs Created
\$2,350,000 - Estimated Value of New Construction



Economic Development

*Auto Spa Warehouse
Primo Vapors
J.A.S. Construction
Sideline Sports
Unleashed by Petco
MeggaPuff*

*Bakers Dozen Donuts
Worldwide Digital Press
Rock Solid Stocks
The River Church
T&T Furniture Liquidators
Foot Palace
Main Street Events
Azusa Star Distribution
Lakeview Bakery*

*Magna Core Drilling
Kiki's Mexican Restaurant
Burrus Private Investigation
Uneik Image
K-N-Klip
Discount Tire
Fuller Appraisals*

Projects Under Construction

*Walmart Neighborhood Market
Zanata's Restaurant
Dairy Queen
Terra Lago
DR Horton Title Office*



RED, WHITE & BLUE at the Rowlett Library!

Visit the library for a variety of programs and activities to entertain and educate audiences of all ages!

Saturday Movie at the Library: *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*

Saturday, May 3
10:30 A.M.

Interactive audience participation is encouraged as we watch this musical film adaptation of the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Roald Dahl. The film tells the story of Charlie Bucket as he receives a Golden Ticket to visit Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, along with four badly-behaved children from around the world.

Book Trucks!

Saturday, May 24

While you're enjoying all the *Memorial Day/Touch a Truck* festivities, come on into the Library, check out some books on trucks and see our "books on a truck!"



Children's Book Week May 12 - 17



National celebration of books for young people, which encourages developing a love of reading. Established in 1919, Children's Book Week is the longest running literacy initiative in the country.

Administered by Every Child a Reader, a non-profit literacy foundation, and sponsored by the Children's Book Council, the need today is as essential as it was in 1919.

The Rowlett Public Library will celebrate by giving away lovely decorated baskets of books donated to the library with the express purpose of ending up in a child's hands. There are baskets for babies, kids and teens, all with special treats included. Stop by the Rowlett Public Library to fill out an entry form any time during Children's Book Week!

Free Comic Book Day Saturday, May 3



The Rowlett Public Library participates in this annual nationwide celebration of comics, sponsored by the North American comic book industry for the past 11 years to help bring new readers into independent comic book stores. The library will have a limited supply of free comics for patrons, and information on nearby participating stores.

"Reluctant Reader" is a term referring to children and teens that do not enjoy reading for pleasure. This is an especially difficult group to reach using the traditional methods of teaching reading skills, but success with these kids is on the rise by utilizing comic books and graphic novels. These art-intensive and popular stories can lure in the most reluctant of Reluctant Readers!

STORY TIME!

by the Rowlett Library

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

May 5 – Quack, Quack

May 12, 19, 26 – no story time

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.

Ages 18 months to 3 years

May 7 – Mother's Day

May 14, 21, 28 – no story time

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

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

For children 3 years of age and older

May 2 - My Teddy

May 9 - Puppet Show: Jackie and the spaceman

May 16, 23, 30 - no story time

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

Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-11

May 1 – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

May 8 – Flat Stanley

With books selected specifically for school-age children, this club for kids in grades 1-5 introduces new authors and genres to facilitate independent reading and creates opportunities for discussion and interaction.

Pajama Story Time

Thursday, May 15

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!



2014 Summer Reading Program Begins June 9

"Fizz, Boom Read!"

Fizz, Boom, Read!

Kick-off Party

Monday, June 9

10:00 – Noon

Come and enjoy carnival games and treats, bounce houses and a Dump Truck slide! **Climb on, touch and explore the big diggers and equipment used by the Rowlett Public Works Department.** Rock out with Radio Disney!! Sign up for the Summer Reading Program and see what fun and exciting events the Library has planned for readers this year. Library staff will be on hand to recommend great books for readers of all ages.



Teen Volunteers Ages 15 & up: We Need YOU!

Assist participants signing up for their Reading Logs.

Award prizes when the reading goals are met.

Help with the many, many free programs offered all summer long.

Contact Tonya Hartline at 972-463-3922 or via [email](#) for info and attend the Summer

Reading Program Teen Volunteer Training!

"Fizz, Boom, Read!" runs June 9 - August 1

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [CAMP ROWLETT](#)

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Phil's Technology Corner

Tour the Library's PC Lab!

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

Internet Access

You can use the library's computers to access the Internet. This enables you to check your email, research topics online, watch YouTube videos, access the library's online databases (which I'll mention in more detail later), look for a job, and much more.

Printing

Although we are striving toward a paperless society, sometimes you just have to print things out. Black and white pages are \$0.15 per page and color pages are \$1.00 per page. The library also has a copy machine available for patron use. Black and white copies only at a cost of \$0.15 per page.

Online Databases

The Library offers several databases for patrons. For example, JobView is an online database designed to help people look for jobs. It breaks postings down by type and geographic location, allowing you to more effectively look for jobs you want. Another

is Learning Express Library, which we have through the TexShare databases. This database provides test preparation help and practice exams for a variety of tests, including GED, SAT, and GRE. It also has modules to help you build math, reading and writing skills. The Chilton Library is an online database of all the Chilton auto repair manuals. These are just a few examples; there are many more databases available.

What do I need to use the library's PC lab?

- Library card – If you don't have one, all you need is an ID with your current address, or an ID with some other documentation of your address.
- PIN – we can look this up for you if you don't remember it
- Flash drive – if you need to save anything
- Headphones – if you plan to listen to music or other audio

If you'd like to learn more, please visit us at the library, or give us a call at 972-412-6161.

The library has 20 computers located in a room just off the main library itself. The PC Lab is open from 9:30 am until 15 minutes before the library closes. The lab is open to library cardholders whose accounts are in good standing, meaning they have less than \$5 in fines. Here is some of what's available in the PC Lab.

Microsoft Office

If you need to finish a report for school or work, or need to make some kind of presentation, then Microsoft Office is a good tool to use. We have Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint available. Word is a word processing program, Excel is a spreadsheet program, and PowerPoint is for creating presentations.

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!

Managing Programs

Tuesday, May 6
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Learn about installing and removing the various programs on your computer.

Fitness Apps

Tuesday, May 13
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Learn how to use cell phones and tablets to help you live healthy and stay in shape!

Craigslist

Tuesday, May 20
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Great way to make money, new friends, find a job or get a great deal. Come learn how!

eBooks at the Library

Tuesday, May 27
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Check out eBooks from the library with a service called Overdrive. Come learn how to access and use it!

The library also 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

Did you get a new iPad and aren't sure how to use it? Would you like to learn the basics of Microsoft Office? Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Technical Services Supervisor Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or via [email](#). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

The Wet Zone, Rowlett's Family Water Park Opens for Summer!

Saturday, May 17
11:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M

Enjoy a full day of fun in the sun at the opening day party! Splash and swim in the lap pool, Haley's Ripple Slide, the lazy river or just hang out on the water playground.

An event-filled summer is planned at the Wet Zone, activities include the Memorial Splash Day on May 26, Jungle Jam, Flick 'n Float evenings, Sand Volleyball Tournament, BOGO Days and more!

Visit www.wetzonewaterpark.com for more information.

Rent the Wet Zone for Your Special Event

There are several options...rent a pavilion, cabana or even the entire park!

Group Pavilions

Rent one of our many pavilions during the regular operating hours of the Wet Zone. Perfect for reunions, church groups, scout groups, school outings, team parties, company picnics, or any group looking to have a great time. \$60 for a 1.5 hour rental and \$30 for each additional 30 minutes. Price does not include admission. Group pricing of \$6 per person is available when a pavilion is reserved.

Private Cabanas

Enjoy a leisurely day in the park under your own private cabana. Your cabana rental comes with shade, a table and four chairs, two lounge chairs, free wifi and other amenities as listed below based on your package!.

Private Parties

Take over the Wet Zone for church group functions, corporate parties, family reunions, or birthday parties and let your guests have free rein to splish-splash around the park all by themselves! Catering packages are available, for a detailed fee schedule visit us online or call the park.

Birthday Pavilions

Enjoy your own pavilion with a party host and Haley the Hippo to help celebrate the birthday child! Parties include a tiara or crown, a snow cone for all the kids, birthday cake, plates, utensils and a t-shirt for the birthday child. Hot dog, chips and a drink for everyone are included in the guest fee. \$85 for a 1.5 hour rental and \$30 for each additional 30 minutes, plus \$9 per guest. The birthday child is free and the guest price includes all day admission into the park!

Visit www.wetzonewaterpark.com for more information.

ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

Activities for the Whole Family!

Little Sluggers T-ball

Thursdays
6:00 – 6:45 P.M.
Ages 3-5

Five-week instructional program provides the basic fundamentals of baseball. Teamwork, fielding, throwing, hitting and base running are taught in a fun, non-competitive environment. The first four weeks are focused on teaching skills followed by one week of games.

Guitar for Beginners

May 6 – 29
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:15 – 7:00 P.M.
\$80 – 1 session/week
\$140 – 2 sessions/week

Learn how to pick, strum & shred on the guitar! Acoustic and electric lessons with a focus on blues, rock, jazz, metal and country. Please bring your own guitar!



Shake It Up! DJ/Spinnin' Workshop

Wednesdays, May 7 – 21
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
\$10

Ages 11-18

Come out have a blast with our all new teen music and dance program! Learn what it takes to be a DJ, learn some break dancing skills and learn how to throw down some serious rhymes..

Adult Coed Volleyball League Registration Open

Friday nights in June & July
\$200/team before May 15, \$225 after

Grab some friends and join us for a little fun, exercise, and fellowship on the court! An eight game season will be played with a playoff tournament for the top four teams. Championship T-shirts will be awarded to the first place team.



Summer is
Coming!

GET FIT AND KEEP THE KIDS ACTIVE,
ENTERTAINED AND OFF THE COUCH!



Shape up with classes at the Rowlett Community Centre this spring!

Pilates

Strengthen, tighten and tone the entire body. Combining strength training with weights allows this revolutionary new Pilates plan to rev the metabolism and burn 400-500 calories in a one hour session. Register by the month, half month or drop-in-daily.

Bokwa

This new dance fitness class is fun for all ages and athletic levels. Draw letters and numbers on the floor while moving to the latest music. Sweat the alphabet and draw the digits. If you can move and spell, you can BOKWA!

Other fitness classes at the RCC include...

Spin
Jazzercise
Yogalates

BodyWorks
Zumba
Personal Training by Paramount

Are You Ready For the Summer?!



Check out all of the Parks and Recreation programming for kids, adults and seniors in the 2014 Camp Rowlett guide to summer fun right here in your own hometown at www.rowlett.com/CampRowlett!

YOUTH AND TEEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Rowlett Police Department's School Resource Officers are pleased to announce the second annual Rowlett Summer Youth and Teen Police Academies. These officers have developed one and two week Youth and Teen Police Academies to create better understanding and communication between young citizens and the police department, providing positive interaction with police officers while educating our community's youth. These academies will not only enhance the student's knowledge of law enforcement, but will also offer a way for kids interested in law enforcement as a future career choice to learn more about what it takes to be an officer.

The academies are free include lunch every day, AND a free trip to the Wet Zone on the last day of each session. They are available to students who live and attend school in Rowlett and consist of the following curriculum:

SWAT	Internet Safety
Crime Scene Investigation	Gun Range & Weapon Safety
Criminal Investigations	Defensive Tactics
Patrol	Bicycle Patrol
Community Services	Jail
Negotiating	Dispatch
Driving While Impaired/Traffic	Drug and Alcohol Recognition
Pursuit Driving	Penal law
Building Searches	Use of Force



Age Divisions & Dates

YOUTH STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADES 4-6

JUNE 16 – 20
JULY 14 – 18
JULY 21 – 25
AUGUST 4 – 8

YOUTH & TEEN ACADEMIES BOTH RUN 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY

TEEN STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADES 7-11

JUNE 23 – 27
JULY 28 – AUGUST 1

Register by May 9

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
OFFICER BRANDON HERRING VIA [EMAIL](#)

CODE
ENFORCEMENT
TIP

MOW THE GRASS!

April showers bring May flowers...but they also bring weeds. Mowing season is here!



The Rowlett Code Enforcement Department would like to remind everyone to take a look at their yards.

Grass and weed growth have exploded in the past few weeks. Remember, City ordinance requires you keep your grass and weeds under 12" to avoid a citation!

For more information, please contact Rowlett Code Enforcement at 972-412-6283.

Look Twice for Motorcycles

Seeing them is saving them

Rowlett Police Remind Motorists to Share the Road with Motorcyclists

Motorists and motorcyclists should “share the road” with each other. Motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable when riding on our streets and highways — 87 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill the motorcyclist (TxDOT). The number of motorcyclists killed on Texas roadways has more than doubled over the past decade (TxDOT).

When a motorcycle and another vehicle collide, the driver of the other vehicle is often at fault. That’s why the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has launched a public education campaign aimed at making Texas drivers more aware of motorcyclists. The campaign tagline is: “Look twice for motorcycles. Seeing them is saving them.”

Motorists are urged to look twice for motorcycles at intersections and when changing lanes, the two places where serious motorcycle collisions commonly occur. Motorcyclists are dying in record numbers. In 2011, 5,770 motorcyclists were seriously injured and 470 motorcyclists were killed, accounting for 16

“*With the weather warming up, more people are turning to motorcycles for pleasure riding and their daily commute. The Rowlett Police Department reminds motorists to stay aware, be alert, and always look twice for motorcycles on the road.*”

Sgt. Michael Godfrey
Rowlett Police Department

percent of the state’s traffic deaths. Researchers point to the fact that the number of motorcycles registered in Texas more than doubled over the last decade from 180,345 in 2000 to 419,722 in 2010.

Because motorcycles have a much smaller profile than other vehicles, it can be difficult for drivers to judge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle. As a result, drivers involved in crashes with motorcycles say they never saw the motorcyclist and were unable to react in time to prevent the crash. Per vehicle mile traveled, a motorcyclist is nine times more likely to be injured and 39 times more likely to die in a crash.

In Texas, about half of crashes in which the motorcyclist died were at intersections, often with the passenger vehicle turning left in front of an oncoming motorcyclist and the driver reporting that he/she never saw the motorcyclist before turning. basis.



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Motorcycle Awareness Safety Tips

Give Them Space!

Don’t follow a motorcycle too closely. A motorcyclist’s riding patterns are different from vehicle patterns and reactions may vary for the same road or weather conditions. Allow a full lane of travel space between your car or truck and a motorcycle.

Be Respectful!

Remember, a motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any vehicle on the roadway.

Do a Double Take !

Look twice for motorcyclists at intersections, where they may be making a left turn, as well as on the highway, where a motorcyclist may be changing lanes. Clearly signal your intentions.

Anticipate Next Steps

Obstructions that you do not notice could prove to be deadly for a motorcyclist. Give motorcyclists plenty of space to react and make the road a safe place for you and others, no matter what form of transportation they use.

Construction Corner

Public Works Update



Elm Grove Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation

Public Works Utility Crews have been working to replace 24 sanitary sewer lateral lines under Elm Grove Road, alleviating some ongoing sewer problems for residents.

After originally beginning the project on January 8, 2014, it was necessary to stop work on the laterals to respond to our debris removal effort caused by the infamous "Icemaggedon." Crews have since excavated and removed every service lateral and reinstalled them correctly. This will alleviate the sewer

problems that have been looming over Elm Grove Road for many years. Funds have been allocated under the Utility Fund Cash CIP to allow us to address this issue.

The timing for this project directly coincides with the upcoming pavement repair project. By replacing the lateral lines before the pavement is repaired, our crews will not need to disturb the roadway to make the repairs that would arise in the future. Various sections of the west bound lane of Elm Grove Road between Liberty Grove Road and Yeager Drive will be pulverized and treated with cement to stabilize the road base. Those

sections will be overlaid with asphalt. Both lanes between Yeager Drive and Vinson Road will have two inches milled, overlaid with two inches of asphalt, and will completely cover the pavement cuts made during the service line replacement.

This pavement project is in part funded by the 2014 Asphalt Overlay and Rehab Program with a 50% match from Dallas County for the paving components of the project.



Martin Drive 18 Inch Sanitary Sewer Line

The 24 inch bore has been completed along Martin Drive, under the railroad tracks, and the 18 inch pipe has been installed. The new manholes on Coyle Street and Martin Drive have also been installed.

Lakeside Park

Public Works crews finished the three week rehabilitation project for Lakeside Park on April 5, 2014 with a lake shore clean-up day in conjunction with the Parks Department. The project included improving the drainage and landscaping in the playground area. Most notably, rock was installed along the shoreline to correct the soil erosion, which had been occurring over the past year or so. These combined improvements will provide our citizens with a long-lasting park to be enjoyed by our community for generations to come.



Rowlett

City Calendar

May

				1	2 One on One Tech Help @ Library	3 Free Comic Book Day @ Library Library “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” 10:30am @ Library AARP Driving Class 9am-1pm @ RCC
4	5 Seniors-Silver Cinema 2pm @ Library	6 Seniors-Fire Extinguisher Class 10am @ RCC Managing Programs 10:30am & 2pm @ Library City Council Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8	9 One on One Tech Help @ Library Mother’s Day Breakfast for Seniors 8:30am @ RCC	10 City Election Day
11 <i>National Police Week begins</i>	12 <i>Children’s Book Week begins</i>	13 Fitness Apps 10:30am & 2pm @ Library Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30 pm	14	15	16 One on One Tech Help @ Library	17 Wet Zone Opening Day 11am-6pm
18 <i>National EMS Week begins</i> <i>National Public Works Week begins</i>	19	20 Craigslist 10:30am & 2pm @ Library City Council Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22	23 One on One Tech Help @ Library	24 Memorial Day/Touch a Truck & Police Bicycle Rodeo 10am-1pm on Main Street Book Trucks @ Library
25	26 Memorial Day City offices & facilities closed	27 eBooks 10:30am & 2pm @ Library City Council Meeting 7:30 pm	28	29	30 One on One Tech Help @ Library	31 Safe Sitter Class @ RCC 10am-1pm