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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1412
DECEMBER, 2014

2014 Brought New Development and More Great News about YOUR Hometown!

As a busy year comes to a close, here are just a few more reasons why Rowlett is a wonderful place to live!

2014 Brought New Development! You've probably heard that Sprouts Farmers Market is coming to Rowlett. This is exactly the kind of enhanced food shopping experience citizens have been asking for! This year, the City has seen a dramatic rise in new economic development growth, including Sprouts, coming to our City utilizing form based codes. During the Realize Rowlett 2020 visioning process, our community took the journey to decide "What do we want to be when we grow up?" With limited developable land left in Rowlett and no diversity in housing stock, we had just one shot to get it right! With that in mind, the City Council adopted an enhanced development standard called Form Based Codes, which focus on the building type, interaction of the building with the street, and neighborhood context. They still require quality architecture and construction, but allow for increased density and a larger range of uses. For example, three high quality projects approved in the past year have the ability to add nearly \$200 million in private investment. Over 10 years, this could add over \$10 million just in property taxes alone!



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FIRE RESCUE AND LAKE POINTE HEALTH NETWORK LAUNCH COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS

New program seeks to reduce hospital readmissions and improve access to care for Rowlett residents

Through a grant from the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council, Rowlett Fire Rescue has partnered with Lake Pointe Health Network (LPHN) to create a Community Health Paramedic Program. The goal of this new initiative is to increase patient access to primary and preventative care, provide medical intervention within the community health model and ultimately improve the health of the community we serve. The program focuses on community members who have been discharged from Lake Pointe Medical Center (LPMC) and have chronic or non-acute conditions, which can be managed by a Community Health Paramedic addressing their primary care needs and directing patients to the most appropriate level of care when needed.

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Just a Few MORE Reasons Why Rowlett is a Wonderful Place to Live!

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Rowlett is Seeing New Development!



Sprouts anticipates breaking ground in early 2015, with the store opening later in the year or early 2016. The store, along with the adjoining 7,500 square feet of additional retail development, will create 75-80 new jobs and generate property tax and sales tax revenue of approximately \$62,500 annually to the City!

The Village of Rowlett Downtown development is anticipated to break ground in early 2015. This catalytic transit-oriented development will change the face of Downtown Rowlett! 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 exclusive to Rowlett. 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.

New restaurants are coming to Downtown. The Village of Rowlett downtown synergy is already occurring. Three new Downtown restaurants are in development! Not only is Zanata coming to downtown Rowlett, but three additional eateries, including a French bakery/café, offering outdoor dining opportunities are on the way. This will add approximately 12,500 square feet of unique commercial space to the City's Downtown Main Street. The café will open within one year, the other two will be developed and opened within 24 months.

The Homestead at Liberty Gove. One of the key principles that came out of the Realize Rowlett 2020 visioning effort was the need for diverse housing options in order to make Rowlett a community that is attractive to people at all stages of their life. We have the market cornered on single family homes, what we now need, for example, is housing for seniors who don't want to maintain their large homes and yards anymore, young professionals just out of college and young couples not yet ready for the bigger home! The Homestead at Liberty Grove will offer those options, helping to diversify the City's tax base by providing the population and demographics needed to attract commercial businesses. Located on Liberty Grove Road near Princeton Road, The Homestead at Liberty Grove is a \$200 million, multi-phased housing development project covering approximately 195.5 acres with 620 lots.

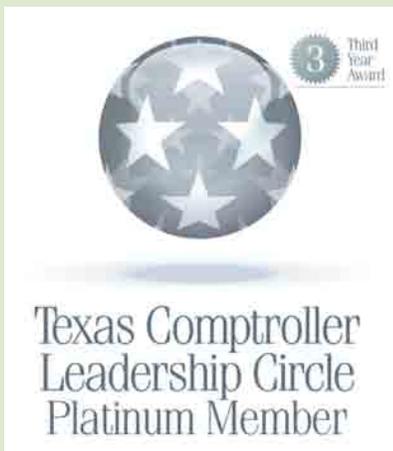
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Rowlett Named the
#10 Safest City in Texas!



Real estate research blog, Movoto created this list comparing the latest Uniform Crime Report from the FBI (2012) to find crime data for the top 100 most populous cities in Texas. In order to fairly compare places with both large and small populations, they calculated the rates of murders, violent crimes, property crimes and total crimes based on crimes per 100,000 residents. Cities were then ranked with a score from one to 100, with one being the safest possible score. Along with nominal crime, Movoto found that **“Rowlett is a quiet, upscale, and highly desirable bedroom community of Dallas, known not only for its beautiful location on Lake Ray Hubbard, but also for its safety.”** They went on to say, **“Rowlett is an educated community with over 30% of the adult population holding a bachelor’s degree or higher.”**

Strong
Financial Stewardship



The State of Texas Comptroller’s Office upgraded Rowlett from the Gold Standard of Transparency to the newly created Platinum level. This is the third consecutive year the City of Rowlett has received the Texas Comptroller’s Leadership Circle Award. The new Platinum level was just introduced for 2014 – the City was at the Gold level for the past two years, which was the highest level attainable.

The Platinum level added several requirements related to debt service reporting on the City’s website. The City of Rowlett was found fully compliant with these, satisfying all the Gold level requirements and meeting all 22 criteria, PLUS satisfying the additional website transparency requirements added to the program.

The Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Award is offered to cities that take steps to be transparent regarding financial information for their citizens. For example, Rowlett proudly offers the City’s monthly check register by the 15th of each month, financial reports, the complete budget and many other City financial reports and documents at Rowlett.com.



The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) once again awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rowlett for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2013. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the tenth consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award. The City will submit its current fiscal year end September 30, 2014 CAFR to GFOA in February 2015, and believes it will continue to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program’s requirements and award status.

GREAT NEWS ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN!

Just a Few MORE Reasons Why Rowlett is a Wonderful Place to Live!

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Rowlett has An Accredited Library!



The Texas State Library and Archives Commission recently sent official notification announcing that the Library has been accredited and is a fully qualified member of the Texas Library System for State Fiscal Year 2015 (September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015).

As an accredited library, Rowlett Public Library is eligible for TexShare database subsidies, participation in the TexShare card reciprocal borrowing program, statewide Interlibrary Loan, and the federal E-rate program. The Library is also eligible to apply for competitive grants programs administered by the State Library. Public libraries are accredited in the Government Code 441.127(a), Library Systems, under the authority of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

A Team of City Employees Dedicated to Providing Exemplary Service to our Community



During the November 4 City Council meeting, 29 City of Rowlett employees were recognized for their "Above and Beyond" performance and specific actions. These recognitions were submitted by their peers, citizens and supervisors during Fiscal Year 2014. Actions included advocating for the customer, providing outstanding communication to ensure citizens' needs were met, being proactive, displaying teamwork beyond what their job requires and exhibiting pride in the City of Rowlett through their actions.

Each of their stories are outlined [here](#). Please take the time to read about the fantastic people that serve this community each and every day providing you, the Rowlett citizen, with great value for your tax dollars!

Rowlett Now Has A Nationally Accredited Parks and Recreation Department



One of only 10 in Texas, 135 nationwide! After a two-year process, the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies and departments across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The CAPRA standards for national accreditation provide an authoritative assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. Through compliance with these national standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures policy makers, department staff, and the general public that an accredited park and recreation agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community!

One key element of a great community is the level of volunteerism. In Rowlett, the level of services our citizens enjoy would not be possible without our fantastic volunteers!

*In Fiscal Year 2014
Volunteers gave 16,437 hours at a tax payer cost savings of
\$384,625, the equivalent of 7.9 Full Time Employees!*



“We are exceptionally proud to have our EMS team working alongside LPHN. With this initiative, we will be able to provide these patients the highly-personalized care and attention they deserve. This will ultimately improve the health of our community and allow us to better allocate resources throughout the City.”

*Rowlett Fire Chief
Neil Howard*

“In an effort to enhance the continuity of care for our community, we have built a program that will not only give our patients personalized support from paramedics, but will also provide assessments of the individual’s ability to take care of themselves at home, self-care coaching and regular check-up visits to monitor and support their progress toward independence,” said LPHN CEO Brett Lee. “We believe this will decrease unnecessary bounce-back visits to the hospital, while simultaneously providing a higher level of care for our patients. And, our team will actively work to secure additional resources for each patient, as necessary.”

The Rowlett Community Paramedics initiative aims to serve more than 150 patients within the first year of the program. Caregivers and healthcare providers may recommend participation in the program; however, enrollment is voluntary. Once enrolled, an initial consultation appointment is scheduled with a Community Paramedic and a personalized care plan is developed in consultation with the patient’s primary care physician. Subsequent follow-up appointments are scheduled as needed based on the personalized care plan.

Community Health Paramedics can –

- See low acuity visits such as BP checks, Glucose checks, oxygen saturation checks, ear checks, wound checks and medication reconciliation.
- Be the eyes and ears of the physicians in the patient’s home.
- Assist home-bound patients that do not qualify for Home Care or Hospice. Emphasize managing chronic disease and illness.
- Provide preventative services such as home safety inspections and fall risk assessments. Link patients to community resources and services to assist in providing collaborative care.
- Assist with the large percentage of patients that delay accessing health services within the system until it is too late.
- Link the patients with their Primary Care Providers (PCP) or help patients find a PCP if they do not have one.
- Revisit hospital discharge instructions with the patient and conduct a comprehensive pain assessment.

The emergency response services provided by the Rowlett Fire Rescue EMS are continuously evaluated and adjusted to best meet the needs of the community, which includes working in partnership with local health care systems. With the Community Paramedic Program, we will once again be proactively offering the solution to an identified need.

STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Once Every Two Weeks Landscape Watering

No Watering Between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Landscape watering is allowed once every 14 days based on the last number of the physical address.

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

DECEMBER 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NO WATERING						
0	3 & 4	1	6 & 7	2	8 & 9	5
NO WATERING						
0	3 & 4	1	6 & 7	2	8 & 9	5
NO WATERING						
						Watering Day: Use Last Digit in Address

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.

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Main Street Fest & Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 6
3:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Main Street

Main Street comes alive with holiday sparkle, including children's activities, letter-writing to Santa, festival-style food, school choir performances, photos with Santa, Touch a Truck and a spectacular fireworks show! Enjoy live music from the Lakeshore Symphonic Winds and by the cover band The Wonderfals. Make sure to grab your seat early on to watch the Noon Exchange Club's 28th Annual Holiday Parade at 4pm; this year's theme is "Playground Christmas." Then oohh and ahhh at fireworks and as the holiday light show is switched on for the season as we *Light Up Main!*



City of Rowlett Holiday Closings

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

Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25

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

Thursday, January 1

Waste Management Holiday Closings

Waste Management is closed and will delay trash and recycling pick up by one day on:

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1



Annual Stop a Cop for Christmas Toy Drive

Saturday, November 29 – Saturday, December 20



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

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

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

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

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

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 13
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 20
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

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

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

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Veterans Day Ceremony

Local veterans were recognized and honored for their service on Tuesday, November 11 during the City's Veterans Day Ceremony.



City Council Cooks Lunch for City Employees

On Friday, November 14, members of the Rowlett City Council provided food, cooked and served at their annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, held to show City staff how much their hard work and dedication to the citizens of our community means to them.



Arbor Day and Daffodil Project
Saturday, November 8

As part of Rowlett's Tree City USA designation, Arbor Day was celebrated with the planting of four trees at Katy Park. Nearly 50 volunteers, through a grant from Keep Rowlett Beautiful, also planted 5,000 daffodil bulbs at Veterans Park, Springfield Park,



Police Station, Fire Stations and Shorewood Park. The daffodil plantings are a part of a new initiative by the Parks and Recreation Department to create a living memorial in honor of the first responders who died on September 11, 2001.



Emergency Services Organizations Assist Citizen in Need

Over 40 members of Rowlett Fire Rescue, CERT and the Rowlett Fire Explorers, along with volunteers from around the community including Mayor Todd Gottel, combined efforts to make much-needed repairs to the home of a long-time Rowlett citizen. While these organizations are accustomed to routinely working together, it's typically on emergency incidents such as house fires! All materials for the project were donated by The Home Depot.

"This just goes to show that Rowlett is not just a city to work in, but also a city to belong to."
Rowlett Firefighter's Association President,
Josh Brock



"This has been a great opportunity to serve and give back to the community. Service is nothing new to the men and women of Rowlett Fire Rescue. When they see a need, they make sure that need is met. It's just an honor to be a part of this project and to assist one of our long-time residents." Rowlett Fire Chief Neil Howard

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

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

You may recall the unprecedented ice storm that hit north Texas last December. The City responded with spreaders that applied aggregate and solid de-icing material throughout the 4-day event. It was an extremely busy time for Public Works snow responders, and it showed that no matter when bad weather hits, the Rowlett

Team is ready to spring into action to clear roads and keep them safe for travel.

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

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

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

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

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

120 cubic yards of Ice Chat.

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

If you have any questions or see ice on the pavement, please do not hesitate to contact us at 972-412-6168.



Community Services News

Keep it Clean!

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

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



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

The Story of Romeo

This is the story of Romeo, a super sweet one-year-old Pit Bull mix. A very affectionate pup, shelter staff gave him this name because he is such a lovable dog and everyone loved him. Romeo came into the shelter on August 12 as a stray, sadly no one ever came to claim him. In mid-October, he had an encounter with another resident at the shelter, who was definitely “not so dog friendly”. Poor Romeo ended up with staples and stitches in the side of his neck. After lots of TLC by volunteers and staff, he healed up nicely and was finally adopted on November 15. What a lucky family, now able to call this little lover their own!!



Animal Shelter Maintains a FY2015 100% Live Release Rate!

#08_12-2014-1
Facebook @
Friends of Rowlett Animals

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.

The purpose of this report is to inform the City Council and public regarding the status of the City's financial position. In other words, where are we versus where did we project we would be at this time of the fiscal year. Also, the report informs the staff and City Council about significant variances in projected versus actual revenues and expenditures and allows the Council to monitor the City's financial position and make adjustments as needed.

The report provided to Council in November includes financial information through September, which is the end of the City's fiscal year. Although some of the City's funds experienced some challenges, overall it was a positive year for Rowlett from a

financial perspective in Fiscal Year 2014.

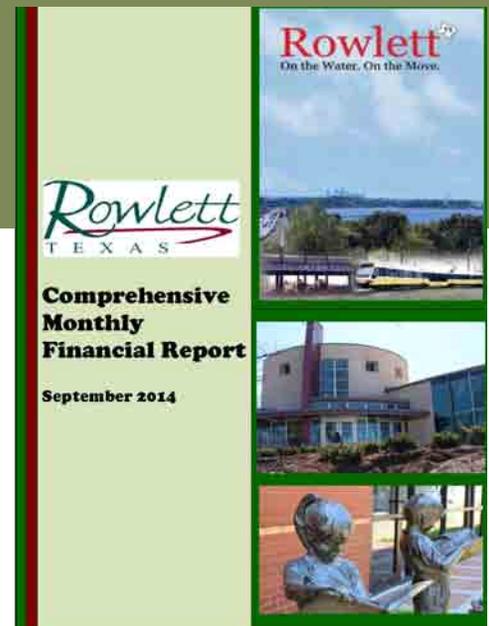
On the revenue side of the equation, across all funds, the City has earned or received \$80.6 million in FY 2014. This amount is 100.3 percent of the approved operating budget of \$80.3 million and is 0.3 percent more than the forecast projected through the month of September.

"The net surplus from operations is \$0.2 million. This is \$1.1 million better than expected at the end of the fiscal year."

*Alan Guard
Chief Financial Officer*

Expenditures have totaled \$80.5 million through the same time period. This amount is 99 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.3 million and is one percent lower than forecast. Based on these figures the net surplus from operations is \$0.2 million. This is \$1.1 million better than expected at the end of the year.

Please note, these figures are unaudited at this time. The City Charter requires the City of Rowlett to undergo an audit at the end of the fiscal year and this is conducted by an outside public accounting firm. As part of the audit the City prepares a comprehensive annual financial report, or CAFR. Once completed, the CAFR is submitted to the Government Finance Officers of America and Canada, or GFOA, and is evaluated against specific



criteria to see if it qualifies for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. *The City was recently notified that the CAFR for FY 2013 has received this prestigious award for the tenth consecutive year.* The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. In order to receive the award, the CAFR must be easily readable and efficiently organized in a way that satisfies generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

[View the entire report here.](#)

[View the FY 2014 CAFR here.](#)

If you have any questions please contact Alan Guard, Chief Financial Officer [via email](#) or 972-412-6288.

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Senior Holiday Luncheon
Thursday, December 11
11:30 A.M.

Come celebrate the holidays with food and fellowship at this popular annual event.

Please pre-register at the front desk or call 972-412-6170.



New Year's Noon Toast
Wednesday, December 31
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Celebrate the New Year without all of the nighttime obstacles. Enjoy food, beverages, entertainment and a toast to welcome in the New Year!

Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

SCAM PREVENTION FOR SENIORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
10:00 A.M.

SHREVEPORT CASINO TRIP
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
\$10

HEALTHCARE SEMINAR & LUNCH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
10:00 A.M.

SENIOR FITNESS PROGRAMS:
SAIL
PACE

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

at the Rowlett Library

Holiday Crafts at the Library

Saturday, December 6

All Day

Celebrate the holidays with seasonal crafts to keep or give to family or friends.

Trip to the North Pole

Saturday, December 13

2:00 P.M.

Children of all ages are invited to enjoy a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* read by our very special guest from the North Pole, then sip hot chocolate and make a special treat to take home.



Saturday Movie: *Frozen*

Saturday, December 20

2:00 P.M.

FROZEN is the tale of a kingdom held in eternal winter by the powerful Snow Queen Elsa and the efforts by her sprightly sister Anna, who teams up with rough-hewn mountaineer Kristoff and his trusty reindeer Sven to break the icy spell. The movie is by Walt Disney Animation Studios based on Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairy tale *The Snow Queen* and is rated PG. Free for all ages and free popcorn, too!

Winter Reading Club

Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2

Ages 5 to 18

Hey kids, school is out and the weather is cold, so let's all curl up with some good books over the holidays. Read as much as you can to earn "snowflakes" to put up in the Children's Area. Come to a party just for you on Saturday, January 3 with special prizes for those who read the most over the holidays! We'll have refreshments and door prizes, too!

Attention Young Artists: It's Time to Get Busy!



Arts and Humanities

14th Annual Young Artists Contest and Exhibit

One of the goals of the Arts and Humanities Commission is to encourage area students to become more active in their communities through the visual arts.

With that in mind, all talented young artists, Kindergarten through 12th grade, are invited to participate in this exciting contest! Three age divisions and two categories, 2D and 3D works, ensure that each child participating has a chance to shine!

Submissions run the gamut of 2D and 3D visual arts and might include paintings, drawings, sculpture or ceramics. This event

gives children the positive reinforcement and encouragement that they need to validate and further their development as young artists. It also encourages parents and community members to be more aware of the visual arts programs in our schools.

Submit all entries to the Rowlett Library on Saturday, January 10, 2015 between 10:00 and Noon for judging at the exhibit, all entries will be on display until Saturday, February 7.

For more information and contest rules, please visit the Arts and Humanities Commission webpage at www.rowlett.com!

STORY TIME!

by the Rowlett Library

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

December 1 - Play Time

December 8 - My Teddy Bear

December 15 - Love for Baby

December 22 - no story time

December 29 - no story time

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

Giggle, Wiggle Toddler Story Time

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

Ages 18 months to 3 years

December 3 - Big and Little

December 10 - Winter is Coming!

December 17 - Jingle Bell Time

December 24 - no story time

December 31 - no story time

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

Shake, Rattle and Read Preschool Story Time

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

For children 3 years of age and older

December 5 - Let's Bake Cookies

December 12 - White Christmas

December 19 - Reindeer Roundup

December 26 - no story time

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



Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays, @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-11

December features holiday books and stories during this weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 through 5. Each week, a book series or favorite book will be read and discussed, with a take-home activity to do relating to the books.

Pajama Story Time

Thursday @ 7:00 P.M.

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

Calling All Cultural Arts Groups

Arts and Humanities Commission Offers Grants!

The Arts and Humanities Commission awards small grants to support the activities of Rowlett-based non-profit cultural art groups. Applications are due December 6, 2014.



- Project applications must demonstrate how the funds will be used to promote the cultural arts in Rowlett. Grant recipients must agree to provide one program or exhibit to benefit Rowlett citizens during the grant year.
- Grant applications will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Arts and Humanities Commission.
- Grant applications are available at www.Rowlett.com.



Mail or deliver applications to:

Kathy Freiheit
Director of Library Services
Rowlett Public Library
3900 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Phil's Technology Corner

Improving Smart Phone Performance

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

If you have a smart phone, you're carrying around a little computer. As with your home computer, without a little regular maintenance, software 'gunk' can build up and cause it to not work as well as when you bought it. A common issue is slower performance. For example, it may take longer for your phone to unlock after you've put in the code, or apps may take longer to load. Your phone's web browser may also take longer than usual to load up web sites. A slow-running phone is not only annoying, but is also a common symptom of several different issues, so it's something you want to address.

One possible reason for a sluggish phone is malware. This generally means software that spies on the information that travels through your phone, like GPS, web browsing, or app information. Considering how much personal information we keep on our phones, this malware can often be used for theft, either directly from your bank account or through identity theft. As is

often the case, prevention is key. Only install apps from the official app store for your device. Before you install a new app, read the reviews and look at what permissions it asks for. For example, ask yourself if that new fitness monitor you downloaded really needs access to your call history. Don't open suspicious attachments, either through text or email. A little caution won't keep you completely safe, but it certainly helps. You should also have some kind of antimalware protection on your phone. Most vendors of traditional PC security software, like McAfee, Kaspersky, and Norton, have versions of their software for phones. If you've paid for this kind of software for your computer, check and see if your license already comes with mobile protection, or if you can get a discount for the service. There are also several free apps available just for mobile, including CM Security, 360 Security, and Lookout. Try a couple to see which one you like the most, and periodically use it to scan your device.

Malware isn't the only reason you might be experiencing slower performance. You may just have too much stuff on your phone. We often install a bunch of different apps

to try out, or load our phones up with music and pictures. These can take up a lot of space. Your phone only has so much space, and when you max out your storage, or are getting close, you'll start seeing your phone's performance lag. Like your PC, your phone produces junk files as a result of daily use, so you'll also want to clear those out regularly. Most antimalware programs also have some kind of feature to do this.

In addition to your phone slowing down, battery drain is another common symptom of poor phone performance. No smart phone is especially efficient with battery power, but if you notice you're losing juice faster than usual, you may have a problem. Conveniently, the kinds of things you can do to maintain your phone, as mentioned before, will also help you improve your phone's battery life.

So, if you have a smart phone, make sure you're taking the time to keep it running smoothly. You'll keep yourself safer from criminals, improve your battery life, and generally get more from the investment you've made in your phone.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SERIES

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



eBooks at the Library

Tuesday, December 9
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Did you know you can check out eBooks, for free, at the library? With a service called Overdrive, you can. Learn the ins and outs of this program and get the most out of your Kindle, Nook, iPad or tablet!



One-on-One Tech Help

Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times

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



Drink, Drive and Go to Jail for the Holidays

The Rowlett Police Department strives to keep Rowlett Streets Safe. To that end, a “No Refusal” policy on *Driving While Intoxicated* (DWI) is enforced

This holiday season, the Rowlett Police Department will be cracking down on impaired driving, focusing specifically on the Christmas and New Year’s holiday. Rowlett Police Officers, through a partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation’s (TxDOT) Traffic Safety Grant, will increase efforts to locate and arrest drivers under the influence of alcohol. Rowlett Police Officers trained to administer standardized field sobriety tests will be working various hours to assist patrol officers with the detection and arrest of impaired drivers.

Motorists suspected of impaired driving will be arrested and requested to provide a specimen of their blood to determine the presence of alcohol and narcotics in their body. The Rowlett Police Department and its officers will not be taking “No” for an answer. If drivers suspected of driving under the influence refuse to give a specimen, a search warrant will be requested and obtained for a specimen of the violator’s blood.

In Texas, during December 2013, more than 38,950 traffic crashes injured 7,215 people and killed 271 more. Alcohol was involved in 86 of those fatalities. Of the 3,377 fatalities on Texas roads in 2013, 1,089 were the result of alcohol-related crashes. *This makes alcohol a factor in 32.2 percent of the traffic fatalities in Texas.* In 2013, March 23 was the deadliest day on Texas roadways with 27 people killed. Of these 27 deaths, 7 were alcohol related.

“The message is simple: if you are stopped while operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, you will be arrested. A blood sample WILL be collected. No exceptions, no excuses. Please drink responsibly and have a great holiday.”

Lieutenant Michael Godfrey

The Rowlett Police Department would like to remind everyone to play it safe over the holidays. Make the decision to celebrate wisely this Christmas and New Years and throughout the year. Be a designated driver or plan ahead if you will be drinking alcohol, find a designated driver, make arrangements to take public transportation, or plan to spend the night where you will be safe. Drinking and driving is not worth the consequences.

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Holiday Crime Prevention Tips



‘Tis the season to be jolly, but unfortunately burglars view the holiday season a little differently...for them, it is a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and gifts.



Before leaving, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house appears occupied.



Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. Do not run exterior Christmas light extension cords inside through a window and therefore preventing it from being secured!



Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive new toys inside for them to steal! Do not pile empty gift boxes from your new TV, computer, DVD player, etc. on the street next to the trash can. Break the boxes down or cut them up and place them inside the polycart.

Holiday Season Fire Safety

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

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

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



Chimney Fire Safety

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

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

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

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

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



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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Select a Fresh Tree

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

Keep the Tree Watered

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

Place the Tree Away from Heat

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

Inspect Your Lights!

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

Discard Tree Promptly

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

Rowlett

City Calendar

December

	1	2 Scam Prevention for Seniors 10am @ RCC City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	3 Senior Shreveport Casino Trip 8am-5pm @ RCC	4	5 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	6 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart Main Street Fest & Holiday Parade 3-7 pm, Main Street Holiday Crafts All Day @ Library
7	8	9 eBooks at the Library 10:30am & 2pm @ Library City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	10	11 Senior Holiday Luncheon 11:30am @ RCC	12 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	13 Trip to the North Pole 2pm @ Library Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart
14	15	16 Senior Healthcare Seminar & Lunch 10am @ RCC	17	18	19 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	20 Stop a Cop Toy Drop-off 10am-2pm @ WalMart Saturday Movie: Frozen 2pm @ Library
21	22 Winter Reading Club begins @ Library	23 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	24 Christmas Eve City Facilities Closed	25 Christmas Day City Facilities Closed No Trash Collection	26 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	27
28	29	30	31 Senior's New Years Noon Toast 11am @ RCC			