



July, 2015

A MONTHLY MESSAGE  
FROM



**MAYOR  
TODD GOTTEL**

## Together We Make Rowlett A Community To Be Proud Of!

My Fellow Rowlett Citizens,

By now, all of you know how passionate about our community I am, and how blessed I feel that you allow me to serve it as your Mayor. Although we have the best City staff, I believe, in the country, they cannot create and maintain this community alone. A community is created by its PEOPLE. Hint: that's YOU! One of the greatest assets Rowlett has is the sheer volume of individual citizens, organizations and businesses that volunteer to help their City, giving back more than \$1 million of their time every year! It never ceases to amaze me, the number of people who love this community and show it through their volunteerism on a daily basis.

But now I'm asking YOU to pitch in as well! This is the time of year when we solicit citizens to serve on one of the many City boards and commissions. In fact, the 6th Annual Boards and Commissions Volunteer Fair is coming up on Thursday, July 30 at the Rowlett Community Centre. There, you can learn all about the various boards and commissions and how you can assist, along with the many, many other City volunteer opportunities.

Another incredible volunteer opportunity fast approaching is the Kids Kingdom community playground build! Although funding for a large portion of Kids Kingdom was approved by voters in the May bond election, we also have a long way to go to fund ALL of the features included in the design created by Rowlett children last winter. We have launched the fundraising (*get special pricing on fence pickets for a limited time!*) and volunteer recruitment efforts to ensure the new Kids Kingdom truly becomes the playground our children told us they wanted, and quite frankly, they deserve it! We will be building Kids Kingdom together this fall, volunteers hand-in-hand alongside City staff, and we need your help! You can read more about how in this newsletter.

So, in closing, please consider giving back to your community, whether it be a few hours per month... or a few days! We all have the opportunity to make Rowlett the community we want it to be... and together we will!

  
Mayor Todd Gottel



City of Rowlett  
4000 Main Street  
Rowlett, TX 75088

972-412-6100  
[www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com)



Mayor Gottel with City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation staff at this month's Fireworks at Bayside event!

# COMING UP - TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

## 6th Annual Boards and Commissions Volunteer Fair

Thursday, July 30 - 6:30-8:00 P.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre

You know I feel that the City of Rowlett is a truly blessed community in so many ways. One of those is evidenced by the contributions made, day in and day out, by the hundreds of volunteers who so selflessly give of themselves to better their hometown.

Please join me at the 6th Annual Boards and Commissions Volunteer Fair to learn about the various City boards and commissions and the opportunities available to serve on one of them. There will also be information about

volunteer opportunities at the Animal Shelter, Library, Police Department and more. These departments would all experience cuts in the

*Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community in which you want to live.*

services offered without the help of those volunteering for the City. Volunteerism does



not have to be a huge time commitment, the City will tailor a position to meet any potential volunteer's needs, be it an hour a week or 50 hours per month!

Keep Rowlett Beautiful and the Rowlett Citizen Corps Council (RCCC) will also be on hand to provide information about their organizations, which create opportunities for preserving the environment and serving in the public safety realm, respectively.

**SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR, ROWLETT CITIZENS HAVE VOLUNTEERED 13,695 HOURS A COST SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS OF \$320,469!**

**16,437 HOURS WERE VOLUNTEERED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014, THE EQUIVALENT OF 7.87 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES, AT A TAXPAYER COST SAVINGS OF \$384,625**

*Thank You* to all of the citizens who volunteer in the City of Rowlett!

## Public Safety Volunteer Opportunity



*Being Prepared is Everyone's Responsibility.*

*Get Ready Today!*

## Become a Member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) CERT Class

Saturday, August 1 and August 8  
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

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

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

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

A course fee of \$20 covers disposable materials used in the class. For more information or to register for the class, visit [www.RowlettCERT.com](http://www.RowlettCERT.com) or email [CERT@rowlettcitizencorps.org](mailto:CERT@rowlettcitizencorps.org).

# TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION!



## **Animal Shelter Advisory Board**

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board reviews various shelter policies and procedures and assists in planning the special events pertaining to the Animal Shelter. It also provides input on the drafting and modifying of Animal Control Ordinances and reviews final drafts prior to being submitted to the City Council for possible enactment.

## **Arts & Humanities Commission**

The Arts & Humanities Commission encourages the development of, appreciation for and participation in the arts and humanities in the City of Rowlett. There are five special projects chaired or jointly chaired by subcommittees. These projects include the Photography Contest, the Regional Writing Contest, the Young Artist Exhibit, Cultural Arts Grants and the Art in Education Grants.

## **Board of Adjustment**

Duties and responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment include hearing requests for variances and special exceptions to the City's Zoning Ordinance. While no experience is required individuals with a background in Planning, Engineering, Real-Estate, Architecture, Construction etc. may find this board particularly interesting.

## **Economic Development Advisory Board**

This board is charged with promoting economic development within the community through the coordinated actions of the City and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce.

## **Golf Advisory Board**

The Golf Advisory Board presents recommendations before the City Council for all aspects of Waterview Golf Course. Each board member is given one free golf pass per month to aid in making recommendations to staff and City Council.

## **Library Advisory Board**

Board members act as liaisons to library staff, advising on items of community interests and concerns. they review library policies and prepare a five-year strategic plan for City Council approval. Board members also visit area libraries and meet with their boards, promote the library and its services within the community, and provide legislative advocacy on library issues.

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

This board reviews, discusses and votes to present recommendations before City Council for all Parks and Recreation matters.

## **Planning and Zoning Commission**

Duties and responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission include processing and initiating zoning cases at the request of property owners and/or their representatives with respect to individual zoning cases, initiating zoning cases at the request or approval of the City Council, hearing, recommending and/or determining any matter relating to planning or subdivision control as may be specified by the subdivision ordinance or other applicable law and performing other such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the City Council. While no experience is required, individuals with a background in Planning, Engineering, Real-Estate, Architecture, etc. may find this board particularly interesting.

## **Senior Advisory Board**

They review, discuss and present items/recommendations to the City Council for all aspects of the senior citizens living in Rowlett. The Board plays an integral part in helping with senior programming and routinely reports to the City Council the conditions and needs of seniors within the community.

## **Traffic and Safety Advisory Commission**

Duties and responsibilities of the Traffic and Safety Advisory Commission include identifying and reviewing citizen concerns regarding traffic and other public safety issues.



*I can tell you from firsthand experience, that the best way to affect change in YOUR community is by serving it. Are you looking for ways to give back to the community through participating in your municipal government? If so, we have a spot for you! We're looking for committed residents willing to volunteer a few hours of their time each month to serve on a board or commission.*

**I hope to see all of you at the Boards and Commissions Volunteer Fair!**



# Kids Kingdom Update

## Fundraiser: Fence Pickets for Sale

Build Week is November 30 – December 6!

names, their business name or even a treasured pet engraved on their picket. **SPECIAL PRICING ALERT!** For a limited time, beginning Friday, July 24 through August 8, the first 200 donors may purchase fence pickets for only \$40.00 (regularly \$50), they can be purchased [here!](#) There are also many, many playground features citizens may donate directly toward the purchase of, see those, along with pricing, [here.](#) Folks, this is truly a COMMUNITY playground, and it's success is dependent on everyone's involvement.



*Plans to rebuild* the Kids Kingdom community playground are really ramping up. The successful 2015 CIP Bond Election included partial funding for Kids Kingdom, but the rest is dependent on the fundraising efforts of the citizen-based Playground Committee. One of the main components of that effort is the sale of engraved fence pickets, which will decorate the fence outlining Kids Kingdom, when complete. Donors may choose to have their name, their children's

*The new Kids Kingdom* will be a "Community Build" playground, like the original, and volunteers are actively being sought to assist in the rebuild. Volunteering to help rebuild the Kids Kingdom playground will impact generations of children in our community, affecting many aspects of their maturation process. Kids develop skills to enhance their growth physically, emotionally, mentally and socially on a playground.

*Whether it's donating money, donating time, or both, I hope you will please consider getting involved with the fundraising and construction of this valuable community asset!*

*Send an email to [KidsKingdom@rowlett.com](mailto:KidsKingdom@rowlett.com) today!*



**Schematic Plan**  
 Kid's Kingdom Community Playground  
 Pecan Grove Park, Rowlett, TX  
 Play by Design | Ithaca, NY | 16 January 2015

*Citizens have already donated over \$10,000 toward the new playground. This will pay for one of the five special features. I LOVE the can-do spirit of this community!!*