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City Council welcomes two new members!

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Sheena Easton headlines the Fireworks on Main July 4 celebration!

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"Fizz, Boom, Read!" Summer Reading Program kicks off June 9!

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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

# Rowlett

## On the Move

### Village of Rowlett

ISSUE NO. 1406

JUNE, 2014

*Catalytic development will change the face of Downtown!*

On Tuesday, May 20, 2014, the Rowlett City Council formally approved a development agreement with a joint venture between The Integral Group of Atlanta and Catalyst Urban Development of Dallas for the **Village of Rowlett**. This unprecedented and catalytic investment in the heart of downtown is anticipated to break ground as early as the second quarter of 2015!



The Village of Rowlett is a \$30 million project that will introduce a range of building types and uses within a unique village environment marked by modern housing concepts, local retail and commercial destinations, high quality pedestrian

amenities, memorable open spaces and a unique vibe all our own.

The project has been planned to highlight existing trees and offer a range of green amenities including a community garden, dog park, yoga lawn, bocce ball court, pocket green courts, and urban streetscapes all in an effort to deliver an urban resort-like experience unique to Rowlett.

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### Continue Preventative Measures to Avoid West Nile Virus

#### MOSQUITO SEASON IS HERE!

A concerted effort by Health Department agencies across North Texas depends on participation in mosquito prevention by the public.

In 2012, a significant part of North Texas experienced the largest outbreak of West Nile to date. In Rowlett alone, there were ten confirmed human cases of West Nile disease and one fatality. On that note, four North Texas county health departments have melded their planning and efforts to make a collective impact on this year's West Nile virus season. Similarities are reflected in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton Counties through year-round abatement and trapping and testing more mosquitoes earlier in the season. A major component of this unified approach is for the residents of each of these counties eliminating and reducing mosquito breeding areas in and around their homes. Prevention is the key to reducing human cases of the West Nile Virus.



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# VILLAGE OF ROWLETT (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

When the citizens of Rowlett voted to join the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system in 1983, it was with the hope that it would eventually lead to economic development opportunities for the City. This vision was further confirmed and refined through the City's comprehensive plan update public process, which resulted in the community-formed vision appropriately named *Realize Rowlett 2020*. A key component of *Realize Rowlett 2020* is the Downtown Strategic Plan, approved by the City Council in 2012, which carries the vision statement:

*“Downtown Rowlett will reflect the City’s history in a fully integrated and walkable environment that favors the pedestrian over the vehicle with capital improvements strategically located to leverage public investment.”*

To that end, the City Council actively sought a development partner with a proven track record of bringing mixed-use projects to fruition.

*“This development culminates a vision created for downtown by Rowlett citizens 30 years in the making!” says Mayor Todd Gottle. “Village of Rowlett will open the door to additional private investment by carrying forward the City’s new urban energy to downtown’s edges at Highway 66 and the President George Bush Turnpike.”*

*Mayor Todd Gottle*

Since December 17, 2013, Integral and Catalyst Urban Development have been working closely with City staff on a development proposal that seeks to introduce a transit-oriented mixed-use development at the center of Rowlett on an unprecedented scale for downtown. Part of the planning effort has included a strategy to move the Chamber of Commerce and temporarily relocate the Library during the construction process. The Library will remain a key component of Downtown and, when the project is completed, will be located on the ground floor of the most prominent building along Main Street.

“Leveraging the City’s two largest connectors, DART light rail service and PGBT, the Village of Rowlett is envisioned to provide a unique urban environment Downtown that will serve our residents, attract the larger Dallas/Fort Worth marketplace and diversify our housing stock,” says City Manager Brian Funderburk. “Upon completion, it will create a place that is ‘Uniquely Rowlett!’”

## Village of Rowlett Concept Renderings



## Village of Rowlett Site Plans

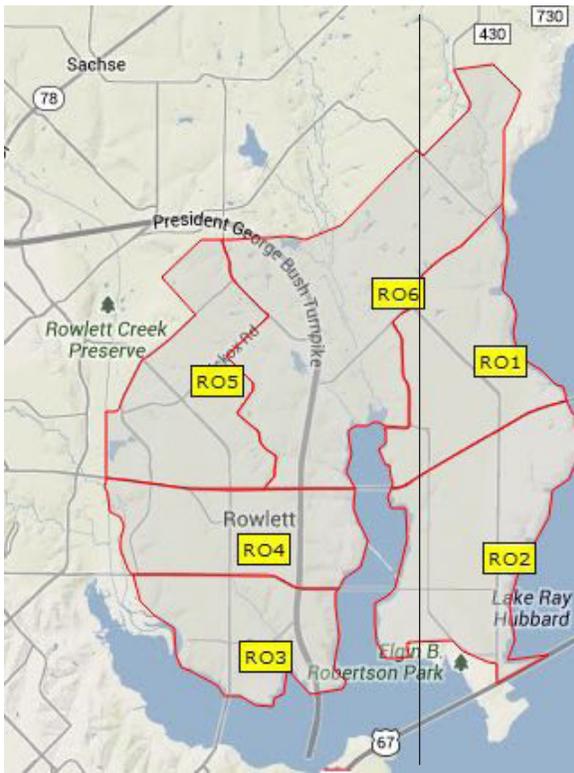
**Project Site**

- Large front lawn disconnects Main Street experience
- Irregular urban edge and development sites
- Need for urban streetscape
- Large existing trees and drainage feature
- Single family adjacency
- Existing street connection points
- Main Street is overly wide and lacks visual hierarchy
- Large setback in front of City Hall disconnects a defined Main Street experience
- Need for urban streetscape along parking street stub
- Single family adjacencies
- Middle school within walking distance
- Primary development site lacks visibility

**Master Plan**

- New retail infill buildings along Main Street including restaurant/bar with outdoor music picnic and dance plaza north of water tower
- New live work and townhome infill along Dennis Street
- Existing library block redeveloped as mixed-use development
- Central green combines community garden, pool and residential amenities
- 2 and 3 story lofts and green carriage residences
- Existing trees retained around drainage feature
- Current development proposal and pocket park on Main Street
- Potential mixed-use municipal center development block with public parking along streets
- Carriage way resident club as visual terminus
- Pocket park within street and 2 story rowhouse-style bungalows having private gardens
- Existing tree line maintained to combine with new development landscaping to create transition to existing community

## 2014 MOSQUITO TESTING AND ABATEMENT PLAN



### THE CITY OF ROWLETT CONTRACTS WITH DALLAS COUNTY FOR MOSQUITO TESTING, ABATEMENT AND SPRAYING.

This contract covers ALL of Rowlett, including the portion that is located in Rockwall County.

In 2014, Dallas County has increased the number of mosquito traps set in “zones” around Rowlett from five to six for a more even activity surveillance. Dallas County has also changed the ground spraying strategy in an effort to more effectively combat the spread of West Nile Virus.

After studying the 2012 human cases, the County found it very difficult to determine just where the victims came in contact with the infected mosquitoes. Therefore, instead of waiting for a **human** to test positive for the virus, they now perform ground spraying of the entire zone when a **mosquito** testing positive is located.

- In Rowlett, mosquito testing will occur on Wednesdays.
- The City will be notified of results by 10:00 A.M. on Friday.
- If positive mosquitoes were present, ground spraying of the zone will occur at dusk **the same evening** (weather permitting).

The City will notify residents of the affected area through [Connect Rowlett](#) messages and information on the City’s website, [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com).

## WHAT IS DALLAS COUNTY DOING?

Dallas County Health officials are working with the City of Rowlett to minimize the risk of residents of contracting mosquito borne diseases. Dallas County uses an

Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program to abate mosquito populations. IMM uses various techniques that include the following tools:

**Surveillance** – The collection of mosquitoes to determine the location, species, quantity and virus potential.

**Source Reduction** – Remove water sources that support mosquito breeding habitats.

**Larvicide** – The use of EPA approved products to kill mosquito larvae in standing water or stocking water with mosquitofish.

**Adulticide** – The spraying of EPA approved products from trucks and planes to reduce mosquito populations. The pesticides that can be used for mosquito control have been judged by the EPA not to pose an unreasonable risk to human health.



### What Can I Do? Mosquito Proof!

Follow the **Four D’s**

Remember: the Best Offense  
is a Good **D-fense!**

#### Dress

Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites when outside.

#### DEET

Use insect repellent products with “DEET” or other EPA approved repellents and follow product instructions.

#### Drain

Inspect property for standing water, regularly clean roof gutters, dump water from potted plants, change birdbath and pet water daily. Upend wheelbarrows, buckets, tires, cans and other outdoor containers.

#### Dusk & Dawn

Stay indoors during

dusk and dawn hours—when mosquitoes are most active.

Ensure **YOU** receive ground spraying notifications, sign up for [Connect Rowlett](#) today!

**ROWLETT CITY  
COUNCIL WELCOMES  
TWO NEW MEMBERS**

*The City of Rowlett elects its Councilmembers on the uniform election date in May, this year that was Saturday, May 10.*

*Place 5  
Rick Sheffield*



Rick has lived in Rowlett since 1988 and has always been active in his community, beginning when he founded the Rowlett Youth Soccer Association. This is his third term as a Rowlett City Councilmember. He has a strong business background, having spent almost 20 years in the Telecommunications industry, managing functions such as engineering, operations, technical support and field construction. Rick currently works as a realtor and property manager. Rick's extensive community service includes:

*Founder and past President - Rowlett Youth Soccer Association  
Construction Captain - Kids Kingdom  
Councilmember, 2000 to 2004 - Rowlett City Council  
Member, 2006 to 2010 - Rowlett Planning and Zoning Commission  
Chairman, 2010 to 2014 - Rowlett Planning and Zoning Commission  
Realize Rowlett 2020 Advisory Committee  
Downtown Advisory Committee  
North Shore Advisory Committee*

**NEW AND RE-ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS WILL BE SWORN IN  
AT THE TUESDAY, JUNE 3 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

*Place 1  
Robbert van Bloemendaal*



Robbert, originally from Australia, is married with three dogs and 24 Japanese Koi fish and has lived in Rowlett for 22 years. For 17 years, he has owned the successful local business, Travel Leaders Garland and Rowlett, which was selected in 1999 by The Dallas Observer as "The Best Travel Agency in Dallas". Robbert is very active in the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations including:

*Ambassador - Rowlett Chamber of Commerce  
Board Member - Rowlett Chamber of Commerce  
Communications Director - Rowlett Lions Club*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
ARE ALSO IN  
ORDER FOR  
COUNCILMEMBER  
CARL PANKRATZ,  
WHO RAN  
UNOPPOSED AND  
WAS RE-ELECTED  
TO HIS PLACE 3  
SEAT**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ROWLETT CITIZENS  
WHO EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL!**

# FIREWORKS ON MAIN!

**Friday, July 4  
6:00 – 10:00 P.M.  
Main Street**

The City of Rowlett is excited to welcome 80's legend Sheena Easton as the headline entertainment! This two-time Grammy Award winner was the first artist to have top five records on five different Billboard charts and her recording career has produced both Gold and Platinum albums! Her hits include the #1 song "Morning Train (9 to 5)", "Strut", "For Your Eyes Only" (theme from the James Bond film), "You Got the Look" duet with Prince and "We've Got Tonight" duet with Kenny Rogers. Sheena has also enjoyed a successful acting career, appearing in episodes of Miami Vice, The Highlander, Ghost Stories, Outer Limits and more. She has left her mark on Broadway as well, starring in Man of La Mancha and Grease. Sheena has been busy with frequent appearances in Las Vegas where she has been a major attraction for the last decade, she's even been inducted into the Las Vegas Hall Of Fame.

*Sheena Easton in Concert!*



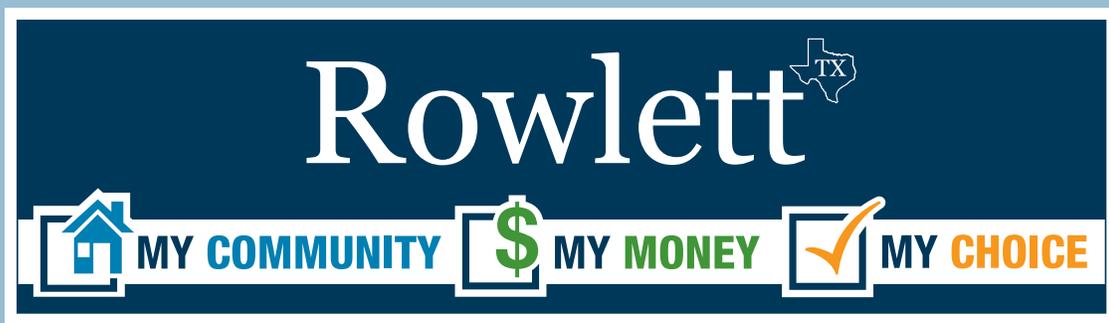
This popular community event also features lots of free children's games and activities, a variety of favorite festival foods, shopping opportunities from local vendors, a live broadcast by 103.7 KVIL and Rowlett's largest fireworks extravaganza!

**Park and Ride for Free!**

**Free parking with free shuttle service is available at the Rowlett Community Centre, Rowlett High School, Herfurth Park, First Baptist and First United Methodist Churches.**

**Free parking is also available at the DART Station.**

**For more information visit  
[www.rowlett.com/fireworks](http://www.rowlett.com/fireworks)**



## Frequently Asked Questions

In April, the City held a series of six community meetings to receive citizen input on the City's financial future. 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](http://www.rowlett.com/myrowlett).

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

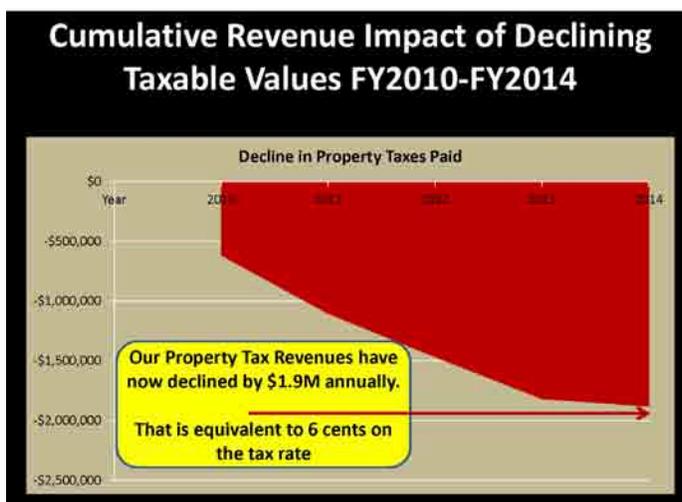
The My Rowlett Campaign is a community based program to engage our citizens in an honest conversation about what our future looks like. The purpose of the program is to educate our

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?**

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.

Raise Taxes and Fees

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](http://www.dcad.org), Rockwall County is [www.rockwallcad.com](http://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.

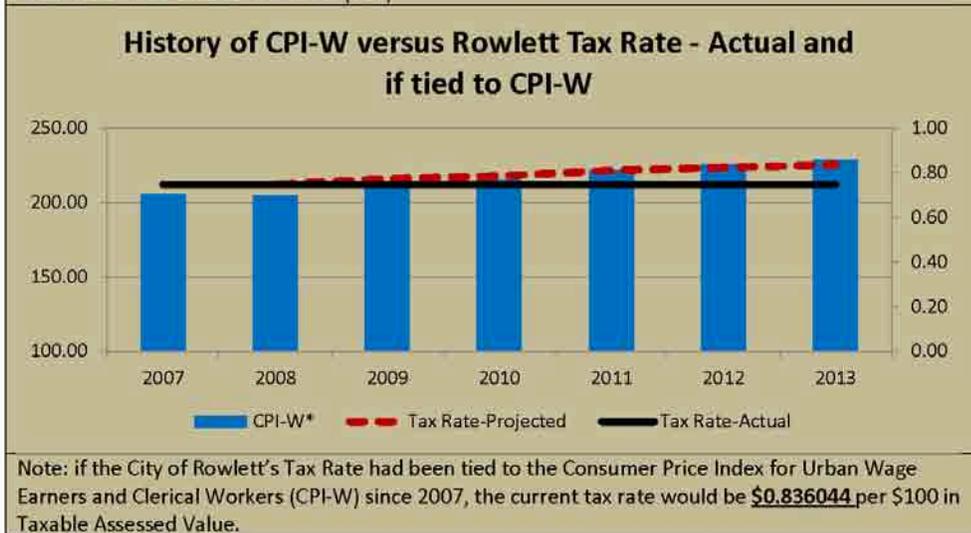
# 10 What would happen to the property tax rate if the City tied it to an index such as the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)?

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)



# 11 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.



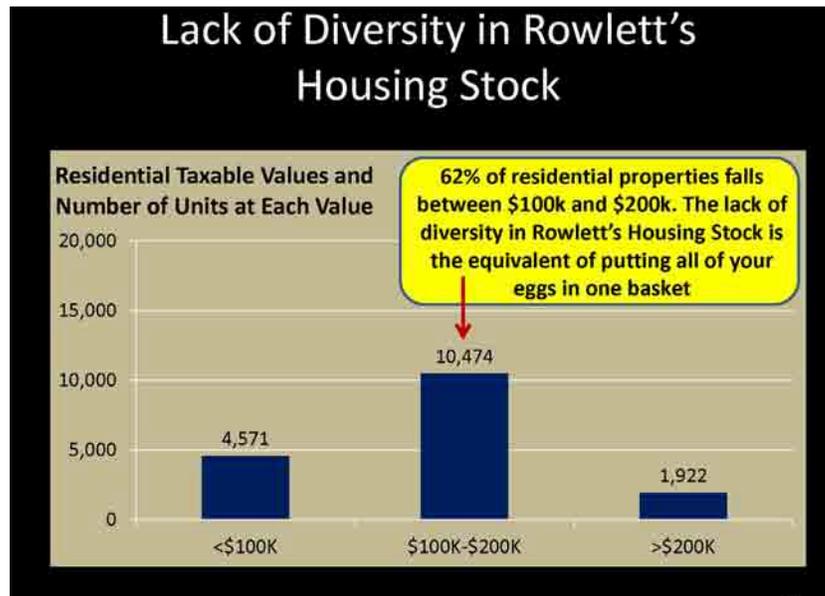
## 12 Can you explain the correlation about the housing diversity slide?

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 and the presentation delivered at the six community meetings, please visit [www.rowlett.com/myrowlett](http://www.rowlett.com/myrowlett)!

# Once Every Two Week Landscape Watering in Effect All Summer...Through AT LEAST October 31!



## North Texas Municipal Water District *Extends* Stage 3 Water Restrictions

**MAY RAINS HELPED LAWNS AND GARDENS, BUT DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT RESERVOIR 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, *through at least October 31*, due to below average rainfall and low lake levels.

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

*As of April 29, Lake Lavon was only 51.3% full.* Lake Chapman, another NTMWD water source, was 58% full.

The new pipeline from Lake Texoma, which normally provides 28% of NTMWD's total raw water supply, going directly to the Wylie water treatment plant and bypassing Lake Lavon, will be fully online later this month. Unfortunately, this is now a matter of supply and Lake Texoma is experiencing the same severe drought conditions, so this will not alleviate the issue.

### 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.

| JUNE 2014   |             |         |             |         |             |   |
|-------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---|
| SUN         | MON         | TUE     | WED         | THU     | FRI         | SAT                                     |
| 1<br>0      | 2<br>3 & 4  | 3<br>1  | 4<br>6 & 7  | 5<br>2  | 6<br>8 & 9  | 7<br>5                                  |
| NO WATERING |             |         |             |         |             |   |
| 8<br>0      | 9<br>3 & 4  | 10<br>1 | 11<br>6 & 7 | 12<br>2 | 13<br>8 & 9 | 14<br>5                                 |
| NO WATERING |             |         |             |         |             |   |
| 15<br>0     | 16<br>3 & 4 | 17<br>1 | 18<br>6 & 7 | 19<br>2 | 20<br>8 & 9 | 21<br>5                                 |
| 22<br>0     | 23<br>3 & 4 | 24<br>1 | 25<br>6 & 7 | 26<br>2 | 27<br>8 & 9 | 28<br>5                                 |
| 29<br>0     | 30<br>3 & 4 |         |             |         |             |   |
|             |             |         |             |         |             | 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.

**ROWLETT FIRE RESCUE RECEIVES  
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S  
MISSION: LIFELINE EMS SILVER  
RECOGNITION AWARD**

*Prestigious award recognizes a commitment to, and success in, implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack known as a STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction).*

**Rowlett Fire Rescue provides emergency and non-emergency services...**

- To an area of 21 square miles.
- With a residential population of 57,703 and growing
- With 72 firefighters, 23 on shift.
- Staffing four strategically located stations 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Responding to over 5,000 incidents annually.



*Rowlett Fire Fighters have completed their annual Job Task Simulation Task. Testing work-related physical abilities required for Fire Fighting tasks, this is an annual requirement with a mandatory pass.*

*All operations personnel passed within the specified time for a 100% success rate.*



Annually, almost 300,000 people experience a STEMI, which is a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart and requires timely treatment. It is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible to the affected area of the heart, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication, to prevent death. Tragically, a significant number of patients do not receive prompt reperfusion therapy, restoring the blood flow to the heart.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® program seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that separate STEMI patients from timely access to appropriate treatments. Emergency Medical System (EMS)

providers are vital to the success of this program, and are recognized for their efforts in improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients. EMS agencies provide education in STEMI identification and access to 12-lead ECG machines, following protocols derived from American Heart Association/American College

of Cardiology guidelines. The correct tools and training allow EMS providers to rapidly identify the STEMI, promptly notify the medical center, and receive early response from the awaiting hospital personnel. Agencies that receive the Mission:

Lifeline Silver award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for each required achievement measure for the entire year, and treat at least eight STEMI patients for the year.

“We commend Rowlett Fire Rescue EMS for this achievement award, which reflects a significant commitment to improve the quality of care for heart attack patients,” said A. Gray Ellrodt, MD, Chair of the Mission: Lifeline committee and Chief of Medicine at the

*“Rowlett Fire Rescue is dedicated to making our EMS among the best in the country, and this program is helping us accomplish that by implementing processes for improving STEMI systems of care with the goal of improving the quality of care for all STEMI patients. We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care for STEMI patients.”*

*Neil Howard  
Fire Chief*

Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass. “All too many heart attack patients in the United States still fail to receive appropriate treatment for their life-threatening condition within the recommended timeframes. We must all continue this important work to streamline and coordinate regional systems of care to save lives and prevent complications.”

**ROWLETT FIRE RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT**

*To Protect the Lives and Property of the Community We Serve from Fire or Disaster and to Minimize Suffering and Injury, from Accident or Illness.*

## RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



### Kid Fish - Saturday, April 26

250 people enjoyed the annual Kid Fish event at Community Park. Fishing poles and trophies were given out to the winners in each age category, the longest catfish reeled in was 22 inches! Cole Bowman, a four year old, was the big winner, reeling in six fish and also catching the first fish of the event seconds after the horn went off at 9:00 a.m. Way to go Cole!



### Cardboard Boat Regatta

Rowlett's first ever Cardboard Boat Regatta, held on Saturday, April 26, was a big hit! Participants and teams made their boats from cardboard and raced them across the pond at Community Park. The Pittman Pontoon took first place! Awards were given out for the "The Best Construction Technique", "Best Decorated Boat" and "The Best Spectacular Sinking", aka the "Titanic Award".



### GISD Special Olympics

The 37th Annual Garland Independent School District Special Olympics was held at Williams Stadium on May 2. Rowlett Police School Resource Officers escorted the athletes from Rowlett High School to the event and remained for the duration of the Olympics to support and cheer them on!



### Citizens Police Academy

On Thursday, May 8, 24 participants graduated from the 33rd Rowlett Citizens Police Academy. This 12-week course includes Code Enforcement, Patrol Procedures, SWAT and Criminal Investigations, among others, and is offered twice per year.



### Fire Rescue Constructs "Mayday Maze"

Recognizing the need for enhanced training, but limited on funding, Fire Station 3's B-Shift went into the business community for support. For \$200 and some donations they built a valuable training prop, the "Mayday Maze", to drill and train teams on confined space operations in buildings, rescue and self-survival when entangled and trapped by common

hazards in buildings encountered when fighting fires.



This is another great job by your Fire Rescue team to creatively address training needs in the absence of a fire training facility. By not having to send our Fire Fighters to the Garland training facility, the cost savings to taxpayers was about \$3,000!

See a [YouTube slide show](#) about the project!



# RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...

Recently, Animal Shelter staff, along with the Rowlett Animal Shelter Advisory Board, developed a set of standards for the shelter. This is just another example of how the shelter is able to maintain a 96% Live Release Rate!

## Animal Shelter Guiding Principles

- *Protect our citizens from dangerous and diseased animals.*
- *Care for and preserve domestic animals in our control.*
- *Promote responsible pet ownership.*
- *Strive for a high live release rate while recognizing that some animal characteristics prevent successful placement.*
- *Seek partnerships with public and private entities to ensure successful animal placement.*
- *Utilize best practices, policies and procedures for day-to-day operations and management.*
- *Encourage volunteerism to interact and care for our animals.*
- *Solicit input and advice from the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for the betterment of the shelter.*

## The Rowlett Animal Shelter Maintains a 96% Live Release

This is the story of Gunnar, a two year old American Bulldog who came to the shelter as a stray in February. Gunnar became a staff favorite during his two and a half month stay, even though he weighed close to 80 pounds, he thought he was a small lap dog.

Never was this more apparent than the day he came in from a walk and had a run-in with another dog on the way out for his walk. Gunnar thought everyone wanted to play with him, the other dog did not feel the same way and let poor Gunnar know in no uncertain terms. Through lots of TLC provided by the shelter staff and volunteers, and a week wearing the “cone of shame” so his wounds could heal without his enthusiastic interference, Gunnar was soon back to the happy, go-lucky guy that everyone knew and loved. Gunnar finally found his forever family and was adopted on April 26, 2014.



## KEEP ROWLETT BEAUTIFUL

### Community Beautification Partner Receives Prestigious State Environmental Award and \$250,000 Grant!

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) has recognized Keep Rowlett Beautiful as one of 10 winners of the 2014 Governor’s Community Achievement Award for outstanding community improvement. The award is one of the most coveted annual environmental and community improvement honors in Texas. The winners will share \$2 million in landscape funding from the Texas Department of Transportation; **Rowlett will receive \$250,000 for a landscaping project along SH 66 (Lakeview Parkway).**

Communities submitted materials to one of 10 population categories and judges chose the winners based on their achievements in seven environmental and community improvement areas: community leadership and coordination, education, public awareness, litter prevention and cleanup, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement, beautification and community improvement, and solid waste management.

Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB), submitted the application on behalf of Rowlett, but this is an award that the entire City can be proud of.

Community improvement project information and statistics were provided by KRB, the City of Rowlett, Parks & Recreation, Police, and Fire departments, Boy and Girl Scouts, churches, civic organizations, businesses and schools.

The GCAA program has recognized outstanding communities since 1969, with TxDOT providing landscaping awards since 1985. **Rowlett will receive its award on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 in Austin, Texas during KTB’s 47th Annual Conference.**



KRB, an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful, and Keep America Beautiful, was established in 1996 with a vision to educate and energize our community to keep Rowlett clean and green. KRB hosts free city-wide parks, streets, and lakeshore cleanups twice a year, in addition to electronics recycling/document shredding events. Scholarships and beautification grants are just a few of the programs that they offer to the Rowlett community. To volunteer, check event schedules, or make a donation to KRB, visit [www.keeprowlettbeautiful.org](http://www.keeprowlettbeautiful.org).

Keep Texas Beautiful, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit, strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KTB and its more than 360 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. For more information on programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org).

# 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.

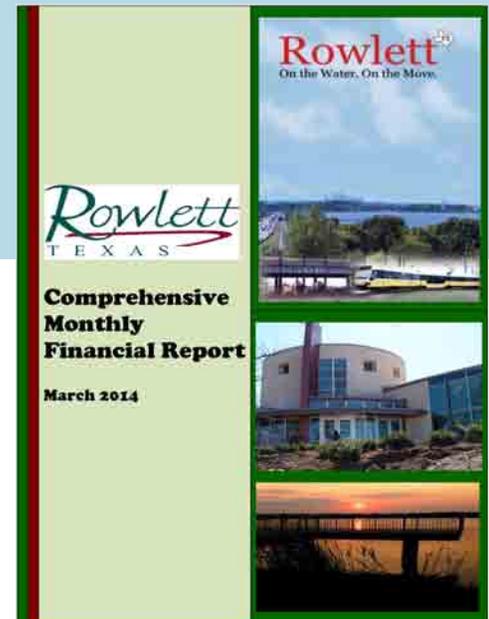
*"The net surplus from operations is \$6.1 million. This is \$1.3 million better than expected at this point in the year."*

*Alan Guard  
Chief Financial Officer*

The report provided to Council in May includes financial information through March, the mid-point of the fiscal year.

*On the revenue side of the equation*, overall, the City has earned or received \$50.1 million for all funds in FY 2014. This amount is 61.5 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.4 million and is 0.5 percent higher than the forecast projected through the month of March.

*Expenditures* have totaled \$44 million for FY 2014. This amount is 54.3 percent of



the approved operating budget of \$81 million and is 2.3 percent lower than forecast through the first half of the fiscal year. Based on these figures, the net surplus from operations is \$6.1 million. This is \$1.3 million better than expected at this point in the year. The positive trends we have seen so far this fiscal year continue in March!

View the [March Financial Report](#).

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

Economic Indicators are statistics about the state of the economy.

## Economic Indicators

### National Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Measuring the output of goods and services produced in the US.

*Increased* at a rate of **2.6%** in the fourth quarter of last year, following an increase of 4.1% in the third quarter.

### Retail Sales

Texas retail sales totaled **\$40.2 billion** in *January of 2014*, an increase of **\$2.3 billion** or 6% over *January of 2013*.

### Unemployment Rate

#### National

*Remained Flat* in March at **6.7%**

#### Texas

*Unchanged* at **5.5%**, or 0.9% lower than in March of 2013.

#### Rowlett

The state provides an estimate for Rowlett of **5.4%** for March, *down* from 5.8% in March of 2013.

*This information is gathered from a variety of sources and is used as context for preparing revenue and expenditure estimates when the City prepares its annual budget.*





**Why Participate in the Summer Reading Program – Fizz, Boom, Read?**

**It's not only FUN and offers great prizes, it will boost a child's comprehension levels and help them become a more successful student in the ensuing year.**

not just in reading. Kids who don't read over the summer can slide backward in all subject areas. This can mean a big loss in their literacy growth compared to those who do continue learning all year long. Early and sustained summer learning

# Library Summer Reading Program

## 2014 Theme: *Fizz, Boom, Read!*

**The Rowlett Library's high-quality summer programs keep students engaged in learning, teach them new skills, allow them to develop previously unseen talents and foster creativity and innovation!**

“*The research is clear that children who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress, and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect.*”

*Kathy Freiheit,  
Director of Library Services*

The themes for 2014 year are science-related, reflecting the steady rise in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) based curriculum. The Library is presenting science in a fun way with experiments, ooey goeey messes and unexpected reactions. Readers of all ages will be transformed into scientists as they explore all the ways science can be cool!

Studies show that many children involved in a summer reading program gain significant vocabulary, socializing and self-disciplined learning skills during this time. Children are more apt to learn during the summer months when the pressure of full-time school and other events is on hold.

Testing shows that kids who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they go back to school. And

opportunities lead to higher graduation rates, better preparation for college, and positive effects on children's self-esteem, confidence, and motivation.

**Enroll in the 2014 Summer Reading Program – Fizz, Boom, Read!**

- The number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Reading is the single summer activity most strongly and consistently related to summer learning.
- Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not.
- More than any public institution, the library contributes to the intellectual growth of children during the summer.

# *Fizz, Boom, Read!* Kick-off Party

Monday, June 9  
10:00 – Noon  
Rowlett Library

Come and enjoy bounce houses, carnival games and treats, and 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.



## Details

### *Fizz, Boom, Read!*

- Program runs June 9 - August 1
- Books, ebooks or audiobooks qualify
- Read 3-5 hours per week
- Prizes awarded weekly

### Prizes Include Free Food Certificates

McDonald's  
CiCi's Pizza  
Chick-fil-A  
Pizza Inn

Raising Cane's  
Sonic  
Carino's

### Prizes Include Free Tickets

The Wet Zone  
Frontiers of Flight Museum  
Ringling Bros. Circus  
Bowl-a-Rama  
*Texas Rangers!!!*



Summer Reading Program - *Fizz, Boom Read!*  
June 9 - August 1



# *Fizz, Boom, Read!*

## Summer Reading Program *for Children*

**Ages 9 and under**  
**Read 3 hours per week**



Encourage a lifetime of learning and enjoyment in young readers! Kids are awarded fun and yummy prizes just for reading, and in the process learn about setting and achieving

goals. Free activities include live entertainers every Tuesday and movies on Thursdays...all at your Rowlett Public Library.

### **BOOM! GO THE FIREWORKS**

**Tuesday, June 24**

**2:00 P.M.**

Mr. Randy from Pyrotech Fireworks will talk about the science behind the sparkle. Learn about how fireworks shows are put together, set to music and what chemicals are involved to make different types of fireworks, all from the guy who provides the fireworks shows for the City of Rowlett!

### **ROWLETT MARTIAL ARTS ACTION TEAM**

**Tuesday, July 1**

**2:00 P.M.**

Come hear the BOOM! This local 14-member Action Team demonstrates their board-breaking skills using special TNT Boards (these make LOTS of noise)!

### **FIZZY SCIENCE WITH PROFESSOR KING**

**Tuesday, July 8**

**2:00 P.M.**

Learn about and experience the science behind FIZZY and OOZEY and DROOLY stuff with Professor King!

### **POP, FIZZ, FUNNY! WITH DEBBIE DAY**

**Tuesday, June 10**

**2:00 P.M.**

Goopy science experiments, wacky characters, audience participation and lots of fun!

### **MAD SCIENCE**

**Tuesday, June 17**

**2:00 P.M.**

This program will spark the imagination, bringing kids and science together by transforming laboratory science into fun! Dry ice storms, magic mud and sound waves are just a few of the activities sure to amaze.





## *Fizz, Boom, Read!*

### Summer Reading Program *for Children* (cont. from page 18)

#### **DAZZLING DAVE DOES SCIENCE!**

**Tuesday, July 15**

**2:00 P.M.**

Enjoy a good fireball? Not afraid of loud noises? Is combustion a thing of beauty? Science surrounds us and is part of just about everything we do. Whether riding a bicycle, turning on a light or baking a cake, there is a lot of science involved! Dazzling Dave helps people see the “every day science” and the “simple science” involved in everyday life, fostering curiosity and stimulating the imagination of both young and old alike. Science can be boring and even a little intimidating at times, but it doesn’t have to be that way! Through simple yet entertaining and fast paced demonstrations mixed with liveliness and lots of personality, the fundamentals of science are explored together. Check him out at [www.dazzlingdavescience.com](http://www.dazzlingdavescience.com).



#### **DR. FLAKE-N-STEIN**

**Tuesday, July 22**

**2:00 P.M.**

Brett Roberts is Dr. Flake-n-Stein, who combines magic, robot puppets and science experiments in this highly interactive show. Children participate with magic tricks and assist with the real science experiments conducted by “the Doctor”. This performance not only encourages children to read books on science experiments, but they will also want to read about magic tricks and science fiction too!

#### **METEOROLOGIST MAGGIE**

**Tuesday, July 29**

**2:00 P.M.**

Laugh while you learn when storyteller Margaret Clauder plays Meteorologist Maggie, weatherwoman, and demonstrates various weather phenomena! A former preschool teacher, Margaret amazes and entertains with her interactive storytelling, puppets and ventriloquism, along with a dose of magic and lots of laughs.





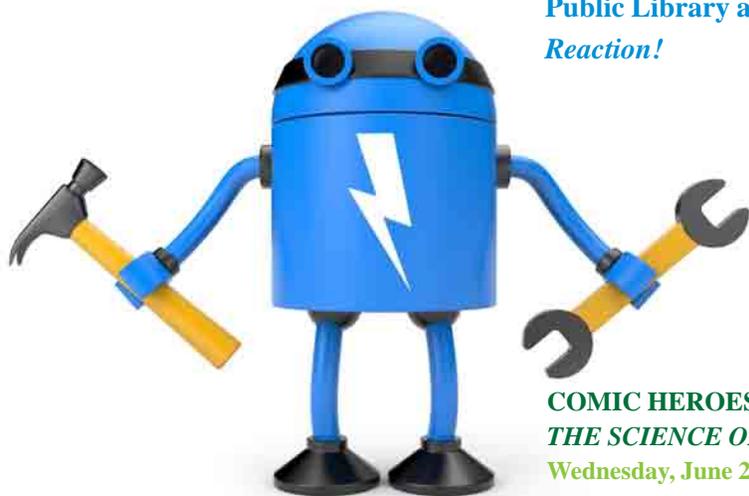
# Spark a Reaction!

## Summer Reading Program *for Tweens and Teens*

**Ages 10-18**  
**Read at least 5 hours per week**

Teens looking for fun, challenging and crazy activities this summer will find what they like at the Rowlett Public Library as they *Spark a Reaction!*

Parents, incentives help the teens set reading goals, encourage motivation to complete them and foster reading for enjoyment.



### HIGH VOLTAGE FOR TEENS

Wednesday, June 11  
 2:00 P.M.

Electrical experts from DART will show and tell how electricity can help or hurt us! ZAP!

### TRASH TO TREASURE

Wednesday, June 18  
 2:00 P.M.

Learn to make cool stuff using trash and other random stuff: book bags from tshirts, Throwees from Christmas lights, wind chimes from repurposed CDs and DVDs, jewelry from the ever- useful Duct Tape and, of course, Stupid Sock Puppets. All materials supplied or *B.Y.O.T.: Bring Your Own Trash!*

### COMIC HEROES FOR TEENS: THE SCIENCE OF THOR

Wednesday, June 25  
 2:00 P.M.

Learn the science behind the comic book hero Thor and his universe...Jane Foster would be excited to learn all this stuff! Then come back to the Library on Thursday, June 26 at 2:00 P.M. and watch the movie Thor with a whole new appreciation for how he does what he does!

### HOMETOWN HERO

Wednesday, July 2  
 2:00 P.M.

Celebrate our nation's independence with Rowlett resident and City of Rowlett Director of Human Resources, John Murray, who will educate and inspire with his program "Fighting and Dying for Freedom". John served as a member of the United States Air Force for 20 years.

### OLYMPIC MONOPOLY

Wednesday, July 9  
 2:00 P.M.

Come and play Olympic Monopoly on a full-sized board where you are the game piece! Knowledge of Greek mythology and the Percy Jackson books will help you to win!

### Read the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians Book Series* this summer!

- The Lightning Thief*
- The Sea of Monsters*
- The Titan's Curse*
- The Battle of the Labyrinth*
- The Last Olympian*





## *Spark a Reaction!* Summer Reading Program *for Teens* (cont. from page 21)

### **CALLING ALL GAMERS!**

Wednesday, July 16

2:00 P.M.

Are you an awesome Mario Kart player? The BEST at Guitar Hero? Come show off your skills and try to match some other outstanding video gamer's scores! Then come back to the Library on Thursday, July 17 at 2:00 P.M. and watch as Mario and Luigi battle King Koopa to rescue Princess Daisy and save the world in the Super Mario Brothers movie!

### **HEROES WITH A BOW**

Wednesday, July 23

2:00 P.M.

How did Katniss win The Hunger Games? She was an excellent archer! Come for an archery demonstration by members of the Texas Archery Club of Dallas. Come back to the Library the next day at 2 and watch the movie!



### **HARRY POTTER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR TEENS**

Wednesday, July 30

2:00 P.M.

Celebrate Harry Potter's July birthday at the last Library teen event of the summer. Get ready for the next semester of Hogwarts School for Wizards and make your own wand, gather all of your books and your owl, then have the Sorting Hat show you what House you belong in!

## *Literary Elements!* Summer Reading Program *for adults*

**Ages 18 and up**  
**Read 1 book per week**

Don't let the kids have all the fun this summer! There's nothing like a good book to while away a long summer day. Read one book every week for a

chance to win a \$20 gift card! Every week you read a book will increase your chances of winning the grand prize.



## *Energize your Imagination!* Summer Reading Program *free movie and popcorn!*

**Every Thursday**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**Rowlett Library**

As part of the Summer Reading Program, the Library offers families a way to beat the summer heat

without spending a dime! Enjoy a great family movie and FREE popcorn!

### **DESPICABLE ME**

Thursday, June 12

Rated PG

A criminal mastermind uses a trio of girls in a devious plot to control the world!

### **WALL-E**

Thursday, June 19

Rated G

In a distant, but not so unrealistic future where mankind has abandoned earth because it has become covered with trash, WALL-E, a garbage collecting robot mesmerized with trinkets of Earth's history and show tunes has been left to clean up the mess. Take a journey with this sweet robot of the future as he discovers love and teaches us all a thing or two about loyalty and friendship!

### **THOR**

Thursday, June 26

Rated PG

A powerful, but reckless warrior-god is banished from Mount Olympus and stranded on Earth where he finds love and adventure.

### **TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES**

Thursday, July 3

Rated PG

A squad of heroic pizza-loving mutant turtles named after famous renaissance artists emerge from the sewers to defend the Earth against criminal ninjas led by their evil nemesis, Shredder.

### **CLASH OF THE TITANS**

Thursday, July 10

Rated PG

Perseus, son of Zeus, battles underworld evil minions led by Hades to save the world and defeat the Kraken!

### **SUPER MARIO BROTHERS**

Thursday, July 17

Rated PG

Mario and Luigi battle King Koopa to rescue Princess Daisy and save the world!

### **THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE**

Thursday, July 24

Rated PG

Katniss is betrayed by the president and once again must face death along side Peta by playing the Hunger Games.

### **HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE**

Thursday, July 31

Rated PG

Go all the way back to the beginning as the first movie of the series introduces us to a young boy wizard as he begins his magical education at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.





# *Fizz, Boom, Read Story Times!*

## *Summer Stories for babies, toddlers and preschoolers*



### **THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS SUMMER PLAY DATE**

**Mondays @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.**

**Babies ages 0-2**

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

- June 16 – Puppets
- June 23 – Bouncing Balls
- June 30 – Parachute Play
- July 7 – Textures
- July 14 – Puppets
- July 21 – Bouncing Balls
- July 28 – Parachute Play
- August 4 – no story time
- August 11 – no story time
- August 18 – no story time
- August 25 – It's Bedtime!

### **GIGGLE, WIGGLE STORYTIME SUMMER PLAY DATE**

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

**Ages 18 months to 3 years**

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

- June 11 – Father's Day
- June 18 – Super Science
- June 25 – Summertime and Music
- July 2 – Picnics and Parades
- July 9 – Me and My Family
- July 16 – All About Fish
- July 23 – Counting and Parachute Fun
- July 30 – Hello, Baby!
- August 6 – no story time
- August 13 – no story time
- August 20 – no story time
- August 27 – At the Beach

### **PAJAMA STORY TIME**

**Every Thursday**

**June 12 – July 31  
7:00 P.M.**

Bring a pillow and blanket, wear your jammies and enjoy bedtime stories that are sure to give your little ones sweet dreams.

### **SHAKE, RATTLE AND READ SUMMER PLAY DATE**

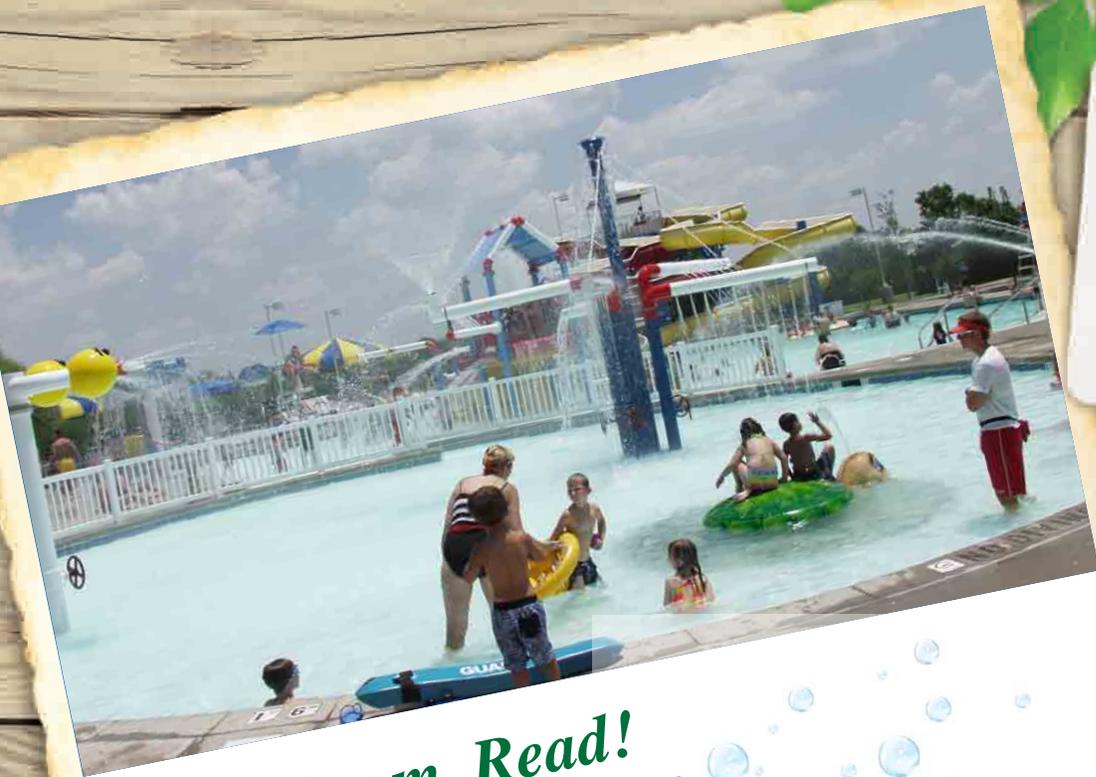
**Fridays @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.**

**Ages 3 years and older**

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

- June 13 – Mobile Dairy
- June 20 – Pop Ups and Parachute Play
- June 27 – Craft Day
- July 4 – no story time
- July 11 – Music and Marching
- July 18 – Craft Day!
- July 25 – Action Stories!
- August 1 – Craft Day
- August 8 – no story time
- August 15 – no story time
- August 22 – no story time
- August 29 – A Home for Me





## **Fizz, Boom, Read!**

### **Summer Reading Program**

### **End of Summer Party!**

**Saturday, August 2**  
**11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**The Wet Zone**

Summer Readers: gather for some fun in the sun and a last splash as the Summer Reading Program draws to a close. Readers who report hours for each week are

eligible for a free pass to the Wet Zone and any accompanying adults, children or friends not participating in the program will get in for \$3!

**Thank you to the Summer Reading Program Sponsors!**

McDonald's  
CiCi's Pizza  
Chick-fil-A  
Pizza Inn

Raising Cane's  
Sonic  
Carino's  
Frontiers of Flight  
Museum

Ringling Bros. Circus  
Bowl-a-Rama  
Texas Skatium  
**Texas Rangers!!!**

*For more information about the Fizz, Boom, Read! Summer Reading Program, call the Rowlett Public Library at 972-412-6161.*

# ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



In the past, we've covered the importance of backing up your computer. With all the risks that come from different kinds of malware, performing regular backups will save you from losing files, photos, music...everything important that is stored on your computer. Even if you manage to avoid catching any kind of malware, there is also the simple truth that hard drives fail, sometimes seemingly for no reason whatsoever.

An increasingly popular method of backing up and storing your data is cloud storage. With cloud storage, information is not stored on a local hard drive, but in a cloud-based system accessed via the Internet. Your information is still stored on a hard drive somewhere, but instead of on your home computer, it'll be in a secured data center with a bunch of other people's information. Depending on the type of cloud service you choose, the entire hard drive or just important files may be selected for back up.

## *Phil's Technology Corner*

### **Back Up Your Data...Use the Cloud!**

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

Cloud-based backups carry many benefits.

- No hard drives in your home to maintain and worry about them dying on you.
- You have a backup outside the home in case of theft, flood or fire.
- A reputable cloud storage company will have redundancies in place to make it much less likely that their customers will lose data if a single hard drive fails. So, in a sense your information is safer than it would be if you had it at home.
- Convenience. Since the access is Internet-based, you can get to it from any computer, and a lot of times with your mobile devices as well.
- Backups can be set to run automatically, so you never have to pull out a hard drive, connect it to your computer for backup, then put it away again. All you have to do is make sure your computer is on when it's time for the backup to run.

There are also risks. Accessing data requires an Internet connection. If you find yourself without one, but needing your data, you're out of luck. There are also security concerns.

Whenever information is transferred online there is some risk involved, either that the information won't transfer properly or a third party will gain access to your information if they manage to steal your password. Cloud backup companies take steps to mitigate those risks, but they still exist. If a storage company closes down, or has its servers seized as part of a criminal investigation, you may lose your backed up information.

There are several free cloud options available such as Microsoft's OneDrive, Google Drive and Dropbox. Anything free comes with limitations, though. All three of these services limit the amount of information stored but, for a monthly fee, expanded storage is offered. All three services can automatically back up information once you've designated a folder on your computer for the service to use. Mozy, Barracuda, Carbonite and Crashplan are some examples of more comprehensive, and more expensive, services. Theoretically, they should be more secure as well, though that isn't always the case.

In short, it's very important to back up any data on your computer that you don't want to lose. Cloud backup offers an alternative to having backup hard drives stored in your home, but whichever method you choose, always remember to perform regular backups!

## Technology Assistance



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

### **One on One Tech Help**

Every Friday  
Rowlett Library  
Flexible times

Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Technical Services Supervisor Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or via [email](#). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!



## *Are You Ready for the Summer?!* **Rowlett Parks & Recreation *Summer "Camps"***

The Parks and Recreation Department has a “camp” for every child. Kids will learn, have fun, stay active and make new friends!

For more information or to register call 972-412-6170 or visit [www.Rowlett.com/ParksandRec](http://www.Rowlett.com/ParksandRec)!

### **MARTIAL ARTS CAMP**

**Ages 12 and up**

#### **Jujitsu**

**June 2 – 30, July 2 – 30, August 2 – 30**

Martial Arts Hall of Fame instructor, Grand Master Duane Ethington teaches Iss-Hogai, an American Jujitsu. This is an explosive and effective system of self-defense and self-confidence taught in an easy to learn series of classes.

#### **Tae Kwon Do – Beginner**

**June 3 – 26, July 1 – 31, August 5 – 28  
Tuesday & Thursday, 6:30 P.M.**

Learn traditional Tae Kwon Do in a positive atmosphere with 5th degree black belt Bobby Blakey, who has over 27 years of experience and 10 black belts under him. Discipline, power, focus, and conditioning are just some of the things taught in this program.

#### **Tae Kwon Do – Advanced**

**June 3 – 26, July 1 – 31, August 5 – 28  
Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 P.M.**

Take your training to the next level with 5th degree black belt Bobby Blakey, who has over 27 years of experience and 10 black belts under him.

*cont. on page 27*

## ***SOAR Day Camp***

**Monday – Friday  
June 9 – August 15  
7:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

Drop the kids off at the Rowlett Community Centre where Parks and Recreation staff provides

entertaining, educational, themed-based fun to keep them up and moving all day long.

### ***Manic Monday***

Teamwork activities with themes such as “Survivor”, “Surf’s Up”, “Amazing Race” and others are featured. Participants work to build huts for stuffed animals, learn cooperation by crossing a hot chocolate river, thawing a frozen t-shirt, untangling a human knot and other team-related activities.

### ***Tidal Wave Thursday***

Water is the name of the game! Kids cool down from the hot Texas heat with a day full of wacky wild water fun! Participants will enjoy an EXTREME cool down, fun in the sun at Wet Zone Waterpark and lots of wild water games!

### ***Rookie Tuesday***

This is a sports program with a focus on FUN! Kids will play basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, pickleball and other fun games like Frisbee and golf. Everyone has a great time while getting tons of exercise!

### ***Fantastic Fun Friday***

Prepare for adventure, challenges, laughter and teamwork. Game shows, nature exploration, arts and crafts, and gym games are all entertaining ingredients for this recreational recipe for fun!



## Are You Ready for the Summer?!

### Rowlett Parks & Recreation Summer "Camps" (cont. from page 26)

For more information or to register call 972-412-6170!



#### **GUITAR CAMP**

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**June 3 – 26**

**July 1 – 24**

**August 5 – 28**

**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.

#### **BORN TO BALL SKILLS CAMP**

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**June 3 – 26**

**July 1 – 24**

**August 5 – 28**

**Beginner for ages 7-10, \$80**

**4:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Advanced for ages 11-18, \$100**

**5:00 – 6:00 P.M.**

Teens and pre-teens interested in improving their basketball game learn skills such as ball handling, dribbling and shooting and participate in agility drills and plyometrics. Train with coach Jasmine Cannon, who will be hosting these skills camps all summer long.

#### **SHAKE IT UP!**

#### **BREAKDANCING CAMP**

**Wednesdays, June 4 – 18**

**4:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Ages 11-18, \$10**

Learn some awesome break dancing skills and have a blast at this all new teen music and dance camp!

#### **BECOME A JUNIOR COUNSELOR CAMP!**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**June 9 – 30**

**July 7 – August 8**

**10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**Ages 13-17, \$25**

The Junior Recreation Leader program provides first-hand experience in the recreation field. Jr. Recs will shadow a Recreation Staff member, learning skills along the way, and help with various programs such as the SOAR Day Camp, Wet Zone Waterpark and the Out is In Camp. Work with other teens providing a safe, fun, healthy and clean environment for the participants of the programs with which you assist.

On Monday and Friday, participants will help lead our Summer SOAR program at the Rowlett Community Centre. Wednesdays will be dedicated to addressing hot topics like drug & alcohol abuse, CPR/first aid, bullying, peer pressure, teamwork, college planning and violence.

#### **SKYHAWKS BASKETBALL CAMP**

**June 9 – 13**

**July 28 – August 1**

**9:00 A.M. – Noon**

**Ages 7-12, \$110**

A fun, skill-intensive week-long camp for the beginning to intermediate player. The progression-oriented curriculum focuses on the whole player, teaching kids the skills needed to be a better athlete, both on and off the court. After a week of passing, shooting, dribbling and rebounding, your child will show you why this is one of our most popular programs. Participants-to-coach ratio is 8:1 and includes a T-shirt and merit award.

#### **DINOSAUR ABC CAMP**

**June 10 – 14**

**9:00 – 11:00 A.M.**

**Ages 3-5, \$35**

This tot camp introduces little ones to all 26 letters of the alphabet. Through a variety of songs, stories, flash cards, coloring, and craft activities, kids become familiar with both uppercase and lowercase letters. The instructor developed the idea to teach alphabet and early reading classes during her experience as a substitute teacher.

*cont. on page 28*



## Are You Ready for the Summer?!

### Rowlett Parks & Recreation *Summer “Camps”* (cont. from page 27)

For more information or to register call 972-412-6170!

#### SKYHAWKS SOCCER CAMP

June 16 – 20

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 7-12, \$110

Skyhawks was founded as a soccer club in 1979. Over 30 years later, it’s still the #1 choice for parents wishing to introduce their children to the fundamentals of the world’s most popular sport. Designed for beginner and intermediate players, this camp focuses on dribbling, passing, shooting and ball control. Using a progression-oriented curriculum, kids gain technical skills and knowledge to up their game.

#### SKYHAWKS FLAG FOOTBALL CAMP

June 23 – 27

August 4 – 8

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 7-12, \$110

A camp for beginning to intermediate athletes who want to complete their introduction to “America’s Game” and enhance skills in preparation for league play. Through “skill of the day” activities, young athletes will learn the core components of passing, catching and de-flagging or defensive positioning. Camp ends with the Skyhawks Super Bowl,

giving participants a chance to showcase their skills on the gridiron.

#### SHAKE IT UP!

#### RAPLYRICIST CAMP

Wednesdays, July 2 – 16

4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Ages 11-18, \$10

Learn how to throw down some serious rhymes and have a blast at this all new teen music and dance camp!

cont. on page 29

## Out is IN Camp!

### Saturdays

July is National Parks and Recreation Month, and as such, has been designated “Out is In” month! Let us take your teen and get them **OUT** of the house, **IN** our facilities, which include

Rowlett parks, the Community Centre and Wet Zone Waterpark, and **IN**volved in healthy, safe recreation opportunities. Every Saturday we’ll meet at a different location and have education

sessions on teen appropriate topics such as health, self-esteem, peer pressure and bullying. We’ll also have hours of fun, structured activities!

#### July 12 – Pecan Grove Park

Leave no trace scavenger hunt including tree tagging, litter pick up and graffiti education.

#### July 26 – Wet Zone Waterpark

Learn water safety and talk about living up to others’ expectations. Also learn First Aid, AED and CPR!

#### July 19 – Community Park

Peer pressure, bullying, drugs & alcohol awareness session followed by sand volleyball, and a bootcamp fitness workout.

#### August 1 – Community Centre Overnight Lock In

Healthy self-esteem and teamwork, positive sports games - basketball shoot out, free throw competition and movie night.



## *Are You Ready for the Summer?!* **Rowlett Parks & Recreation Summer “Camps”** *(cont. from page 28)*

**For more information or to register call 972-412-6170!**

### **LEGO FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING CAMP**

**June 23 – 27**

**Ages 5-7, 9:00 A.M. – Noon**

**Ages 8-12, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

**\$256**

Imaginations run wild with over 100,000 pieces of LEGO! In this fun-filled, creative camp, kids learn building techniques that help make their ideas a reality under the guidance of an experienced Play-Well TEKologies instructor. Design and build motorized machines, catapults, pyramids, demolition derby cars, truss and suspension bridges, buildings and more. Explore concepts in physics, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, and architecture while playing with your favorite creations. This is a hands-on and minds-on class suitable for LEGO building system novices to “maniacs.”

### **MINECRAFT WORKSHOP CAMP**

**June 30 – July 3**

**1:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Ages 9-14, \$256**

Minecraft is an amazing tool that enables children to imagine, design and create original worlds and innovative structures. Math and Science concepts come alive as students see that in the real world there is sometimes more than one way to solve a particular problem

while they build structures in the 3D Environment using digital blocks. Students will learn how to manage their projects, utilize available resources within the game wisely and work as a team to achieve a goal.

### **PHOTOSHOP ADVENTURE CAMP**

**June 30 – July 3**

**9:00 A.M. – Noon**

**Ages 9-14, \$256**

Creativity flows as kids learn the principles of photography, composition and the use of both traditional and digital tools to create their own original works of art. Projects might include original logo design, a magazine cover, a caricature, a movie poster, etc.

### **CARTOON ANIMAL DRAWING CAMP**

**July 14 – 18**

**10:00 A.M. – Noon**

**Ages 6-16, \$130**

Laugh-out-loud funny! Mind-bendingly-adorable! Awesome-beyond-belief! Over the course of five days, our students will learn how to draw animals of all shapes, sizes, and colors. They will learn how to personify ordinary animals, transforming them into fully realized cartoon characters. If your child is a fan of cuddly animals and funny cartoons, this drawing workshop will inspire imagination and creativity!

### **SKYHAWKS GOLF CAMP**

**July 21 – 25**

**9:00 A.M. – Noon**

**Ages 5-8, \$110**

Golf is a challenging lifelong sport, so young athletes need proper focus on the fundamentals of form, swinging, putting and body positioning right from the beginning. Skyhawks has added the SNAG (Starting New At Golf) system to its curriculum. Specifically designed for the entry-level player, SNAG simplifies instruction so that young players can make an easy and effective transition onto the golf course. All equipment is provided, no need to bring your own clubs!



*cont. on page 30*



## Are You Ready for the Summer?!

### Rowlett Parks & Recreation *Summer "Camps"* (cont. from page 29)

For more information or to register call 972-412-6170!

#### SCIENCE SLEUTH CAMP

Saturday, July 12

10:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 7-8, \$30

Be a junior CSI agent and participate in "whodunit"- themed science activities. Kids learn how to be a crime solver by exploring the world of the forensic scientist while participating in fun-filled science activities.

#### AFRICAN SAFARI DRAWING CAMP

August 4 – 8

2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-12, \$130

Explore the exciting land and many animals that inhabit Africa by creating two large scenes: one in a graphic style filled with a variety of animals and another focusing on the twists and turns of a snake with pastel chalks. We will draw a variety of animals in various scenes with different media, we'll even create a cartoon!

#### SHAKE IT UP! TALENT SHOW

Friday, August 8

7 – 9:00 P.M.

Ages 11-18, \$5

Exciting DJ, rap and dance talent show for teens to showcase the skills they've learned at the *Shake it Up!* Camps all summer long.

## Camp Opportunity!

These camps are for teens with a focus on the future!

#### ACT MINI-CAMP

July 28 – August 1

5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Ages 14-18, \$40

Improve the chances of getting into the college of your choice by increasing your ACT scores. This 10-hour course includes instruction in math, grammar and writing, then students will complete one practice ACT test.

#### SAT MINI-CAMP

Saturdays,

August 23 – September 27

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 14-18, \$75

Improve the chances of getting into the college of your choice by increasing your SAT scores. This 24-hour course includes instruction in math, grammar and writing, then students will complete two practice SAT tests.

#### SAFE SITTER CAMP

Saturday, August 16

8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Ages 11-16, FREE

Safe Sitters are not just highly-qualified babysitters with First Aid, choking child rescue and CPR training. They're young business owners with practical life and safety skills. Teens learn how to market themselves, assess job requirements, how to negotiate and give a proper handshake!

Contact Fire Rescue at 972-412-6230 for more information



# *Camp Rowlett is for Seniors, too!*

Stay active and have fun this summer with trips and events!

## Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department offers Summer Senior Programming

### *Senior Potluck Lunch Social*

Second Thursday of each month

11:30 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Bring a side dish to share and the Parks & Recreation Department will provide the main entrée, a new theme every month!

*June 13 - Chicken*

*July 11 - Pizza*

*August 14 - BBQ*

### *Seniors Father's Day Breakfast*

Friday, June 13

8:30 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

\$3

Fathers, grandfathers, brothers and sons gather to celebrate each other and loved ones!



### Seniors Winstar Casino Trip

Thursday, June 5

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

\$10 fee for bus ride

Enjoy the ride with friends and receive vouchers for game play. Choose from eight city-themed gaming plazas in which to play: Paris, Beijing, Rome, Madrid, London, Vienna, Cairo and New York City. Thousands of electronic and table games can be found amidst luxurious decor and historical displays and architecture in the 500,000 square foot gaming floor.



Visit [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com) or call 972-412-6170 for more information or to make reservations.

**Dive in!**

## **The Wet Zone, Rowlett's Family Water Park**

**Get wet and have a great time at the “cool” events all summer long!**

### ***AquaFit Boot Camp***

June 2 – June 28

9:30 – 10:30 A.M.

6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

\$165

Instructor Tracy Payne, Certified Personal Trainer & Group Fitness Instructor from Xtreme Fitness brings boot camp to the Wet Zone! This camp mixes traditional boot camp drills with fun, high energy exercises done in the water. Turn your body into a “fat burning” machine! Highlights include body composition measurements, nutritional guidance, fat burning workouts and group support & accountability.

### ***Angel Swim***

Saturday, June 7

8:30 – 10:30 A.M.

This swim time is specifically set aside for those with special needs and their families. Play, swim and enjoy the Wet Zone without all the crowds!

### ***Don't Fry Day***

Friday, June 6

Safety first! Get summer started on the right foot, show us your bottle of sunscreen and get \$1 off admission! Short presentations from 12-2 p.m. about the importance of sunscreen, how to apply and fun trivia games for prizes!

### ***Jungle Jam***

Saturday, June 7

1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

School's out for summer! Kick it off with hula hoop contests for mom, swim noodle races for the kids and belly flop competitions for dad! It's a great time to come meet all the new staff, check out new programs and try all the tasty new treats.

### ***Learn to Swim!***

Ensure children are safe when visiting friends and relatives. Swim lessons are offered all summer long, from June 5 through August 3, for ages 6 months right on up to adults! With group sessions, semi-private and private lessons offered, there is a class for everyone.

### ***Flick 'n Float***

Friday, June 13 – *Despicable Me 2*

8:30 – 10:30 P.M.

Enjoy a movie from the comfort of lawn chairs or floats! Free with your daily admission or \$6 after 7:00 P.M. Special meal price of \$3 for a hot dog, chips, and a drink starts at 7:30!

### ***Father's Day at the Wet Zone***

Sunday, June 15

Noon – 6:00 P.M.

Give back to Dad and secretly get to have a little fun, too! Enjoy games, contests and fun activities for dads and kids all day long. Dads get in free with one paid child's admission.

### ***Junior Lifeguard Training***

June 16 – July 3

Ages 11-15

Don't sit at home all summer! Work with the Wet Zone lifeguards and learn what they do as well as valuable lifesaving skills.

### ***Season Pass Day***

Monday, June 23

We appreciate our season pass holders - this is our chance to show you how much! Bring a friend with to the Wet Zone and they can enjoy the day on us! Each pass-holder can bring one guest free of charge.

**For more information visit**  
**[www.wetzonewaterpark.com](http://www.wetzonewaterpark.com)**

# Graffiti Prevention

## *Reduce the Impact of Graffiti on our Community*

### Community Services Officer Chad Caldwell Offers Crime Prevention Tips

We all love coming home to a clean, well maintained neighborhood. Unfortunately, all it takes is mischievous behavior by a few to make Rowlett neighborhoods appear cluttered and crime riddled. Often this is evidenced by the appearance of graffiti. Spray painted fences and buildings do not make a community very inviting, so together we can stop this criminal behavior.

The first thing to remember is that graffiti is not “kids being kids”, it is a crime. It reduces property values and drives away businesses, citizens and, in some cases, even jobs. Some graffiti is a territory marking device associated with street gangs but the majority of offenses in Rowlett are merely indicative of unsupervised young people. Gang related or not, graffiti makes our community appear unsafe. It sends a message that someone other than our residents and our City is in control here. This encourages other crime and can lead to the decline of a whole neighborhood.

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#### *Reducing graffiti requires a partnership between:*

- *Business owners*
  - *Citizens*
  - *Courts*
  - *Crime watch groups*
  - *Neighborhood associations*
  - *Parents*
  - *Police department*
  - *Schools*
  - *Youth workers*
- 

Together we can reduce the negative impact of graffiti on our community! And remember, graffiti is a crime and here is the proof...

#### ***Rowlett City Ordinance***

##### **ARTICLE VII. ABATEMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED VISUAL BLIGHT (GRAFFITI)**

Sec. 22-251. Declaration.

The city council hereby finds and determines that visual blight (graffiti) is a public nuisance, contributes to the deterioration of neighborhoods, provides a communication system for gangs and other vandals, damages property and must be abated to avoid the detrimental impact of such graffiti on the city and its residents, to disrupt the communication system for gangs and other vandals, and to prevent further spread of such graffiti.

(Ord. No. 24-05, § 1, 6-7-2005)

*There is a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals.*

*Keep Rowlett Beautiful provides the financing for this program and they also offer equipment for graffiti removal. Contact them at [info@keeprowlettbeautiful.com](mailto:info@keeprowlettbeautiful.com).*



# 5

## Graffiti Prevention Tips

### **Keep Your Neighborhood Clean & Neat!**

Remove litter and trash, fix broken fences, trim landscape, and ensure all lighting is working properly.

### **Report It!**

If you see graffiti, quickly report it to the appropriate authorities. If you see someone engaging in graffiti, never confront the perpetrator but do call 911 immediately. Remember, graffiti is a crime!

### **Remove It!**

Rapid removal of graffiti is an effective prevention tool. Most data shows that removal within 24 to 48 hours drastically reduces reoccurrence.

### **Limit the Opportunity!**

Consider a change in landscaping. Shrubs, thorny plants and vines will effectively restrict vandal access. Plan or add lighting around your property.

### **Change the Surface!**

Textured surfaces are less attractive to graffiti vandals. Dark-colored or colorful surfaces do not provide a good canvas for graffiti.

# How and When to Use a Portable Fire Extinguisher

Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner Offers Some Important Home Safety Advice. Remember... *safety is up to you.*



A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives.

Most fires start small. If the fire is contained to a single object, such as a trash can, you may try using a fire extinguisher to put out the flames. Remember, you only have seconds because a fire burning for just one minute triples in size.

Consider using a fire extinguisher only after all members of household have been alerted and the fire department has been called and you have ensured the fire is not between you and your only escape route.

### *Fire Extinguisher Purchase*

Only purchase a fire extinguisher that is tested by an independent laboratory and is labeled A-B-C. This indicates it can be used on most home fires. Keep one easily accessible in the kitchen and garage.

There are several different types of Fire Extinguishers:

- **Class A** – for use on ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, plastics, etc.
- **Class B** – for use on flammable liquids like oil, gasoline, etc.
- **Class C** – for use on electrical equipment such as power tools and appliances.
- **Class D** – for use on combustible metals, this type is generally found in factories.

*Get Prepared!*

Have a family emergency escape plan in place. This plan can be crucial to everyone's safety. The more prepared a family is, the more quickly and calmly they will react in case of an emergency.

## **WHEN NOT TO FIGHT A FIRE**

If any of these conditions exist, leave immediately and wait for the fire department.

If the fire could block the only exit.

If the fire is spreading too quickly.

If the fire is too large.

If your house is filled with smoke.

If you are unsure how to use your fire extinguisher.

If your instincts simply tell you not to.



## *How to Operate a Fire Extinguisher*

*Know how to operate the fire extinguisher. You may not have time to read the instructions during an emergency.*

### *Remember: P.A.S.S.*

*P*ull the pin.

*A*im low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the flame.

*S*queeze the handle. This releases the extinguishing agent.

*S*weep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the

fire area in case the fire breaks out again, and repeat use of the extinguisher if necessary.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner at 972-463-3940 or via [email](#).

# Rowlett

## City Calendar

# June

|   |   |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1                                       | 2   | 3<br><b>City Council Meeting</b><br>7:30 pm   | 4  | 5<br><b>Senior's Winstar Trip</b><br>@ RCC             | 6<br><b>Don't Fry Day</b><br>@ Wet Zone  | 7<br><b>Jungle Jam @ Wet Zone</b>                   |
| 8                                       | 9<br><b>Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party</b><br>2pm @ Library | 10<br><b>Pop, Fizz, Funny</b><br>2pm @ Library<br><br><b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b><br>7:30 pm     | 11<br><b>High Voltage for Teens</b><br>2pm @ Library                         | 12<br><b>Free Movie &amp; Popcorn</b><br>2pm @ Library | 13<br><b>Father's Day Breakfast for Seniors</b><br>8:30am @ RCC<br><b>Mobile Dairy</b><br>10am @ Library<br><b>One on One Tech Help</b><br>@ Library<br><b>Flick 'n Float</b> @ Wet Zone | 14  |
| 15<br><b>Father's Day</b><br>@ Wet Zone | 16  | 17<br><b>Mad Science</b><br>2pm @ Library<br><br><b>City Council Meeting</b><br>7:30 pm                   | 18<br><b>Trash to Treasure</b><br>2pm @ Library                              | 19<br><b>Free Movie &amp; Popcorn</b><br>2pm @ Library | 20<br><b>One on One Tech Help</b><br>@ Library   | 21<br><b>Max Lift Competition</b><br>2pm @ RCC      |
| 22                                      | 23<br><b>Season Pass Day @ Wet Zone</b>                           | 24<br><b>Boom go the Fireworks</b><br>2-4 pm @ Library<br><b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b><br>7:30 pm | 25<br><b>Comic Heroes for Teens: The Science of Thor</b><br>2-4 pm @ Library | 26<br><b>Free Movie &amp; Popcorn</b><br>2pm @ Library | 27<br><b>One on One Tech Help</b><br>@ Library   | 28<br><b>Celebrate Superheroes</b><br>2pm @ Library |
| 29                                      | 30  |   |  |  |  |   |