



WHAT'S INSIDE:



Your Rowlett Community Centre offers world class fitness at an affordable price!

PAGE 3



State of the City Address - get an update on YOUR community!

PAGE 9



Annual Little Sweethearts Daddy Daughter Dance!

PAGE 9

a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

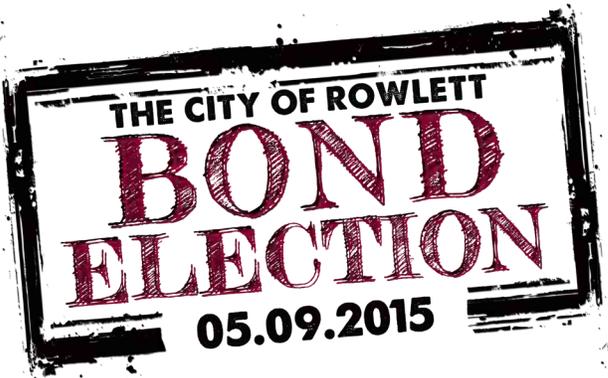
NO TAX RATE INCREASE

Bond Election – May 9

The City of Rowlett will hold a **Community Investment Program (CIP) bond election on May 9, 2015**. If passed, no increase to the tax rate will occur.

What is a Community Investment Program?

Recognizing community needs and balancing demands with the funding available, the CIP is a multi-year plan outlining the goals and objectives regarding the development, modernization or replacement of physical public infrastructure and facilities. It identifies, implements and manages these community improvement projects. For a project to be defined as a 'capital project', it should generally exceed \$25,000 in cost, be nonrecurring, provide at least five years of benefit and be an addition to the City's fixed assets. This process includes input from City staff, citizens, the CIP Task Force and the City Council and includes addressing existing infrastructure needs, planning for future growth and responding to the quality of life wants and needs of our community. The CIP will prioritize the identified projects into yearly plans based on categories addressing existing infrastructure, planning for growth and capacity, and quality of life projects.



ISSUE NO. 1501

JANUARY, 2015

Rebuilding a Community Favorite!

KIDS KINGDOM DESIGN DAYS

Elementary Schoolchildren in Rowlett Get the Opportunity to Share their Ideas for the Perfect Playground!

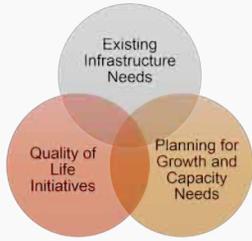


The Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department will host a community Design Day on Friday, January 16 at all of the Rowlett elementary schools to get hands-on input from a playground's most important customers (kids!) for a custom-designed, volunteer-installed playground to replace Kids Kingdom. But a more accurate description of what's planned would be design days!

"Design Days is more of an unveiling date," Parks Division Manager Keith Flournoy said. "Prior to the designers coming in, the kids will already have had the opportunity to draw what they would like Kids Kingdom to look like."

How is this possible with no tax rate increase?

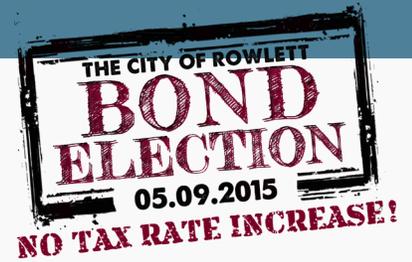
Beginning in Fiscal Year 2018, the City's annual general obligation debt service starts to dramatically decline. This provides an opportunity to capture some of that capacity, without an increase to the tax rate, through a series of bond issues over the next three years. The targeted amount for this initiative is approximately \$25 million.



What will be included in the bond package?

Last fall, the City Council directed the formation of a citizen ad-hoc committee, aptly named the Community Investment Program Task Force (CIPTF), and has tasked them to develop a recommendation for projects to include in the bond election. This recommendation entails project identification, ranking and prioritization. The CIPTF meets every two weeks (typically the second and fourth

Tuesday of each month) and will continue to do so until their goals have been met. They have welcomed citizen input to assist in the identification of projects to include through two community meetings held in December, a CIP Task Force Project Request Form included on their webpage at Rowlett.com, meetings with the City's Boards and Commissions and more.



Possible Projects Funded Might Include:



The projects identified for the 2015 bond election will be a commitment to the community!

Key Dates

- ✓ Joint meeting of the Rowlett City Council and the CPTIF
Tuesday, January 13
City Hall - 4000 Main Street
- ✓ Adoption of the ballot language
Rowlett City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17
City Hall - 4000 Main Street
- ✓ Community Investment Program Bond Election
Saturday, May 9

Community Involvement

A series of community information and input meetings was held in December

[Watch the presentation here!](#)

Would you like to identify a possible project to include?

[Fill out this form!](#)

Need more information?

[Visit the CIP Task Force Webpage!](#)

Kids Kingdom Design Days (cont. from page 1)



Play By Design consultants, Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers, who will use the artwork to begin a plan for the playground, will visit schools to interview children about their drawings.

After the interviews, consultants will spend the afternoon finishing the initial design and will have it ready to unveil during a 6:00 P.M. celebration that evening at Rowlett High School.

Please attend to view the children's playground artwork on display and enjoy a performance by the Playground Song and Step Team. Members of the community can also sign up to volunteer for the various committees created to help bring this new playground vision to fruition!

[Visit www.rowlett.com/parksandrec](http://www.rowlett.com/parksandrec) for more info!

The goal, which will depend on the speed at which fundraising occurs, is to install the new playground this fall!

Get Involved:

Volunteers Needed!

ASSIST WITH FUNDRAISING

ASSIST WITH PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION

MANAGE TOOLS FOR PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION

SOLICIT FOOD DONATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS ON INSTALLATION DAY

Get Fit
Save Money
Go Green
Volunteer

A New Year, A New You!

The City of Rowlett has opportunities right here at home to help YOU begin 2015 on the right foot!

It's hard to believe that 2015 is here! As we step into this New Year, full of resolve to make this year better than the last, let us share some opportunities right here in your own hometown to help you stay on target!



Get Fit & Save!

Rowlett Community Centre

World Class Fitness at an Affordable Price

Fitness Room

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

- 6 treadmills
- 6 recumbent bicycles with cardio theatre capabilities
- 4 ellipticals
- Pro 2 series Total Body Bicycle
- Indoor Track

The fitness room is available to members and guests 16 years of age or older. Youth ages 14-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Racquetball Courts

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



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

Over 50 Ways to Get Healthy and Stay Active!

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

Registration is now open for a full slate of fitness classes, children's activities, sports teams and senior activities offered by your Parks and Recreation Department.

Rowlett Youth Soccer

U5-U19 Age divisions (4 years to 18 years)
\$55-\$95 based on age division
www.rowlettsoccer.org or
214-607-4681

Men's Basketball League

Ages 18+ - \$325/team
Come join us for a little fun and friendly competition! The spring league will play an eight-game season on Monday nights in March and April with a playoff tournament for the top four teams.

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League

Ages 18+ - \$200/team
Grab some friends and join us for a little fun, fellowship and exercise on the court! The spring league will play an eight-game season Friday nights in March and April with a playoff tournament for the top four teams.

LAKESIDE LEISURE SPRING 2015

Life Size Sweetheart Dance
Saturdays
January 31st
5:00pm-8:00pm
Pg.12

Egg Rolling
Sundays
March 8th
10:00am-12:00pm
Pg.15

Boat Races
Saturdays
April 18th
9:00am-11:00am
Pg.18

REGISTER Dec. 1st.

FOLLOW US! LIKE US! LOVE US!
Facebook: City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation
Instagram: @RowlettParksandRec
Twitter: @RowlettParksandRec

Girls Youth Volleyball League

Ages 7-14
\$65-80/player
Seven-game season played Saturdays in March, April, and May with a playoff tournament at the end.

Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Men's State Basketball Tournament

March 20 & 21
Register now thru March 13
\$175/team

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

Fitness Classes @ the RCC

- Zumba
- Bokwa
- Jazzercise
- Spin
- Pilates I & II
- Body Works
- Mommy & Me Fitness (NEW!)
- Insanity (NEW!)

Senior Activities @ the RCC

- Bridge,
- Monthly Lunch Socials
- Computer Classes
- Personal Safety Classes
- Field Trips
- Fitness Classes

Call 972-412-6170 or visit www.rowlett.com to register or for more information!

Get Outside!

City of Rowlett Parks Offer Outdoor Fitness Opportunities

Paddle Point Park

6600 Miller Road on
Lake Ray Hubbard



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

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

Lakes of Springfield Park

5501 Antioch, just off SH66



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

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

Pecan Grove Park

5300 Main Street behind the
Rowlett Community Centre



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

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

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

Go Green!

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



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

Did You Know?

The average weekday has 1,253 riders from the DART Light Rail Downtown Rowlett Station!

The average Saturday has 1,139!

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

Volunteer!

Take an Active Role in YOUR Community



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

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

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

In Fiscal Year 2014:

16,437 volunteer hours were donated
\$384,625 taxpayer dollars saved
7.8 Full Time Employee equivalents!



The Rowlett Library needs YOU!

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

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

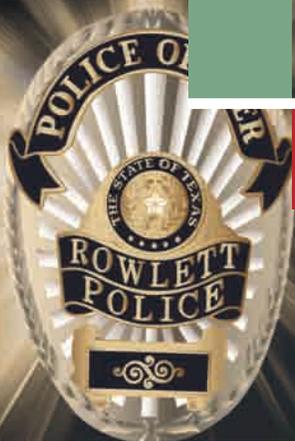
Help with Saturday programs and events. Volunteers will help patrons with set-up and clean-up and with crafts during these popular weekly programs.
For more information, please call 972-412-6161.

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

Volunteer! (cont.)

Take an Active Role in YOUR Community

Public Safety Volunteer Opportunities



Is CSI your favorite television show?

Are you interested in the inner workings of your police department?

Then the Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is for you!

Join the VIPS: Volunteers in Police Service!

Citizen's Police Academy

Spring session begins Thursday, February 12
Register for class January 1 - January 31

The CPA is an exciting 11-week course held one night per week that is designed to help you, the Rowlett resident, better understand what a police officer encounters while on duty.

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about the program or to enroll, please contact Officer Chad Caldwell at 972-412-6242 or via [email](#).

Become a Member of the Community Emergency Response Team

CERT Class

Saturdays, February 7 and 14
8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

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

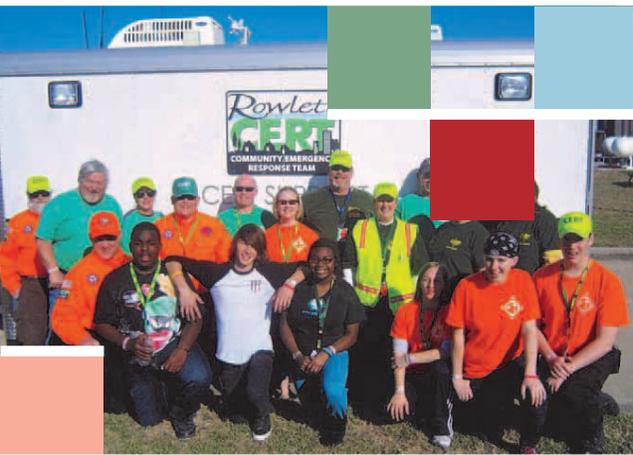
The Rowlett CERT program is well established and integrated into the City of Rowlett's Emergency Plan. It serves an essential role in disaster preparedness and emergency response in the Rowlett area. During a natural or man-made disaster, CERT teams assist Fire and Police in doing damage assessment,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

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

A course fee of \$20 covers disposable materials used in the class. For more information or to register for the class, visit www.RowlettCERT.com or email CERT@rowlettcitizen corps.org.

Being Prepared is Everyone's Responsibility.

Get Ready Today.



ANNUAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VOLUNTEER BANQUET



Diamond Volunteer of the Year
Lee Shaw

The Diamond Volunteer of the Year is awarded to the volunteer with the most volunteer hours.

Lee is the retired Director of the 911 Center in North Little Rock Arkansas and a very proud mother and grandmother. She is an amazing resource with a wealth of experience, depth of knowledge and a far-reaching network.

She has been instrumental in publishing the Emergency Operations Plan and completing a grant that allowed the City to hire a full-time Emergency Management Specialist.

In just this year alone, Lee volunteered 931 hours! She is also the recipient of the 2009 and 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award.



Platinum Volunteer of the Year
DeWayne Gates

The Platinum Volunteer of the Year is awarded to one who made a significant contribution by way of their volunteerism.

DeWayne is not just a member of the City's Volunteers in Police Services (VIPs), but he trains new members and teaches them the proper procedures for patrol and other areas within the VIPs program. He actively

recruits new members and is always one of the first to sign up to work City special events or school crossing guard duties. As if that isn't enough, he also assists our Code Enforcement Officers, performing re-inspections so that they can devote more time to improving the aesthetic beauty of our community. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, DeWayne volunteers over 400 hours every year!



Richard Huff Excellence in
Community Service Award
Martha Brown

Beginning in 2005, Rowlett Mayors have had the honor of recognizing another volunteer with the Richard Huff Excellence in Community Service Award, named for one of Rowlett's most civically engaged citizens.

The Executive Director of Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Martha coordinates multiple parks and lakeside cleanup events, electronic

recycling and document shredding events each year. She is a tireless fixture at any and all community meetings, she's also a member of the Community Investment Program Task Force and will assist in the identification of projects to include in the City's proposed 2015 Bond Election. In 2014, she cheerfully tackled the task of writing a \$250,000 TxDOT Community Improvement Grant. And won! Our community will now be blessed with \$250,000 to beautify SH66 (Lakeshore Parkway).



Gold Star Award
Chris and James Taylor

The first ever **Gold Star** Award went to this mother and son team. Library patrons since 2001, they have volunteered every week since June, 2013. With cheerful attitudes and bright smiles, they are a joy to work with and always friendly to both staff and patrons. One of the most important jobs in the Library is making sure that items are available for check-out and this team does just that, ensuring everything is properly shelved and the area is tidy. James is also very active in Special Olympic sports and Equest in Wylie. James and Chris have made a real difference in our community with their ongoing contribution to the Library!

Volunteer of the Year Dawn Costley

The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes outstanding individual contributions to the City of Rowlett and its programs, services and events.

Dawn, who retired from the Air National Guard after 22 years and then retired from FedEx with 25 years of service, was an integral part of the Parks and Recreation Department's 18-month long accreditation process and has since become one of the family! In addition to providing administrative assistance to the department and working the City's special events, Dawn also played a vital role in developing the Parks and Recreation Operation Manual. She currently working with the Parks and Recreation Division Managers to compile the Emergency Action Plans for Parks, Recreation and Wet Zone into one cohesive document.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Lake Pointe Medical Center Hostage Drill

Rowlett Fire Rescue Police, Emergency Management, along with Rockwall County EMS, participated in a hostage drill at Lake Pointe Medical Center on December 4. While the focus was on the response capabilities of hospital staff, other participating

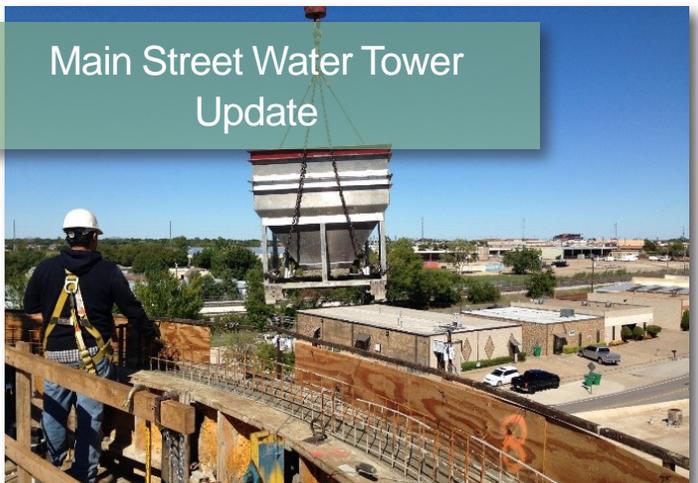


agencies were able to test and evaluate current procedures and tactics for similar real-world situations. This successful drill represents the dedication by Rowlett public safety to whole-community involvement in emergency preparedness.



Isaac Scruggs Park Improvements

Phase I nearing completion. The concrete for the full sized basketball court was poured on December 2, 10 trucks of concrete were used to complete it!



Main Street Water Tower Update

All 20 lifts have been completed for the storage tank pedestal and the dome has been constructed. The addition of this elevated storage tank, scheduled for completion by July, will assist in maintaining uniform water pressure throughout the distribution system within the Lower Pressure Plane.



Breakfast Results in Life Message Food Donation

Another reason to be proud to live in Rowlett! Assistant City Manager Jim Proce hosts a holiday breakfast each year at the Public Works facility for staff and guests, price of admission is non-perishable food. The PW guys facilitate the entire donation process, from weighing, to loading, then unloading each item. This year, 3,134 lbs. were donated to Life Message, almost all by City of Rowlett employees, tripling the amount raised last year!

3,134 pounds of food was donated...tripling the amount raised at last year's breakfast!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



City Facilities Closed

Monday, January 19

City of Rowlett offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Trash and recycle collections will go on as scheduled.

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



State of the City Address

Tuesday, February 3

7:30 P.M.

City Hall, 4000 Main Street

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

numerous 2014 accomplishments. He will also report on the outlook for 2015. As with all City Council Meetings, this address will be aired live on RTN16, the City's Cable Access Channel and on Rowlett.com.

S.A.T. Prep

Saturdays,
January 17 – February 21
9:00 A.M. – Noon
Rowlett Community Centre
972-412-6170

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



Little Sweethearts Dance

Saturday, January 31

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Rowlett Community Centre
972-412-6170

Dress up in your finest duds, Daddies, and treat that special little girl to a night she will never forget.

Fathers and daughters will dance and twirl their way through this special evening created just for them.

\$40 per couple
\$15 for each additional daughter. Includes a keepsake photo and light refreshments.

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



AARP Smart Drivers Class

Friday, January 16
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest refresher course for older drivers, helping millions remain safe on today's roads.

\$15/AARP Members, \$20/Non-members



Self Defense for Seniors

Tuesday, January 13
10:00 A.M.

United States Hall of Fame instructor, Grand Master Duane Ethington teaches self-defense basics and gives some great tips to remember when in a parking lot.

Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

SENIOR HEALTH CHECKS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

SENIOR POTLUCK LUNCH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
11:30 A.M.

BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE!

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

Monthly Financial Update

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

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

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

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

fiscal year, there is very little information to report.

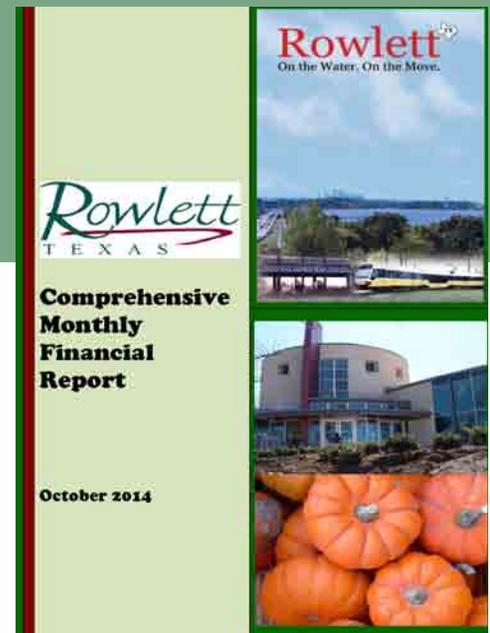
"The City earned or received \$5.6 million in October, 6.5 percent more than the forecast projected."

*Alan Guard
Chief Financial Officer*

On the revenue side of the equation, across all funds, the City has earned or received \$5.6 million in FY 2015. This amount is 6.5 percent of the approved operating budget of \$85.2 million and is 6.6 percent more than the forecast projected through October.

Expenditures have totaled \$5.7 million through the same time period. This amount is 6.6 percent of the approved operating budget of \$86.0 million and matches the forecast for the first month. Based on these figures, the net shortfall from operations is \$0.1 million, or \$0.3 million better than expected at the end of the first month.

One of the items we report on each month is the Texas Leading Index. This is a single summary statistic that sheds light on the future of the state's economy, and is reported by the Federal Reserve Bank



of Dallas. The index is a single composite of eight leading indicators – those that tend to change direction before Texas' overall economy. These include the Texas value of the dollar, US leading index, real oil price, well permits, initial claims for unemployment insurance, Texas stock index, help-wanted index and average weekly hours worked in manufacturing. For the most recent report, the index decreased by 1.1 percent between the months of July and August.

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



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 between 10:00 A.M. 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!

WINTER WONDERLAND

at the Rowlett Library

Winter Reading Club Party

Saturday, January 3

10:30 A.M.

Special party to announce the students who read the most over the holidays, enjoy punch, cookies and door prizes!

Saturday Movie at the Library

Saturday, January 3 - *Alice in Wonderland*

Saturday, February 7 - *Hook*

10:30 A.M.

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

Library Skills for Homeschoolers

Friday, January 9

10:30 A.M.

Tour the library and enjoy a "hands on" experience, learn how to access the helpful databases and many other resources available for homeschool educational excellence.

Homeschool: How?

Saturday, January 10

10:00 A.M. - Info Session

1:00 P.M. - College Admission, Transcripts and Testing

Families with children from preschool to high school will learn about the requirements and laws in Texas, especially transitioning into high school, from Shari Nelson of Christian Educators Resource Center in Rowlett. Discussion will include time management, learning styles, curriculum choices and area resources, support groups, and the financial responsibilities of a homeschooling family.

Saturday Games – Alice in Wonderland Chess

Saturday, January 17

2:00 P.M.

Learn to play chess just like Alice did against the Red Queen in Wonderland! Her moves and how she won will be demonstrated. Other games will also be available for family fun. Free and open to all ages.

Edible Book Contest

Saturday, January 31

Have a favorite book you love to sink your teeth into? Share it in the form of an edible book! Make a representation of a book title using edible items and bring to the Library, photos of each entry will be on display through February 14. Winners will be given awards at a special Valentine's Day program!

STORY TIME!

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

January 5 – Baby Animals

January 12 – I Like Bugs

January 19 – At the Farm

January 26 – Hop

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

Giggle, Wiggle Toddler Story Time

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

January 7 – Penguins & Polar Bears

January 14 – Day & Night Fun

January 21 – What a Hoot!

January 28 – Happy Birthday!

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

Shake, Rattle and Read Preschool Story Time

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

January 9 – My Warm Blanket

January 16 – Penguin Pals

January 23 – Let it Snow!

January 30 – My Shadow

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

For children 3 years of age and older.

Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays @ 4:00 P.M.

January features books and stories about Fantastic Lands including Wonderland, Narnia, Middle Earth and Fablehaven at this weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 to 5.

Pajama Story Time

Thursday, January 16

7:00 P.M.

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



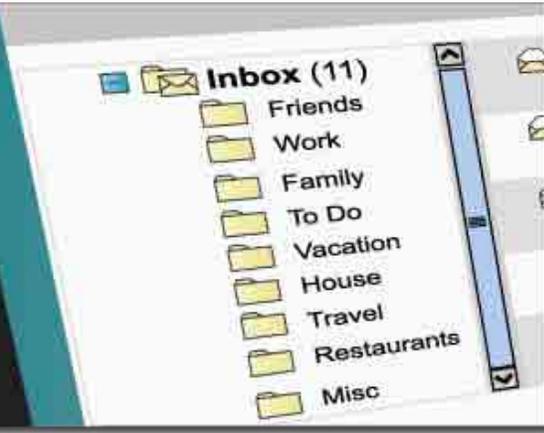
ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!

Phil's Technology Corner

Set Up eMail Folders and Filters

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

It's a New Year...Time to get Organized!



These days, we all get a ton of email. Between communication from friends and family and notifications from online services we use, our inboxes are regularly flooded with incoming messages. That's not counting all the spam that sneaks in with our regular mail. Folders are a great way to organize all of that mail and make it more manageable. Your email already comes with a set of pre-established folders, namely your inbox, sent, junk, and deleted folders. You can create more folders - for example: Facebook, purchases (Amazon, eBay, etc), family members, and so on. Using folders keeps your inbox more organized, and makes it easier to find emails if you need them later.

For the sake of brevity, I'm going to use Gmail to describe examples of setting up folders and filters. However, other email services can do this as well. In Gmail, you'll see the words "folders" and "labels", these are essentially the same thing.

When you apply a label to an email, it stays in your inbox with that label attached. Once archived, it will be moved to a folder with the same name. To set up new folders, first look at the left side the screen. At the bottom of your current folders, there will be a link that says "Manage labels." Click on it for a list of folders you can add or delete as you like, there is no limit to the number of folders allowed. There are also different options available for folders, for example, assign them a color and/or make them visible only if they house unread emails.

Folders are great from an organizational standpoint and filters are a great enhancement, allowing emails to be automatically moved into folders. Once a filter rule is established, all emails that meet it follow a specific action. For example, set up a rule that says all emails from Facebook automatically get sent to the Facebook folder. That way you can peruse them at your leisure, rather than having them fill up your inbox. To set up filters, once again click on the "Manage Labels" link. Click on the

Filters tab along the top, then choose "Create a new filter." First, you'll set the conditions to which the filter will be applied. Typically these are emails from certain people, contain certain words, or those with attachments. Once your parameters are set, click "Create filter with this search." Then, you'll choose what happens to emails that meet your criteria, such as automatically delete messages, put them in folders, always mark important, never mark important, etc. Once you've made your choices, click "Create filter." You can always return to this filter and edit it if you'd like to make changes.

Many other free email services allow you to set up folders and filters as well, including Yahoo and Outlook. The set up process for those services is generally the same, though the specifics will be a little different. Need more assistance with folders and filters? Come on in to the Library and we'll be happy to help you out!

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

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SERIES

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

Online Job Searching

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

Searching and applying for employment is done almost exclusively online nowadays. Learn the basics and get some general resume assistance as well!

eMail Basics

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

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

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



One on One Tech Help

Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times

Did you get a new iPad from Santa 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!

Stop Speeding Before it Stops You!



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

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

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

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

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

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

Lt. Michael Godfrey
Rowlett Police Department
Traffic Division

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

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

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

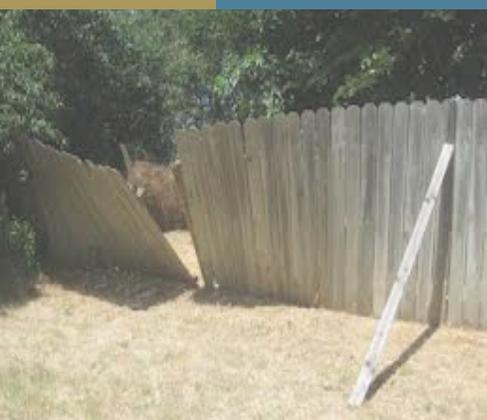
Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to have been found speeding. In fact, during 2009, 39 percent of male drivers ages 15-20 who were involved in a fatal crash were speeding at the time of the crash.

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

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP

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



Fix the Fence!

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

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

Rowlett

City Calendar

January

				1 New Years Day- City facilities closed	2 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	3 Winter Reading Club Party 10:30am @ Library
4	5	6 Senior Health Check 10am @ RCC City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	7	8 Senior Potluck Lunch 11:30am @ RCC	9 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library Library Skills for Homeschoolers 10:30am @ Library	10 Homeschooling: How? 10am & 1pm @ Library
11	12	13 Senior Self Defense 10am @ RCC Online Job Search 10:30am & 2pm @ Library Joint Council/CIPTF Meeting 6pm @ City Hall Planning & Zoning Meet- ing 7pm @ City Hall	14	15	16 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library AARP Smart Drivers Class 9am @ RCC Kids Kingdom Design Days 6pm @ Rowlett HS	17 SAT Prep Course begins 9am @ RCC Family Saturday Games – Alice in Wonderland Chess 2pm @ Library
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - City facilities closed	20 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	21	22	23 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	24
25	26	27 Email Basics 10:30am & 2pm @ Library Planning & Zoning Meet- ing 7pm @ City Hall	28	29	30 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	31 Edible Book Contest @ Library Little Sweethearts Dance 7pm @ RCC