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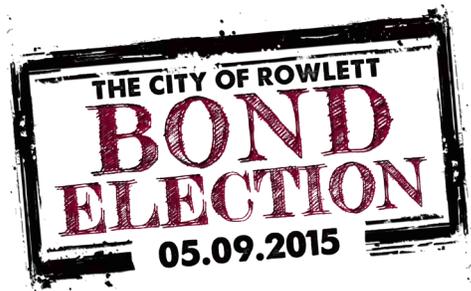
a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

Projects Identified!

CIP Bond Election

The City Council has finalized the projects to be included in the May 9 **Community Investment Program Bond Election**.



A \$25.8 million bond package to fund street, parks and public safety projects in Rowlett is coming up for a vote on May 9. Voters will have a chance to weigh in on three propositions: \$18.9 million in funding for streets; \$4.2 million for parks and \$2.6 million for public safety. If passed, residents will NOT experience an increase to the City tax rate!

Last August, the City Council established the Community Investment Program Task Force (CIPTF) to provide project recommendations. 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.

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 City tax rate, through a series of bond issues over the next three years.

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ISSUE NO. 1503

MARCH, 2015

The Kids Spoke and Rowlett Listened!

NEW KIDS KINGDOM DESIGN UNVEILED

CIP Bond Election on May 9 includes funding for over half of the approximately \$750,000 build.

The original Kids Kingdom playground, built by the community in 1997, was removed in 2013 after serious safety hazards were determined during the national playground inspection process. At that time, the City Council recognized the history and significance of Kids Kingdom to our community and pledged \$100,000 toward its replacement. And now the time has come for a community effort to raise the additional funds necessary to replace the playground with a safe and more sustainable structure!

The Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Parks Advisory Board, have spent the last almost two years exhaustively researching and planning for this amazing new structure. Steps taken have included months-long community discussions regarding a location for the new playground. While Herfurth Park emerged early on as an option,



to enhance and build upon all of the exciting new development coming to downtown, the City Council, Parks Advisory Board, City staff and the Rowlett citizens who offered their input ultimately agreed that Kids Kingdom should be rebuilt in its original spot: nestled in the trees at Pecan Grove Park.

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Community Design Day

Over 400 children and their parents attended the unveiling of the Dream Design for rebuilding the Kids Kingdom Playground in Pecan Grove Park on January 16 at Rowlett High School. With the help of many eager and enthusiastic volunteers, park designers had interviewed and brainstormed all that day with children at all of the Rowlett elementary schools, who submitted their vision of the perfect community playground. This is something, in a city the size of Rowlett, that has never been done before. 600 children came up with drawings and designs of amenities they wanted to see in their new Kids Kingdom. Ideas included jet packs, elevators, teleporters, rollercoasters, pools, donuts, dinosaurs, merry-go-rounds, giant robots, racing slides, tunnels, sharks, taco play houses and gymnastic bars, just to name a few!

Design and Features

After the brainstorming sessions, designers took all of the ideas to the drawing board, condensing the children's ideas into a one-of-a-kind, safe, over-the-top, playground that is all their own.

The new 20,000 square foot facility will be accessible to children of all abilities and will be constructed from modern materials. It will include shade structures as well as a poured rubber surface, which will aid in accessibility and save the approximately \$18,000 cost per

year to maintain engineered wood fiber.

There are many special features on the playground; a taco playhouse, giant robot, shark tunnel, historic train, giant net trampoline and, of course, the magic of the former Kids Kingdom was honored with a castle entrance.

Here are some examples of features that Kids Kingdom may include:



Zip Line



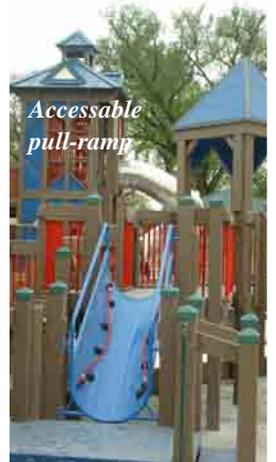
Tree House



Accessible pull-ramp

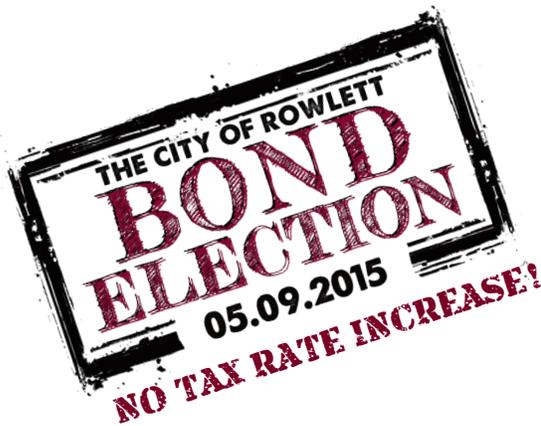


Poured-rubber Surface



Cost and Funding

AS PRESENTED, KIDS KINGDOM WILL COST \$750,000



\$100,000 committed by the City Council...

and funded in the City's FY2015 Adopted Budget

\$557,500 included in the 2015 Community Investment Program Bond Election Package -

If voters approve the bond program on May 9, the community will be able to build the bulk of the playground, including the castle structure at its entrance and the little children's area.

\$92,000 community fundraising effort

Once the Playground Committee is formed, fundraising will begin in earnest. Corporate and private donors will be given the opportunity to sponsor all or part of five special playground features, such as the dinosaur sandbox area or the zip line, which range in cost from \$10,500 to \$37,000. Kids Kingdom will include as many of the special features as the committee is able to raise money to fund, and more features could be added with continued fundraising.

Citizens have already donated over \$10,000 toward the new playground...before there was even a specific plan in place. This will pay for one of the five special features.



Wayne and Gracie Ellen, whom he recently adopted from the Rowlett Animal Shelter.

I would like to encourage the community to make a donation. We need to raise \$92,000! Make your tax deductible contribution to the City of Rowlett Kids Kingdom Fund.

Let's **Build this Park** for the kids of Rowlett!

Wayne Baxter
Parks Advisory Board Chair

A Playground Built by Volunteers!

Many, many volunteers are needed to build this magical playground so please consider sharing your excitement, expertise and experience! The Parks and Recreation Department will be planning events throughout the spring and summer to recruit volunteers. You don't have to be handy with tools, there are SO many different ways you can help!

Volunteer needs include:

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

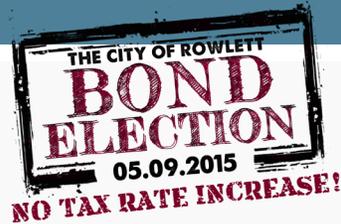
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

BUILD WEEK VOLUNTEERS:

- **Skilled Construction Team Members** – those volunteers who are comfortable using professional grade power tools, ladder work and lifting.
- **Construction Team Members** – volunteers who can paint, carry and assist the skilled team members.
- **Childcare Members** – volunteers interested in assisting with childcare for the construction team members.
- **Food Service Members** – volunteers to support the construction teams by manning the food and beverage tents.
- **Check In and Runners** – volunteers to man the check-in/volunteer tent and perform miscellaneous tasks.

Even though the focus of this project is to build a playground for our children, this community build event offers adults the opportunity to reach out across the community to make new contacts, new friends and strengthen ties within neighborhoods. What a great opportunity for you and your family to become a part of Rowlett's history!

For more information or to sign up now, please contact Parks Division Manager Keith Flournoy at 972-412-6462 or via [email](#). Send donations to Kids Kingdom Fund - P.O. Box 99 - Rowlett, TX 75030



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



*Proposition 1
Streets
\$18,932,340*



*Proposition 2
Parks
\$4,206,110*



*Proposition 3
Public Safety
\$2,631,050*

Projects on the May 9 Community Investment Program Bond Election Ballot

- Phase 1 Lake Country Estates Street Reconstruction \$3,650,000
- Advanced Traffic Mgmt System \$800,000
- Right Turn Lane at Main Street and PGBT \$260,000
- Phase 1 Dalrock Estates Street Reconstruction \$3,400,000
- Alley Reconstruction Program \$2,000,000
- Phase 1 - Highland Meadows Street Reconstruction \$3,030,000
- Primrose Lane Street Reconstruction \$1,550,000
- Main St. Reconstruction from Roundabout to PGBT \$1,870,000
- Sidewalk Connections \$280,000
- Merritt Road Interconnector Phase 2 \$1,500,000
- Traffic Signal at Chiesa & Liberty Grove \$225,000
- Wet Zone Waterpark \$660,000
- "Hike & Bike" Trail Plan \$300,000
- New Kids Kingdom \$557,500
- Rowlett Community Centre Renovation \$350,000
- Lakeside Park \$185,000
- Springfield Park \$600,000
- Community Park \$665,000
- Paddle Point Park \$165,000
- Nature Trail \$94,000
- Veterans Park \$33,000
- Pecan Grove \$75,000
- Shorewood Park \$30,000
- Katy Railroad Park Soccer \$100,000
- Katy Railroad Park Phase 2 \$310,000
- New Public Safety Department Training Center & Close Fiber Ring \$2,580,000

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

Elgin B. Robertson Property Purchase

As it serves as the gateway into Rowlett on Interstate 30, the City has been actively pursuing the purchase of this property from the City of Dallas for the past decade!

The property purchase will be funded, and innovatively master-planned, by the City's development partner, Donohue Development.

What and where is the Elgin B. Robertson property?

The property consists of approximately 257 acres situated on both sides of Interstate 30 at the Dalrock Road interchange. The north tract is located in Dallas County and consists of approximately 142 acres and the south tract is located in both Dallas County and Rockwall County and consists of approximately 115 acres.

Why is the City interested in purchasing the Elgin B. Robertson property from the City of Dallas?

As it is the gateway into Rowlett on Interstate 30, the City has been actively pursuing the purchase of this property from the City of Dallas for the past decade. Once developed, it will not only become a regional destination for the DFW metroplex and east Texas that will make our citizens very proud, but will also bring significant tax revenue to the City.

How much is the purchase price?

\$31.8 million

How will it be paid for?

The \$31.8 million purchase will be funded by the City's development partner, Donahue Development. In order to provide the best and most expedient services to our citizens, Rowlett will provide the infrastructure, including police and fire rescue response, as the land is developed.

Will it remain a park? If not, what will be built there?

The area will not remain parkland, but will be innovatively master-planned and developed. Donahue Development is working through these plans and will be presenting the vision to the City soon. This acquisition is just the first step in a multi-year development process.

KEY DATES

March 3
Rowlett City Council Work Session discussion regarding the purchase agreement and boundary adjustments.

March 17
Rowlett City Council will take action regarding the purchase agreement and boundary adjustments.

March 25
Dallas City Council will take action on the second set of boundary adjustments.

April 14
Rowlett Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing and recommendation on zoning.

April 21
Rowlett City Council Public Hearing and will take action on zoning.

April 21
Rowlett City Council will take action on Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) creation for infrastructure needs.

April 30
Property sale closes.



Watch for more updates in future issues of this newsletter!

Great Texas Warrant Roundup

Rowlett Police Department joins 160 law enforcement agencies throughout North Texas in an effort to clear open warrants.

Beginning Sunday, March 1 and running through Sunday, March 15, more than 160 law enforcement jurisdictions throughout the greater North Texas area will conduct the Great Texas Warrant Roundup. In this wide ranging effort, officers will seek out and arrest people with outstanding warrants pending before their respective Municipal Courts.

There are options available to warrant offenders which will keep them from being arrested during the roundup, but the time to discuss those options is *before* officers arrive at the door. By that time it's too late and offenders will be posting a bond, paying their fine, or immediately going to jail. During the Warrant Roundup, the Rowlett Warrant Division and the Rowlett Municipal Court will be conducting a period of amnesty for cases that have gone into warrant status. All persons with Alias Warrants who pay the original fine amounts in full will have their Fail to Appear (FTA) and Violation of Promise to Appear cases/fines associated with the original fines dismissed. This will only take place with FULL payment of the original fines in Alias Warrant cases. **This provides a savings of nearly \$300** to those with an FTA warrant in addition to their original charge. No special court date or hearing is required, those wishing to have their FTA's dismissed may contact the Warrant Clerk at 972-463-3938 or the Warrant Desk at 972-412-6210.



“While we normally focus on those with multiple warrants and higher bond amounts, during a warrant roundup every single warrant will be pursued. Persons who think that we will not seek them out because they have only one warrant should not be comfortable with that idea.”

Lt. Leroy Brantley
Rowlett Police Department

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

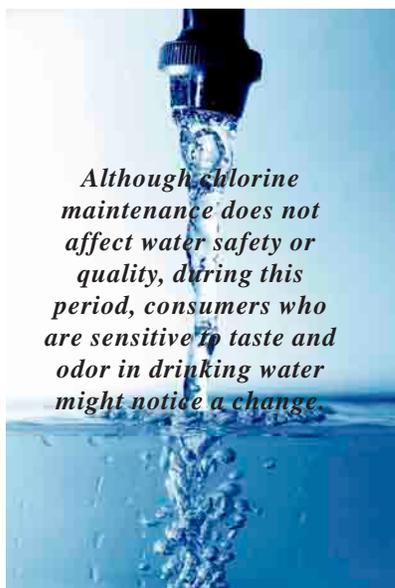
28 DAY CHLORINE MAINTENANCE

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will conduct a chlorine maintenance of its transmission system and its customers' distribution systems, including the City of Rowlett, from March 2 – March 30.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) allows water suppliers to perform chlorine maintenance to help reduce the need for water suppliers to flush systems in order to maintain

chloramine residual (required by the TCEQ) during the warm weather periods, thus conserving water.

The NTMWD utilizes chloramines, which are a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to provide the disinfectant residual in the transmission and distribution systems as required by the TCEQ. Chloramines provide a longer lasting residual disinfection in water pipelines and storage facilities.



Although chlorine maintenance does not affect water safety or quality, during this period, consumers who are sensitive to taste and odor in drinking water might notice a change.

OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM ASSISTS LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS.

Applications are now being accepted for this program, which provides up to \$24,999 in assistance in the form of an eighteen month forgivable loan and grants, which may be awarded for projects under \$2,000. The purpose of the program is to help eligible homeowners make necessary repairs and ensure compliance with health and safety codes. Funds are received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant.

WHAT COSTS WILL THE PROGRAM COVER?

- Deteriorated siding
- Stove/refrigerator
- Broken windows
- Sewer system repairs
- Minor structural repairs
- Roofing repairs
- Fire prevention and safety
- Faulty plumbing
- Fencing
- Unsafe electrical and lighting
- Insulation
- Furnace/heating systems
- Exterior/Interior painting
- Water heater replacement
- Handicapped accessibility
- Flooring

Visit www.rowlett.com/CDBG for more information.



March is Clean-up Month in Rowlett!

MARCH CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN



Open Weekends in March

9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Dumpsters located in front of the water tower on the PGBT frontage road between Main Street and Miller Road

Trim those trees and bushes, increase your property value and get a jump on spring cleaning! The annual March Clean-up Campaign allows Rowlett residents to dispose of brush and non-hazardous bulk items free of charge and without limits on the number of visits.

The dump site is open weekends in March, weather permitting, closed if it is raining. A driver's license or ID is required as proof of residence. Those with a Wylie address and an East Fork water bill are included.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Dispose of household chemical products the responsible way:

Bring them to the [Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center](#), located at [11234 Plano Road in Dallas](#). ALL residents of Rowlett, including those residing in Rockwall County, may use this facility at no charge. Driver's license AND a current utility bill are required as proof of residence.

Hazardous and Unacceptable Materials Include:

- Televisions, computer components or monitors
- Tires, batteries or automobile parts
- Any chemicals or liquids such as paint, motor oil or solvents
- Dirt, rock or concrete
- Construction, demolition or roofing materials
- Herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers or pool chemicals
- Freon or Freon-containing appliances (such as air conditioners, freezers, or refrigerators)
- Commercial contractor discards



DID YOU KNOW...



If the urge to spring clean hits you in April (or any other month of the year!), instead of during the March Clean-up Campaign, **unlimited brush and bulky waste pickup is included at no extra charge in your weekly trash service!** Simply place brush and bulky items next to trash and recycling polycarts and they will be picked up on the normal trash day. If it is an extraordinarily

large pile of brush, a second truck may be required and the pickup will occur within the same week. This service has significantly improved customer service to our citizens and aids in reducing the amount of time Code Enforcement Officers must engage to manage piles of junk and debris throughout our community.

For more information on the March Clean-up Campaign, please call the City of Rowlett Action Center at 972-412-6100

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT..



Arbor Day Daffodils are in Bloom!

The 5,000 Daffodil bulbs planted by volunteers last fall on Arbor Day as a 9/11 memorial are blooming in parks all over Rowlett, as well as at all four fire stations and the Rowlett Police Department



/Municipal Court building. These daffodils will naturalize and multiply in the flower beds and will be a welcoming sign of spring just around the corner for years to come.



Scenic Point Park

Construction has begun! Despite the abundance of rain, York Bridges has already built approximately 240 linear feet of the



elevated walk connecting the park to SH66. Work is expected to be complete in August, which is right on schedule!



Library "Friends" Present Check

Each year, Friends of the Rowlett Public Library generously provides funds in support of exciting and educational programs for children, families and adults. This year, the Friends pledged funding in the amount of \$4,500. Friends President Jerry Hickman recently presented a check for the first half of this year's contribution to Director of Library Services, Kathy Freiheit. Ongoing support from the Friends has enabled library staff to emphasize the importance of early literacy and foster a love of learning, which lasts a lifetime.



Issac Scruggs Park Improvements

The second new amenity at Scruggs Park, located on Garner Road, is a large shade structure over the playground area. This was installed to keep the area cool and to eliminate UV Rays on the equipment. The 16 acre park also boasts a brand new, full length basketball court, along with two basketball half courts, a barbecue grill, off-street parking, five picnic tables and a large area of open space for families to play.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...

State of the City Address



Mayor Todd Gottel delivered the Annual State of the City address at the February 3 City Council meeting. If you were not able to attend, watch it [here!](#)



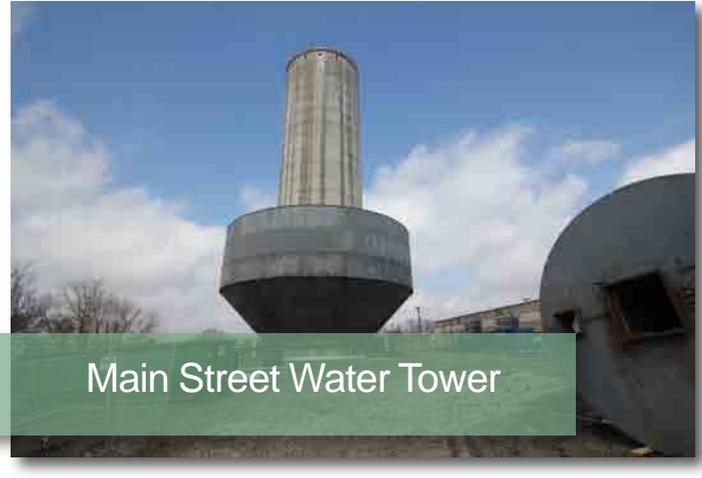
Little Sweethearts Dance

210 daddies and daughters were whisked away for "A Night in Paris" at the annual Little Sweetheart Dance, held on January 31 at the Rowlett Community Centre.



ICE Program for Seniors

Fire Chief Howard recently presented an In Case of Emergency (ICE) seminar to area senior citizens at the Rowlett Community Centre. They learned how important smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are in their house and how to use them, keeping correct up-to-date medical information and the importance of maintaining a "Grab and Go" bag.



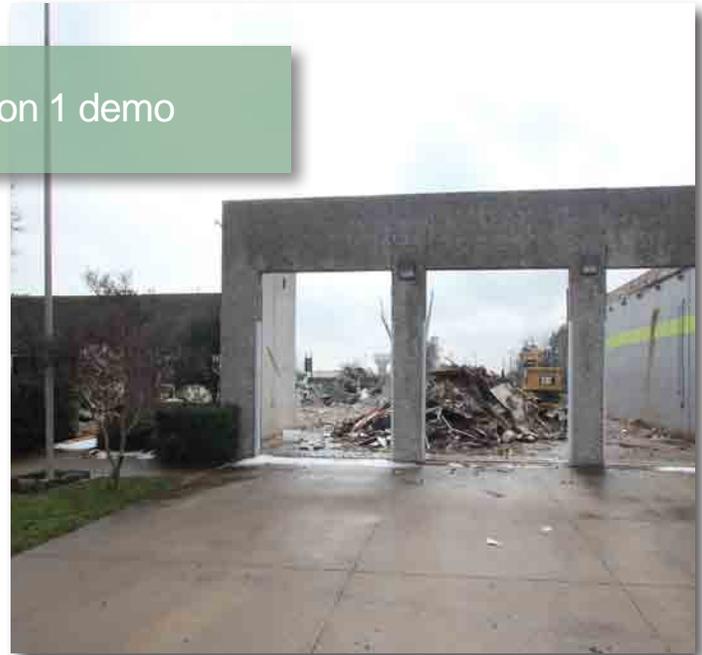
Main Street Water Tower

Progress report: hoisting or raising of the tank will happen very soon. This process will take approximately eight hours from start to finish, raising the tank approximately 20 feet per hour. At the conclusion of the lift, the crew will weld the tank supporting connections to the dome/tank connection.



Old Fire Station 1 demo

Old Fire Station 1, located on Main Street near the entrance to Herfurth Park, was demolished on February 25. This site will soon house the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, whose building will be moved in the coming weeks to make way for the Village of Rowlett downtown development.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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



Rowlett Community Centre Open House

Saturday, March 21
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Ever wondered just what the Rowlett Community Centre has to offer you and your family? Turns out, there's something for EVERYONE! Come on out for a morning of fitness and sports demonstrations, meet instructors and tour the facility. Enjoy discounts on classes, facility rentals and new memberships! Prize drawings will occur every 30 minutes and a final door prize will be awarded. Don't miss this fun opportunity to learn more about what we have to offer YOU!!!



2nd Annual Holistic Health Fair

Saturday, March 21
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

Find out about the impressive array of integrative medicine and holistic modalities we have to offer right in our own backyard. Meet and talk with various practitioners and vendors to find out more about holistic health topics. You will have a chance for great giveaways and door prizes. For more information call: Kathy Wanderer, R.N., L.Ac. 972-772-3327 or the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department at 972-412-6170.



Lakeshore Cleanup!

Saturday, March 21
9 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
**Lake Ray Hubbard's former
Marina del Ray,**
2413 Rowlett Road

City of Rowlett and Keep Rowlett Beautiful are partnering up again

for this popular community beautification volunteer event! Adults and children 10 yrs. or older are invited to celebrate the first day of spring by doing their part to help clean up our beautiful city, picking up litter and debris along the lakeshore that serves as the southern gateway into Rowlett. Families with young children will be assigned safer areas around town. Event includes a volunteer appreciation luncheon of hot dogs, drinks, chips and cookies while we share stories of the day. Take part in prize drawings of goods and services donated by local Rowlett merchants. Contact Martha Brown at Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Inc. for more information: (972) 463-3929, mbrown@keeprowlettbeautiful.org.



Standard First Aid/CPR Class

Saturday, March 7
8:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre
\$30

Seconds count in emergency situations, come learn how to assist until first responders can arrive. Rowlett Fire Rescue sponsors the American Heart Association Standard First Aid/CPR class, which is open to anyone 16 years or older. Classes will have up 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICES NEWS



**Animal Shelter Maintains
a 100% Live Release Rate!**

Pastel
ID 8-29-2014-1
Female Adult
Lab mix

**Sweet
girl**

Adopt Me!



Pet Adoptathon!

The Story of Sissy!

This pretty girl was known as Sissy (aka Pastel). Sissy came into the shelter late last summer and, when she first arrived, she was very skittish and shy. No one could touch her and she did not like a leash. After many, many weeks of TLC and training by the shelter staff, Sissy was finally trusting of most people.

Sissy was very picky about her doggy friends as well. Sissy was adopted once in December, but returned after about a week because she kept having issues with the other family dog. Luckily, she was only a guest of the shelter for a couple of weeks before she was adopted again. In a great home now, her new name is Beaslie and we receive regular updates and pictures from her new best friend!

Saturday, March 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



An early Spring Message from the Rowlett Code Enforcement Department

Mow those Shamrocks!

March brings ***High Grass and Weeds***

The Rowlett Code Enforcement Department would like to remind everyone to take a look at their yards! Due to the warm, wet winter we've just experienced, the grass and weed growth have exploded in the past few weeks. Remember, City ordinance requires you keep your grass and weeds under 12" to avoid a citation!

**For more 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 February includes financial information through

December, the third month of the City's fiscal year.

"The net surplus from operations is \$14 million. This is \$0.9 million better than expected at this point in the year. The figures for December project a positive trend so far this fiscal year"

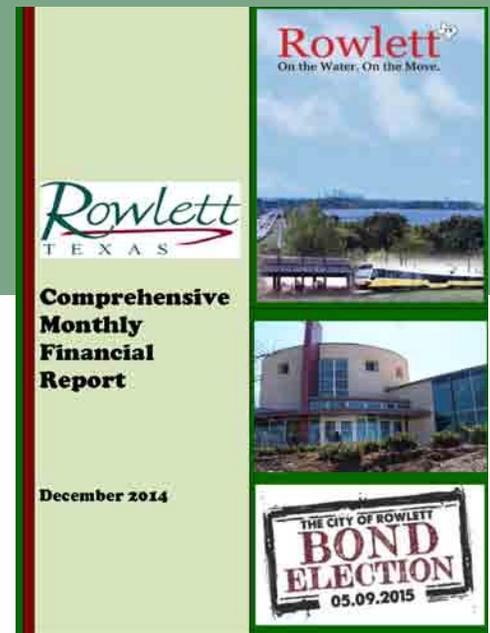
*Wendy Badgett
Interim Director of Finance*

is \$14.0 million, which is \$0.9 million better than expected at this point in the fiscal year.

This month, we want to highlight the City's General Fund, including its major sources

On the revenue side of the equation, across all funds, the City has earned or received \$31.3 million in FY 2015. This amount is 36.7 percent of the approved operating budget of \$85.3 million and is 2.2 percent more than the forecast.

Expenditures have totaled \$17.3 million through the same time period. This amount is 20.1 percent of the approved operating budget of \$86 million and is 1.1 percent lower than forecast. Based on these figures, the net surplus from operations



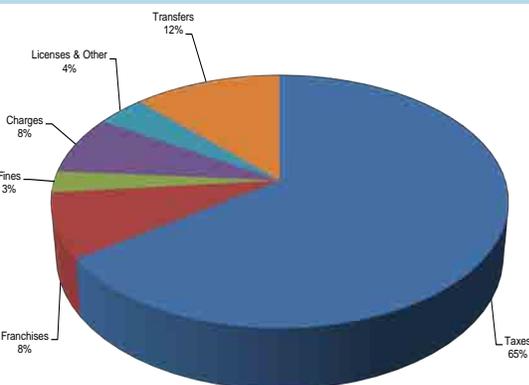
of revenue (see illustration below). After the first three months of the fiscal year, General Fund revenues are \$16.2 million, which is \$447,000 or 2.8 percent higher than expected. General Fund expenditures total \$8.4 million, which is \$121,000 lower than expected, or 1.4 percent. Major revenue sources in the General Fund include: Property Taxes, Sales Tax, and Franchise Fees.

You can find this information and much more when you [view the December report](#). If you have any questions please contact Wendy Badgett, Interim Finance Director via [email](#) or 972-412-6285.

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 three months of this fiscal year, General Fund revenues are \$16.2 million, which is 2.8% higher than expected.

General Fund expenditures total \$8.4 million, which is 1.4% lower than expected.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! at the Rowlett Library

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

GED Tutoring

Mondays and Wednesdays

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:30 A.M. - Noon

Classes will meet the week of Spring Break, March 9-14.

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.

There will be no ESL Classes during the week of Spring Break, March 9-14.

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.



Family Saturday Movie – *The LEGO Movie*

Saturday, March 7

2:00 P.M.

A lowly Lego figure joins a group intent on battling an evil force after a case of mistaken identity in this computer-generated comedy. Rated PG. Free for all ages and free popcorn, too!

Family Saturday Games – LEGOS!

Saturday, March 21

2:00 P.M.

Bring the whole family to practice engineering skills by building magnificent structures with some of the library's 3000 LEGOS!

SPRING BREAK AT THE LIBRARY

Come to the Rowlett Public Library during the break from school
Monday, March 9-Friday, March 13 at 2:00 P.M. for free, fun activities!

Monday - *Explore Rowlett!*

Plan some outdoor adventures around Rowlett! Lake Ray Hubbard has plenty of places to have fun. Learn about where to go and what to do.

Tuesday – *Stormchasers*

Prepare to be amazed by the North Texas Storm Spotters, the storm-chasing team for CBS 11.

Wednesday – *Comic Book Art*

Learn the techniques for creating famous superheroes or your own comic book characters!

Thursday – *LEGOS!*

Have you heard? The library is moving! Help design the perfect new library using LEGO blocks.

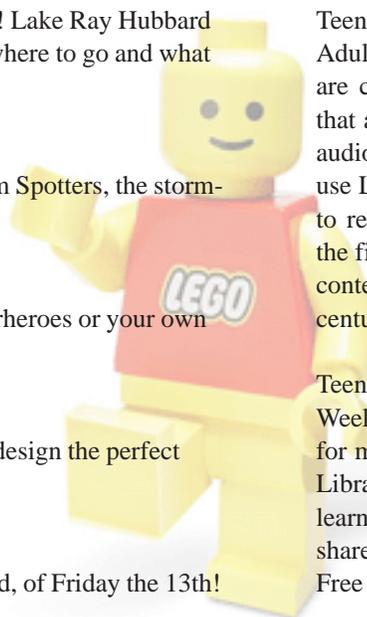
Friday – *Friday the 13th!*

Find out why you should be afraid—very afraid, of Friday the 13th!

Teen Tech Week!

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technologies, especially those that are offered through Libraries. These include DVDs, databases, audiobooks and videogames. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to use Libraries' non-print resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that Librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology. Exploring, creating and sharing content helps teens succeed in school and prepare for twenty-first century careers.

Teens! Celebrate "Libraries are for Making" during Teen Tech Week. Stop by the Library to pick up a packet filled with ideas for making from the YALSA and Best Buy. Explore the value your Library gives to the community by offering teens a place to extend learning beyond the classroom where they can explore, create and share content. Curious about making? The answer is at the Library! Free for teens ages 13 to 18.



LIBRARY NEWS

Rowlett Library Closed in May

The Rowlett Library is relocating to make way for the Village of Rowlett downtown development. To facilitate the move to 5702 Rowlett Road, the Library will be closed for the month of May, reopening June 1 at the new location. During May, previously checked-out materials should be returned to the Rowlett Community Centre. Storytimes and Family Saturday programs will be held there as well.



Edible Book Contest

JoAnn Hickman took home the top prize in February's Edible Book Contest with her "Goodnight Moon" cake.



STORY TIME!

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

March 2 - My House

March 9 - Snack Time

March 16 - Nursery Rhyme Time

March 23 - Time for Bed

March 30 - Quack! Quack!

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.

March 4 - Go Green!

March 11 - Let's Be Friends

March 18 - Flutter, Flutter Butterfly

March 25 - All the Pretty Flowers

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.

March 6 - A Rainbow Day

March 13 - Lucky Leprechauns

March 20 - It's Spring!

March 27 - A Big Bunny

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.

Ages 6-11

March 5 - LEGO Books

March 19 - Ninjago

March 26 - Minecraft

March features stories about LEGOS and other construction books.

Be sure to check out this story time just for kids!

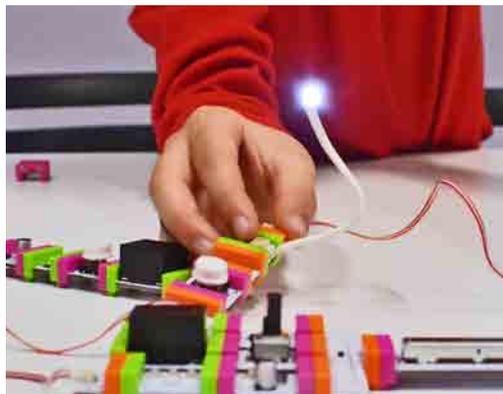
Pajama Story Time

Thursdays

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!



This month I'd like to talk to you a bit about things you can do with your kids to get them more interested in creating technology. This is important for a couple reasons. Practically speaking, knowing how to create something new leads to a better general understanding of it. If kids can improve their overall understanding of technology, they will have a better grasp of the tools needed to engage with the world around them. Creating is also a lot of fun. As much as we enjoy using a computer program or device that someone else has made, there's something really neat about making something yourself. So, by giving your kids fun opportunities to create something themselves, you're also offering them a valuable learning experience.

There are two products I'd like to talk about, one focusing on hardware and one on software.

Hardware – LittleBits

LittleBits are color coded, magnetic pieces that can be put together to form basic machines. They are made up of power, input, and output pieces. For example, connect a power piece to

Phil's Technology Corner

Kids: Don't Just USE Technology... Create Something All Your Own!

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

a button piece, then connect that to a light. When you do this and push the button, the light comes on. Swap out the button piece for a slider to dim or brighten the light. Each piece is labeled so it's clear what it does. The fun of LittleBits isn't to follow a recipe and build an already designed machine. Instead, you're given basic building blocks to form your own creations. There are several different kits available, focusing on different types of electronics. All the pieces are interchangeable, so mix and match the different kits to build more complicated creations.

Software – Scratch

Scratch is a coding language developed by Lifelong Kindergarten Group at MIT. Traditional coding languages typically require a pretty significant time commitment before you can start making anything really neat. However, with Scratch it's easy to start making things right away. Scratch is a visual coding language. Using a drag and drop interface, kids can stack different colored blocks of commands together, which then translate to an animation on the screen.

Almost immediately, kids can see the results of their efforts on the screen, so they get that instant gratification that will hopefully encourage them to keep learning. While doing so, they are building the skills necessary for coding. They also learn important strategies for solving problems, designing projects, and communicating ideas. These are all skills which are useful across the board, so even if your kids don't end up as computer programmers, Scratch can be a valuable tool. More importantly, to them it's just a lot of fun to play with! Best of all? It's FREE!

These are just two products available to encourage an interest in creating technology. LittleBits can be somewhat costly (about \$100-\$150 for each kit), but as I mentioned earlier, Scratch is free. Hopefully you'll find them useful.

If you have any questions about this, or any of the other Tech Tips we've covered, please come on in and see me 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 Excel
Saturday, March 28
11:00 A.M.

Excel is an amazing organizational and financial tool! This program will cover the basics of using it, such as the layout, cell input and manipulation, creating charts and graphs, and basic formula use.

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

SOAR Spring Break Out Day Camps!



Make Plans Now to
Attend Rowlett Parks and
Recreation Activities at
the Community Centre!

March 9 - 13
7:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Kids ages 11-14
\$15 per day

Looking for fun, safe Spring Break activities? Get the kids up and active this spring break! Drop them off at the Rowlett Community Centre (RCC) where Parks and Recreation staff will be providing entertaining, theme based activities to keep them up and moving all day long. Games, gym time, fitness activities and cultural activities including paper airplane folding and origami and more! Kids need to bring water bottles, snacks and a sack lunch.

In addition to all of the physical activities kids will have “free play” every afternoon when they can choose an activity for 30-45 minutes. Choose from game room activities including pool, ping pong and air hockey, Wii mini-tournaments, cup stacking, crafts or reading time.

**Different activities every
day will keep kids active
and entertained!**

*For more information or to register your
child, stop by the **Rowlett Community
Centre** or call **972-412-6170**.*



5

Days of Spring Break Activities!

Manic Monday

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

Rookie Tuesday

Participants are taught the basics of sports such as basketball, golf, volleyball, floor hockey, tennis, whiffle ball, softball, football and Frisbee golf. After the participants are exposed to game basics, the sports will then be played indoors and outdoors!

Crafts and Art

Craft sessions will take place throughout the week to foster creativity. Art will include paint, sand, pipe cleaners, balloons, origami, wooden clothes pins, and paper bags and plates. Kids will take home a variety of projects they complete throughout the week.

Twisted Thursday

Participants have an exciting day playing crazy games and doing twisted activities. The main attraction on this day focuses on participants creating the coolest tie-dye creations on shirts, socks, pillow cases-if it’s white, you can tie-dye it! The more you bring, the more you’ll create!

Fantastic Fun Friday

Prepare for adventure, challenges, laughter and teamwork on Fun Friday. Game shows, nature exploration, arts and crafts, and gym games are all entertaining ingredients of this recreational program.

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!

Little Kickers Soccer

Thursdays @ 6:00 P.M.

\$40

Ages 3-5

This five week instructional program is for kids who are interested in playing the awesome sport of soccer and having fun! Basic soccer skills will be covered.



S.A.T. Prep

Saturdays,

March 21 - April 25

9:00 A.M. – Noon

\$75

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 Sluggers T-Ball

Thursdays @ 6:00 P.M.

\$40

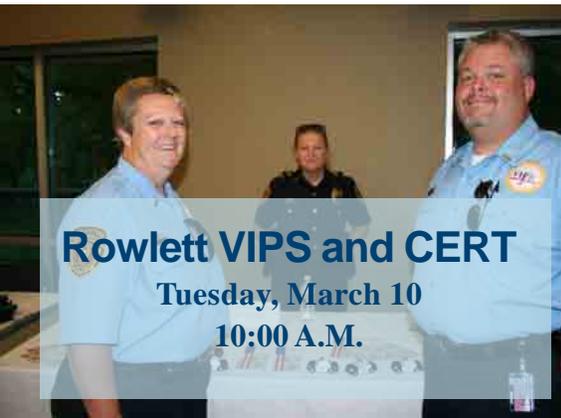
Ages 3-5

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.



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

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Rowlett VIPS and CERT

Tuesday, March 10

10:00 A.M.



Senior Health Fair

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 A.M. - Noon

Senior Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

SENIOR HEALTH CHECKS
TUESDAY, MARCH 10

SENIOR POTLUCK LUNCH
THURSDAY, MARCH 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

The City of Rowlett Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be on hand to introduce the City's largest volunteers groups to our seniors. Both groups will talk about the services they provide, how seniors can benefit from each group and how to get involved.

Free annual event presented by the Senior Advisory Board features door prizes and free screenings plus over 40 vendors, all with a focus on senior health. These may include home health care, retirement communities, doctors, pharmacies, and specialty organizations with the latest information on different diseases.

Once Every Two Week Landscape Watering in Effect Through at Least April 30



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

ANOTHER DRY WINTER RESULTS IN CRITICALLY LOW LAKE LEVELS

The City of Rowlett is a customer city of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), meaning the City purchases its water from the District and is subject to their implementation of water restrictions and the rules each level brings. In response to the ongoing drought and historically low lake levels, the Board of Directors voted to extend the Stage 3 seasonal watering restrictions through the month of April.

The goal of Stage 3 is a 10 percent reduction in water use and increased awareness in ongoing water conservation efforts. Despite recent rains, *as of February 26, Lake Lavon*

was only at 53 percent. Lake Chapman, another NTMWD water source, was well under half full.

Last year, legislation granted the NTMWD an exemption to the Lacey Act for all aquatic invasive species, allowing them to now transport water from Lake Texoma through pumps that are located in both Texas and Oklahoma. A pipeline extension project was completed in May as well, and is now transporting water from Lake Texoma. This restored 28% of the NTMWD's water supply.

STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE:

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN CAN I WATER?

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

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

Exceptions to this Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 0	2 3 & 4	3 1	4 6 & 7	5 2	6 8 & 9	7 5
8 NO WATERING						
15 0	16 3 & 4	17 1	18 6 & 7	19 2	20 8 & 9	21 5
22 NO WATERING						
29 0	30 3 & 4	31 1				
						Watering Day: Use Last Digit In Address



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

MARCH IS TEXAS SMARTSCAPE MONTH

IT'S PLANTING SEASON AGAIN! TO USE WATER RESPONSIBLY AND BE ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY WE HAVE SOME ADVICE FROM TEXAS SMARTSCAPE.

Texas SmartScape's goal is to conserve local water and improve water quality by reducing the amount of water, fertilizer and pesticides used in landscaping. Their interactive website, www.txsmartscape.com, walks property owners step-by-step through designing

a beautiful garden using over 200 landscaping plants, shrubs, grasses and trees that are native or adapted to our regional climate and local conditions.

SmartScape is a regionally coordinated effort to promote water conservation, pollution prevention, recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

and they look great with less effort. They also attract the hummingbirds and butterflies that call North Central Texas their home.

County Health Department, Texas Extension Service, Tarrant Regional Water District, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Weston Gardens.

These plants will stand up to the hot dry summer much better than many species commonly planted. Using these plants keeps your water bill down, conserves water during drought conditions

SmartScape was specifically designed for this region by a collaboration of organizations including the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Tarrant



TOOLS

Design

While the site can't design your backyard for you, it will point out aspects such as sun and drainage to consider. Most importantly, it lays out the steps to take to ensure a successful garden.



Plant Selection

The site has a robust plant database that is searchable by plant type, water needs, size, color and/or light requirement. All the plants are native or adaptive species and more likely to thrive in the hot, dry north Texas summer!



Care and Maintenance Guidelines

This includes information on pruning, watering and fertilizer needs. With a SmartScape plant, the need for water and fertilizer is reduced so time and money are saved while benefiting the environment. It's a win-win!



SOLUTIONS

Instead of Red-Tip Photinias try American Beauty Berry. It's a native plant that flowers in the summer and does well in sunny to shady conditions!

For a shade tree try a native Pecan or Shumard Oak.



For some color try Mexican Dwarf Petunia or Black Eyed Susan's!

There are many gorgeous and native plant species from which to choose. Reducing water consumption and poisons from runoff fertilizers benefits everyone. So before heading to the garden store, take a look at www.txsmartscape.com for some great planting tips!

Safety in Places of Public Assembly

Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner shares tips on how to stay safe!

Every day, millions of people expect to wake up, go to work or school and take part in social events. But every so often, the unexpected happens while we're in the buildings or locations where we all gather, such as a severe storm or tornado, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster.

Be prepared: when you enter any public assembly building or location, take a good look!

Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable?

Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit?

Are the aisles clear of obstruction, such as chairs and furniture?

Locate all the available exits, you may not be able to access the main entrance.

Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking the exits?

If there are not at least two exits, or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint.



Do you feel safe?

Does the building appear to be overcrowded?

Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics (fireworks), or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe?

Are there extra safety systems in place such as additional exits, fire sprinkler or smoke alarms?

Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.

Get out, stay out!

During an emergency, react immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke, fire, or some other unusual disturbance, immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of an emergency if you are separated from your group. Plan a meeting place outside the venue in case of emergency.

Please contact Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner at 972-463-3940 for more information!

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

March

1	2	3 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	4	5	6 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	7 CPR/First Aid Class 8am-12:30pm @ RCC Saturday Movie - The LEGO Movie 2pm @ Library
8 Daylight Savings begins - set clocks ahead one hour	9 Spring Break programs at the Library and RCC (thru Friday)	10 VIPS & CERT Seniors Program 10am @ RCC Senior Health Checks @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meeting 7pm @ City Hall	11	12 Senior Potluck Lunch 11:30am @ RCC	13 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	14
15	16	17 City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	18	19		21 Pet Adoptathon 10am-5pm @ Animal Shelter Community Centre Open House 10am-1pm Holistic Health Fair 10am-2pm @ RCC Lakeshore Cleanup 9am-1pm
22	23	24 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7pm @ City Hall	25	26	27 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	28 Easter Egg Hunt 10am-Noon @ Pecan Grove Park
29 Pup-a-Palooza 2-4pm @ Herfurth Park	30	31				