



WHAT'S INSIDE:



Rowlett ranks high in the Best Small Cities for Families study!

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Dallas Morning News ranks Rowlett #4 out of 113 in their agency transparency study!

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Rowlett offers free mulch for citizens at the Kirby water tower!

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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN

Library Transition Plan

Library will be temporarily relocated to accommodate *Village of Rowlett* downtown construction.

The Rowlett Library is here to stay!

Many wonderful updates to downtown have occurred over the past year – green spaces, beautiful lighting and landscaping, additional parking, not to mention the extension of Martin Drive right into the heart of downtown, which provides access from the DART Light Rail station and SH66. These enhancements are just the beginning, the Village of Rowlett downtown development will soon begin!

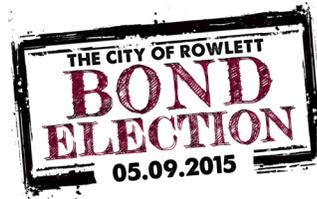
As with any new development, it will not occur without change to the existing structures. As part of the Village of Rowlett downtown development and redevelopment, the existing structure that houses the Library will be removed. The Library will remain a key component of downtown and, when the project is completed, will be located on the ground floor of the most prominent building along Main Street. City staff has briefed the City Council over the past several months on the transition plan timeline and explored various interim locations. As a result, property located at 5702 Rowlett Road has been purchased by the City to temporarily house the Library. This property will then be repurposed for alternative City use in the future, once the Library moves back downtown.



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ISSUE NO. 1502

FEBRUARY, 2015



No Tax Rate Increase!

BOND ELECTION - MAY 9

Community Investment Program Task Force (CIPTF) identifies potential projects for City Council consideration.

As discussed in the January issue of this newsletter, 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. Last August, the City Council established the CIPTF to provide project recommendations and a joint meeting was held on January 27 to discuss those identified.

The project list development process involved solicitation of public input through a series of public meetings with citizens, civic groups and City advisory boards and commissions. Citizen input has also been received through social media, an interactive website, RTN16 broadcasts, email and hand-written suggestions, and face-to-face conversations.

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Village of Rowlett



\$30 million transit-oriented development project.

Located downtown on approximately 12 acres.

Range of building types and uses within a unique village environment.

Modern housing concepts, local retail and commercial destinations, high quality pedestrian amenities, memorable open spaces.

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.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS THIS SPRING!

Library Transition Plan

A library is an integral component to the quality of life in a vibrant community. Your City Council and City staff have made a commitment to OUR community to ensure the Rowlett Library continues to thrive in a temporary location while the downtown

THE LIBRARY IS NOT GOING AWAY – ONLY THE BUILDING THAT CURRENTLY HOUSES IT WILL BE REMOVED!

development occurs. As part of this development and redevelopment, the existing structure that houses the Library will need to be removed. City staff has briefed the City Council over the past several months on the transition plan timeline and various interim locations for the Library.

How was this decision made?

Key strategic location objectives were identified:

- Minimize customer service disruption
- Minimum 10,000 square foot facility
- Budget and cost considerations
- Well lighted, climate-controlled & secure facility
- Parking, accessibility & visibility
- Operational fit & efficiency

Based upon these objectives, five potential locations within Rowlett were initially identified. Two in industrial areas, two in commercial areas and the other location was a conversion of space at an existing City facility. The City engaged Freese & Nichols, Inc. to provide architectural assistance in evaluating several of the potential locations, including space planning, concept layouts and cost considerations in making improvements to the interior of those potential locations.



5702 Rowlett Road
(front)

5702 Rowlett Road was identified as the location that met or exceeded the majority of the objectives.

An analysis by City staff compared the short term costs (24 month lease payments and improvements) estimated at \$600,000 versus acquiring the building for \$800,000 and making the improvements necessary to house and operate the library. By acquiring the facility outright, the tax notes can be sold as tax-exempt, yielding a lower interest rate. It became very apparent that it would be much more cost-effective and financially prudent for the City to purchase the building, make the needed improvements, and then have a location and an asset that could be repurposed for future City uses or sold at a future date.

POSSIBLE FUTURE OPERATIONAL USES FOR 5702 ROWLETT ROAD WERE IDENTIFIED, ONCE THE LIBRARY RELOCATES BACK TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA AS PART OF THE VILLAGE OF ROWLETT INCLUDING:

RELOCATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION FROM 4701 ROWLETT ROAD

RELOCATE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FROM 3901 MAIN STREET

THESE EXISTING FACILITIES COULD THEN BE SOLD FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

Anticipated Library Transition Plan Schedule

Identify temporary space
August – December 2014

Improvements to temporary space
January – April 2015

Vacate existing building & conduct move
April - May 2015

Demolition of existing building
June – August 2015

Village of Rowlett construction of Library space
August 2015 – August 2016

Move to Village of Rowlett space
September – October 2016



5702 Rowlett Road
(back)

5702 Rowlett Road

10,140 square foot single-story office/medical building

1.9 acres

Located north of SH66 near the
Old Rowlett Road intersection

90 parking spaces

0.88 miles from current downtown Library location

Chamber of Commerce Building Relocation

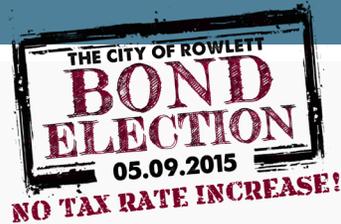
Another existing structure affected by this development is the Chamber of Commerce building, currently located at 3910 Main Street between the City Hall and the Library. Options ranged from relocating it to multiple locations within the City to demolition of the building. After the City Council vetted the options through discussions with staff, civic groups, social media, email communications, speaking at meetings, and just plain one-on-one conversations with citizens out in the community, they ultimately understood that *our* community valued this building and so directed staff to proceed with the relocation. Funds in the amount of \$400,000 were included in the FY2015 budget, with an original cost

estimate of \$340,000. Once bids were returned, the estimate is now just below \$375,000. Because this is within our budgeted amount, the City Council directed staff to move forward with the relocation of this important building.

Once the contracts are finalized, the building will be moved from its current location to 4500 Main Street, where the vacant “Old Fire Station One” currently sits. Demolition of this vacant structure will occur soon, with the relocation complete by the end of April.



Vacant “Old Fire Station One” will be demolished



Potential projects were categorized to strategically address the balanced needs of the community and provide citizen value.

- ✓ *Infrastructure Needs*
- ✓ *Planning for Growth and Capacity Needs*
- ✓ *Quality of Life Initiatives*

CIPTF Project Development Process

- Committee tours of facilities and infrastructure
- Committee development of ranking criteria
- Committee evaluation of proposed projects
- Committee ranking and prioritizing of proposed projects
- Determination of implementation strategies
- Review of financial capacities
- Planning for future bond initiatives for 2018

Projects Under Consideration Include:



Projects to be included in the 2015 CIP Bond Election will be finalized this month.

*The projects identified for the 2015 bond election will be a commitment to the community!
For More Information, Please Visit the [CIPTF page at www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com)*

BEST SMALL CITIES FOR FAMILIES: Rowlett ranks #33 in the country!

**FINANCIAL BLOG
NERDWALLET ANALYZED
1,030 CITIES WITH
POPULATIONS OF 25,000 -
100,000.**

When choosing the right place to raise their families, affordability, growth, good schools and family-friendliness are all factors many parents consider. Rowlett has them all!

Their analysis, which placed Rowlett at #33 in the country, was based on three factors:

1. Income and affordability. Median household income and median home value data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey was included.

Each metric accounted for 16.7% of a city's total score. A higher median income contributed to a higher overall score, while a higher median home value created a lower overall score.

2. Prosperity and growth. Population growth and median household income growth from 2009 to 2013 was studied, using the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Each metric accounted for 16.7% of a city's total score. A higher percentage of growth created a higher overall score for population and median income.

3. Family-friendliness. Measured by looking at the percentage of families with at least one child under age 18, and the percentage of families with incomes below the poverty level, based on data from the U.S. Census

Bureau American Community Survey. Each metric accounted for 16.7% of a city's total score. A high percentage of families with children under 18 contributed to a higher overall score, while a

high percentage of families with incomes below the poverty line created a lower overall score.

We didn't need a study to tell us what a wonderful community Rowlett is in which to raise a family, but it's always nice to be recognized for what we already know!





HEART ATTACK WARNING SIGNS

chest discomfort
shortness of breath
neck or jaw discomfort
a cold sweat
nausea or lightheadedness

For more information, visit
www.DontDieofDoubt.com.

“Don’t Die of Doubt” Campaign

Rowlett Fire Rescue Partners with the American Heart Association on Heart Attack Survival Campaign to Encourage Calling 911

The Southwest Affiliate of the American Heart Association (AHA) and Rowlett Fire Rescue have partnered in a community awareness initiative encouraging residents to call 911 at the first sign of a heart attack. Titled “Don’t Die of Doubt,” this campaign communicates that lifesaving treatment begins with a call to 911 and that responders are trained professionals who can provide care immediately and increase the chance of surviving a heart attack.

“Reducing time to treatment is vital to surviving a heart attack. This campaign showcases that calling 911 is the right thing to do at the first sign of a heart attack, regardless of the doubt someone may have about taking that action. Everyone needs to know that lifesaving care begins with a call to 911.”

Chris Weinzapfel
Rowlett Fire Rescue EMS Director

Additionally, the EMS team communicates directly with the on-call hospital staff so that treatment can continue the moment the ambulance reaches the hospital. Patients with chest pain who arrive by ambulance at the hospital are fast-tracked and rushed to the catheterization laboratory because they have completed initial testing and are ready to receive treatment!

INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF SURVIVAL. TRUST 911. MAKE THE CALL.

ROWLETT RANKS #4 OUT OF 113 AGENCIES!

In a year-long audit of open government compliance, Dallas Morning News reporters sent out and tracked 565 requests to 113 area cities, towns, county governments and school districts to determine how well they followed state laws guaranteeing access to information about how taxpayer money is spent and whether they followed best practices, such as those developed by the state Comptroller, in 2014.

→ More than 1 in 5 local government entities assessed scored a “D” or an “F” grade.

→ Rowlett was among the best in the Transparency 2015 ratings, earning an “A” rating!

We ranked as *excellent* in request best practices, *excellent* in request compliance, *excellent* in web customer service and *excellent* in online meeting notices.

The first portion of The Dallas Morning News’ study consisted of audits of the public entities’ websites, paying attention to user-friendliness and adherence to basic

requirements under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the companion law to the Public Information Act.

The Open Meetings Act stipulates that, with few exceptions, a public entity that maintains a website must “concurrently post” notice of — and the agenda for — meetings on its website.

Points were assessed for benchmarks met by each agency, including providing direct email addresses or phone numbers for its public officials; an “open government portal” offering information about the Public Information Act and an open records request form to send to the agency; timely posted agendas, minutes and meeting audio or video; updated financial information; and ordinances or school policies.

In the second portion of the study, a battery of five types of open records requests was sent to each of 113 public entities surveyed — cities and towns, county governments and school districts. Three primary factors were examined: response time, cost and whether the information was provided in the format requested.

Dallas Morning News Study “How Transparent is your Community?”



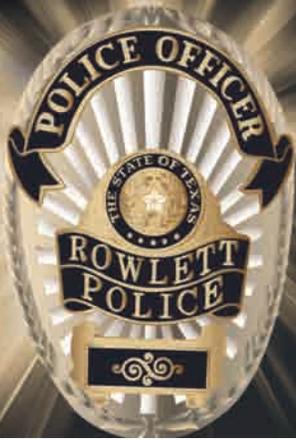
See the Dallas Morning News story/rankings [here!](#)

Visit the City of Rowlett’s [Transparency webpage!](#)

Volunteer!

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

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.

*Being Prepared
is Everyone's
Responsibility.*

Get Ready Today.

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@rowlettcitizencorps.org.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Successful Kids Kingdom Design Day

January 16 Design Day interviews by volunteers, members of the Kids Kingdom Playground Committee, Play by Design designers and Rowlett Parks and Recreation staff with kids at all of the Rowlett elementary schools were informative and entertaining!



Utilizing this input, designers spent the afternoon drawing up the playground plans, then presenting them to the 450 citizens gathered at Rowlett High School that evening.



Scenic Point Park uses "Braveheart" wood

With the delivery of materials and equipment to Scenic Point Park, another long anticipated project has started! The material chosen to build the boardwalk is Braveheart wood, a sustainable lumber from South America that is environmentally friendly, incredibly

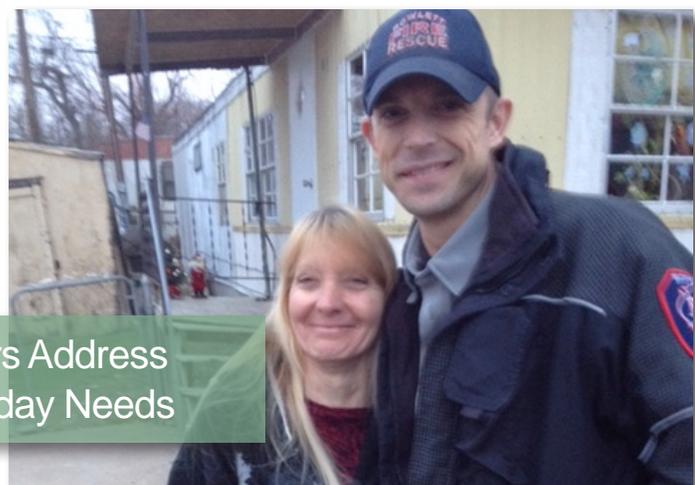


rot resistant and not treated with toxic chemicals. The boardwalk is designed to serve generations of Rowlett residents as a focal point in the Lakeside Parkway (Hwy 66) wellness area and will offer future fitness enhancing amenities. Construction of this initial phase is scheduled for completion this summer.



First Responders Address Community Holiday Needs

The Rowlett Police Department held its annual Stop-A-Cop Toy Drive, which benefits less fortunate families in the City of Rowlett. Hundreds of toys, clothing, winter coats and hygiene items were delivered to the Rowlett Needy Children's Fund on Skyline Drive for disbursement into the community.



The Rowlett Fire Fighters Association was also blessed with the ability to help out a Rowlett family in need this year. Mom's only son was joining our military in January and needed assistance with purchasing some necessities for him. She wanted to also provide a Christmas meal for him before he left for the military. What an honor to be able to help someone who was going to serve and protect our country!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



State of the City Address

Tuesday, February 3
7:30 P.M.
City Hall, 4000 Main Street

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



Come & Get it - Free Mulch!

Kirby Water Tower
3801 PGBT
(southbound service road)
Through February 13

Free ground and aged landscape-quality mulch, the end result of over 5,800 cubic yards of trees and vegetation collected and processed

from the October 2014 storm event, on a load-your-own, while-it-lasts basis through Friday, February 13. Residents must provide their own loading equipment and containers. Please, no commercial businesses or non-Rowlett residents. The mulch is not treated and the City of Rowlett does not provide any assurance or warranty that it is free from termites and/or ants.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 28
10:00 A.M. - Noon
Pecan Grove park
Free!

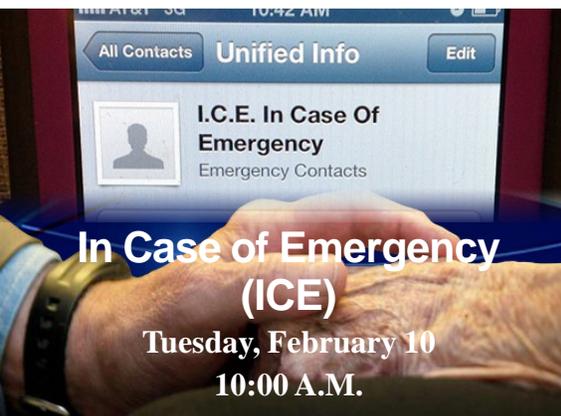


Pup-a-Palooza!

Sunday, March 29
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Herfurth Park
\$10 per dog



SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



In Case of Emergency (ICE)
Tuesday, February 10
10:00 A.M.

The Rowlett Fire Department provides tips to ensure Rowlett seniors are prepared for an emergency!



Senior Choctaw Casino Trip
Friday, February 13
\$10

Enjoy the ride with friends. The bus will depart from the Rowlett Community Centre and travel to Durant, Oklahoma for a day of fun at the Choctaw Casino.

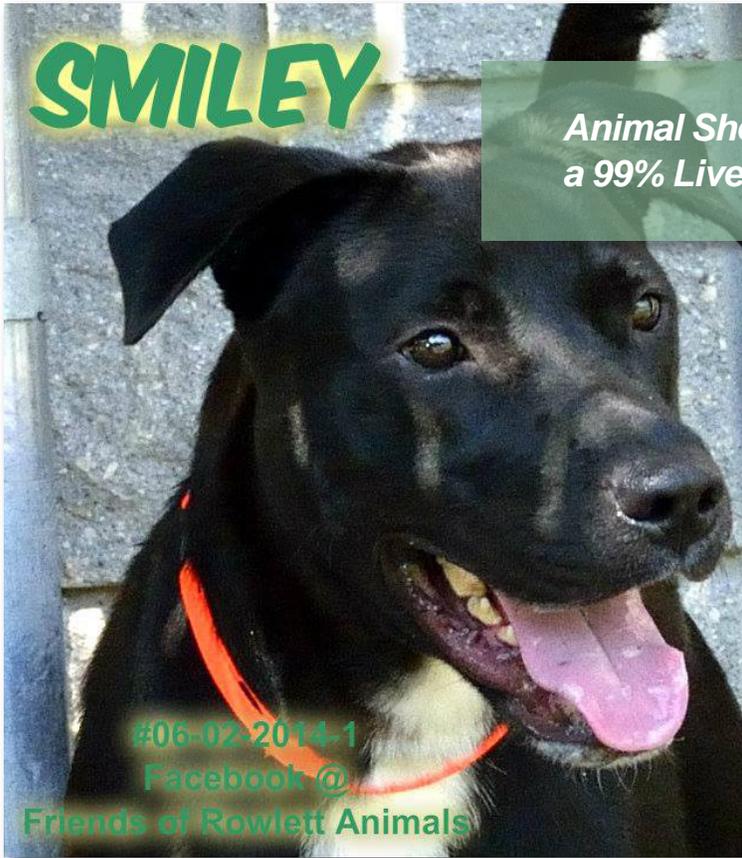
Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

SENIOR HEALTH CHECKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

SENIOR POTLUCK LUNCH
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
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



*Animal Shelter Maintains
a 99% Live Release Rate!*



Pet Adoptathon!

The Story of Smiley!

Sweet Smiley, a two-year-old Lab mix, came into the shelter back in June of 2014. This long-time shelter guest was a big hit with the staff, who were so excited when he was finally adopted in September. Sadly, he came back to the shelter last November by way of the Plano Animal Shelter, where he spent a month. Smiley had been surrendered to them and was scheduled to be euthanized due to lack of interest in him. Luckily, the Rowlett shelter had empty kennels and was able to take this staff-fave back and save him. Smiley was only here for a week before he was adopted by a family who knows his story and assured everyone that they will give him his “fur”ever home!

**Saturday, February 21
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Rowlett Animal Shelter
(4402 Industrial)**

Reduced Adoption Fee - \$25

Come find your new best friend and help your Animal Shelter maintain its current live release rate of 99 percent! This is well above the national rate of 30 percent, thanks to Rowlett residents’ willingness to open their hearts and homes to all the wonderful pets available at the shelter.

Low-cost vaccination clinic offered from 1:00-3:00 P.M.



Code Enforcement tip of the month



Clear those Dead and Dangerous Trees

Recent environmental conditions have caused trees and vegetation to become diseased or to die. In response to damage seen during ice and wind storms and the ongoing drought, the City Council recently amended the City’s code of ordinances, giving code enforcement officers the same authority over dead and dangerous trees that they have, for example, over falling fences and overgrown grass.

To ensure you do not have a potential hazard or code violation on your property, please remove dead trees and vegetation promptly!

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

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.

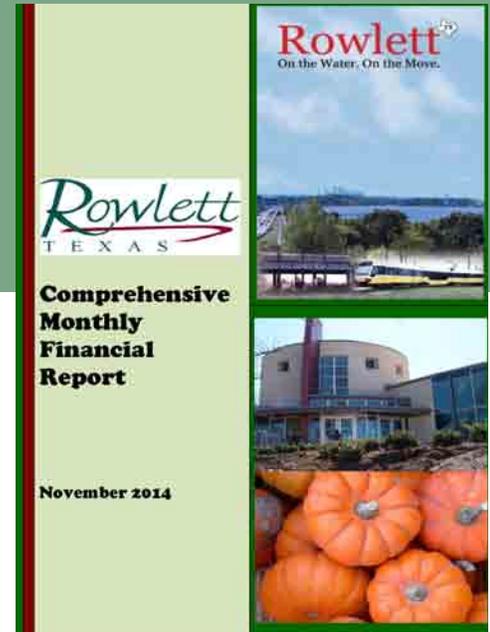
The report provided to Council in January includes financial information through November, the second month of the City's fiscal year.

"The net shortfall from operations is \$0.3 million. This is \$0.6 million better than expected at this point in the year."

*Alan Guard
Chief Financial Officer*

On the revenue side of the equation, across all funds, the City has earned or received \$11 million in FY 2015. This amount is 12.9 percent of the approved operating budget of \$85.3 million and is 3.3 percent more than the forecast projected through October.

Expenditures have totaled \$11.3 million through the same time period. This amount is 13.1 percent of the approved operating budget of \$86 million and is 2.1 percent lower than forecast. Based on these figures, the net shortfall from operations is \$0.3 million, or \$0.6 million better than



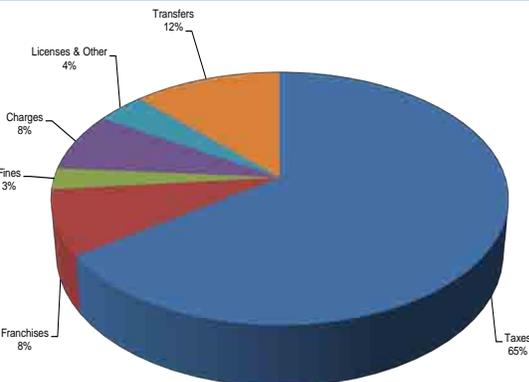
expected at the end of the first month.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON:

The General Fund

Major revenue sources in the General Fund



Property Taxes - 50%

The majority of property taxes are received in December and January.

Sales Tax - 15%

Sales tax is remitted to the City by the State Comptroller's Office each month.

Franchise Fees - 8%

Franchise fees are paid by electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications utilities to the City, generally on a quarterly basis. Natural gas franchise fees are paid annually for the privilege of access to City right-of-way.

These three sources make up more than 73% of the General Fund resources.

After the first two months of this fiscal year General Fund revenues are \$0.2 million, which is 6.6% higher than expected.

General Fund expenditures total \$0.1 million which is 2.3% lower than expected.



Valentine Fun at the Rowlett Library

February is Love Your Library Month!

Edible Book Contest

Saturday, February 7 & 14

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!

Saturday Movie at the Library

Saturday, February 7 - *Hook*

2:00 P.M.

Granny Wendy Darling must convince the middle-aged lawyer, Peter Banning, that he was once the legendary Peter Pan. And so the adventure with Peter begins anew. Rated PG. Free for all ages and free popcorn, too!

GED Tutoring

Mondays and Wednesdays

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:30 A.M. - Noon

To sign up for classes or to become a tutor, please stop by the Reference Desk.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

Beginners: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 1:00 P.M.

Hi Beginners: Mondays @ 6:00 P.M. & Wednesdays @ 1:00 P.M.

ESL classes focus on conversation and language skills, pronunciation, and cultural insights. Beginning and advanced level instruction is provided. Students of all languages are welcomed.



STORY TIME!

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

February 2 – On Safari

February 9 – Lots of Love

February 16 – Things that Go

February 23 – Beautiful Colors

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.

February 4 – All About Dogs

February 11 – Valentine's Day

February 18 – All the Little Piggies

February 25 – Boxes are Fun!

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.

February 6 – Hats On, Hats Off

February 13 – My Valentine

February 20 – Winter Fun

February 27 – A Race to Space

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.

Weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 to 5. February features juvenile fiction collection books and stories about adventurous voyages including Peter Pan and authors Ridley Pearson, Dave Barry and Jules Verne!

Pajama Story Time

Thursday, February 19

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!



Everything we do online now seems to require a password and they do start to add up pretty quickly! Most of us tend to reuse passwords, or use the same one for everything, because it's difficult to remember a lot of them. However, this practice is dangerous. If a cyber-thief gets one of your passwords, the first thing they'll do is try it out at many commonly used websites. Even worse, if they manage to access your email account, they can just reset any passwords tied to it! A solid defense is to use a different password for each online account. Furthermore, to afford the most protection possible, passwords should be as long and complicated as the website allows. Which brings us back to where we started, it's nearly impossible to remember that many complicated passwords! One solution is to use a password manager.

Password managers create a database of passwords, which is then encrypted and accessible only with a master password. That way, the master password is the only one you'll need to remember!

Password managers don't come without their own risks, though. On the off chance someone is able to steal your *master* password, they would then have access to *all* of your passwords.

Phil's Technology Corner

Managing all those Passwords!

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

Although you're entrusting your passwords to a third party, reputable companies are set up to never have access to unencrypted data. Some of these programs are cloud based, so there is always the possibility of your password file being intercepted over the Internet, though it would still be encrypted. Conversely, when utilizing programs that store the passwords on your computer, there's always the possibility your computer might crash. However, if you're backing up your important information anyway (and you should be) it's not difficult to also back up your password database. In short, although password managers aren't without risk, they are still a good way to keep track of multiple passwords.

Lastpass

Lastpass integrates with your web browser, doing the work for you by remembering passwords as you type each one in. It will also audit existing passwords for security strength, generating new, complex versions if they are found lacking. Another feature keeps track of information such as credit card numbers and shopping website profiles. Lastpass is free for basic use, or pay a yearly fee for additional features including mobile access.

Dashlane

Dashlane shares a lot of features with

Lastpass. Store your passwords online, so they're backed up, or locally on a computer. It will also audit your passwords and generate new ones. But Dashlane allows you to change all of your passwords at one time, making periodic password updates (which is generally a good idea) simple and easy. Website autofill and notes are encrypted and stored. If you have shared passwords, share just those without allowing access to the whole database. Free and premium versions are available.

Keepass

While Lastpass and Dashlane offer many neat bells and whistles, Keepass is a straightforward, easy to use, simple tool with strong encryption to protect passwords. Create your database, add your passwords and that's about it. It's stored locally on your computer, so your information isn't synced to the cloud. Depending on how you feel about Internet security, this is either comforting or inconvenient.

Password managers are one option available to help mitigate damages incurred if your online accounts are hacked. Since they're all free, download and play with each of them to see if any of them are right for you!

As always, if you have any questions about this or other topics we've covered, please visit us at the Rowlett Public Library.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SERIES

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



Intro to Microsoft Word
Saturday, February 28
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.

Topics such as the layout of Microsoft Word, general settings like fonts and spacing, using templates, smart art, and headers and footers will be covered. Bring your questions!

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



One-on-One Tech Help

Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times

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

ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

Something for Everyone at the Rowlett Community Centre!



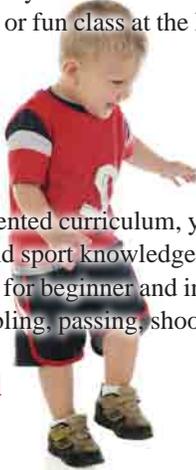
Child's Play

Mon, Wed & Fri 8:30am-11:30am

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 5:00pm-8:00pm

\$3.00/ visit per child or \$20/ ten-visit punch card

This drop-in play time program provides a stimulating environment for your child to explore, play and interact with other children while you enjoy a great workout or fun class at the RCC!



Skyhawks Soccer

Mondays @ 6:45 P.M.

\$49

Ages 7-12

Using our progression-oriented curriculum, your young athlete will gain the technical skills and sport knowledge required for the next step into soccer. Designed for beginner and intermediate players, this camp focuses on dribbling, passing, shooting, and ball control.

Skyhawks Volleyball

Wednesdays, 6:45 P.M.

\$49

Ages 7-14

Skyhawks Volleyball takes the energy and excitement of this great team sport and puts it together into one fun-filled session. All aspects of the game are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. This co-ed program is designed for the beginning and intermediate player. Our volleyball staff will assist each young athlete in developing fundamental skills through game-speed drills and daily scrimmages aimed at developing the whole player.



SNAG (Starting New at Golf)

Wednesdays @ 5:30 P.M.

\$49

Ages 5-8

Boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of swinging, putting and body positioning in this beginner course. Using the SNAG® (Starting New at Golf) system, we have simplified instruction so that young players can make an effective transition onto the golf course.

Little Sluggers T-Ball

Thursdays @ 6:00 P.M.

\$40

Ages 3-5

In this five week instructional program, your kids will have a blast learning the basic fundamentals of baseball. Not only will they learn teamwork, but they will also learn fielding, throwing, hitting and base running in a non-competitive environment.



Spring Athletic League Registration Now Open!

Men's Basketball

Attention athletes ages 18 and up!

Register through February 22

Grab your friends and join us for a little fun and friendly competition!

Men's Open Basketball League will run on Mondays and the new *Men's Church League* will run on Thursdays. The cost is \$325 per team.

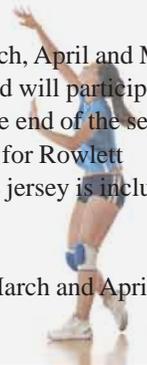
All leagues will include an eight game season with the top 4 teams making it to the playoffs. Championship t-shirts will be awarded to the top four teams. Sign your team up today in person at the Rowlett Community Centre located at 5300 Main Street.

Spring Youth Girls & Adult Coed Volleyball

Register through February 22

Youth Girls league play is on Saturdays in March, April and May. Teams will play seven regular season games and will participate in a single elimination playoff tournament at the end of the season. The league fee is \$65 for Centre members, \$70 for Rowlett Residents and \$80 for Non-Residents. A league jersey is included in the fee.

Co-ed Volleyball will run on Friday nights in March and April and the fee is \$200 per team.



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

February is National Heart Month

Be prepared! Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner shares the keys to performing HeartSaver CPR correctly... remember, your actions in an emergency might save a life!

Cardiovascular disease is our nation's number one killer. According to the American Heart Association, about 95% of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved. Heartsaver CPR is designed to teach CPR and relief of foreign-body airway obstruction. It is a great tool for babysitters, parents, grandparents, and those who have elderly parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends.

CPR and Compression Basics

- Confirm that a person is unresponsive by shaking them.
- For infants, tap their feet to prevent any injury that might result from shaking them.
- Once unresponsiveness is confirmed, look at their chest, mouth and nose to see if they are breathing.
- If they are unresponsive and not breathing, immediately call 9-1-1 and begin CPR.
- For an adult or child, place the heel of your hand on the lower half of their breastbone (sternum) and begin chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.
- For an infant, place 2 fingers just below the nipple line along their breastbone (sternum) and begin chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.

Interested in Learning More?



Standard First Aid/CPR Class

Saturday, March 8

8:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

\$30

Rowlett Fire Rescue sponsors the American Heart Association Standard First Aid/CPR class, which is open to anyone 16 years or older. Classes are limited to 12 students, who will receive a book and a two year course completion card.

Space is limited, for more information or to register call Fire Administration at 972-412-6230.

Plan Ahead and Be Prepared

“Time” to Change Batteries!



Daylight Savings Begins March 8

Rowlett Fire Rescue Urges Homeowners to Change Smoke Detector Batteries when you ‘Spring Forward’!

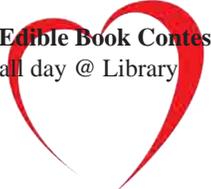
Smoke is responsible for three out of four fire-related deaths. One of the best ways you can protect your family from fire is to make sure you have good working smoke detectors inside your home for early smoke and fire detection. Change your batteries when you set your clocks forward each spring and back in the fall!

Do you or someone you know need assistance with changing smoke detector batteries?
Call Fire Administration at 972-412-6230.

Rowlett

City Calendar

February

1	2	3 City Council Meeting Mayor's State of the City 7:30 pm @ City Hall	4	5	6 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	7 Edible Book Contest all day @ Library Saturday Movie - Hook 2pm @ Library
8	9	10 ICE Program 10am @ RCC Senior Health Check 10am @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meet- ing 7pm @ City Hall	11	12 Senior Potluck Lunch 11:30am @ RCC	13 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library Senior Chocktaw Trip @ RCC	14 Edible Book Contest all day @ Library 
15	16	17 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	18	19		21 Pet Adoptathon 10am-5pm @ Animal Shelter Family Saturday Games 2pm @ Library
22	23	24 Planning & Zoning Meet- ing 7pm @ City Hall	25	26	27 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	28 Intro to Microsoft Word 10:30 & 2pm @ Library