



WHAT'S INSIDE:



Pet Adoptathon at the Rowlett Animal Shelter!

PAGE 10



Rowlett Receives Financial Transparency Recognition!

PAGE 9



End-of-Summer fun activities right here in your hometown!

PAGE 13-20

a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

# Rowlett On the Move

THE YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT!

## Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

City Manager Brian Funderburk Presented the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget to the City Council on Tuesday, August 4.

ISSUE NO. 1508

AUGUST, 2015

**What a difference a year makes!** After five straight years of decline in our property tax values (FY2010-FY2014), the City has experienced increases for two straight years as a result of an improved housing market and new growth. *As Rowlett moves away from the specter of additional declines in the property tax base, we can stop talking about what we can't do and start talking about what we can do.*

The combination of improved tax values and new growth, resulting in additional tax dollars, will provide opportunities to address aging infrastructure, revitalize neighborhoods, and enhance our community amenities and assets. It is an exciting time to live in Rowlett!

While the five years between FY2010 and FY2014 were difficult, we did not lose sight of our true purpose, which is to serve our citizens. Even in the midst of falling revenues, the City provided a higher level of service while ensuring that the bulk of the budgetary reductions would not impact Rowlett

residents' day-to-day lives. This achievement is a testament to the outstanding employees in the City of Rowlett who truly make a difference every day in the lives of those served. It is also a testament to the level of financial stewardship provided by the Mayor and City Council.

Rowlett is a great place to live with a bright future ahead. Certainly we have our challenges, but with the opening of the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) in 2012 and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Light-rail in 2013, along with recently approved developments using new form-based codes, this community will begin to see the high quality and amenities it deserves and has long desired. And let's not lose sight of the fact that we are not the only ones who think Rowlett is a great community. In 2010, Rowlett was named in the Top 25 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine and, in 2013, Rowlett was named America's Best Small City to Move to. In 2015, Rowlett was once again named one of the safest cities in Texas by Safewise.

**Rowlett is indeed on the move!**

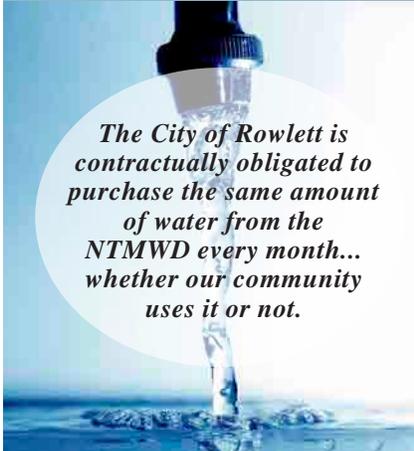


# The Total Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget is \$92,619,345

*This is an increase of \$3,171,308, or 3.5 percent, compared to the FY2015 Adopted Budget of \$89,448,037. The primary factors for the increase are:*

- Personnel costs will increase \$2,529,977
  - New development means new residents and new customers. To meet the needs of the City, 21.5 positions are being added city-wide.
  - Phase II of the City's employee compensation plan, adopted in FY2015, will be implemented April 1, 2016, including a two percent cost of living adjustment to ensure that the pay plan does not fall behind the market.
  - Health insurance costs are budgeted at a 10 percent increase to cover the costs of health insurance premiums, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) contributions, and build a reserve in the employee benefits fund.
- The cost of water acquisition from the North Texas Municipal Water District will increase nine percent, or \$592,273, due to planned cost increases for their capital reinvestment.

## DID YOU KNOW?



*The City of Rowlett is contractually obligated to purchase the same amount of water from the NTMWD every month... whether our community uses it or not.*

## What has Happened Since the End of the Great Recession?

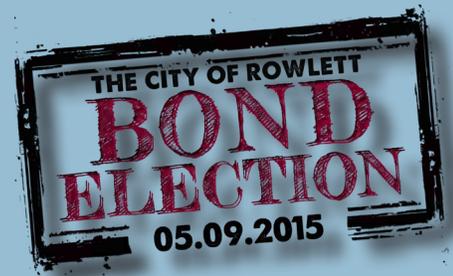
*Like many other communities,* the economic decline experienced during the Great Recession placed a heavy burden on Rowlett. Between FY2010 and FY2014, the City's taxable value declined 7.5 percent. The value of this loss caused a direct reduction in the City's annual tax revenues of about \$1.9 million by the end of this five-year period. This was equivalent to six cents on the tax rate and cumulatively resulted in the loss of \$6.9 million in unremitted tax revenue - \$6.9 million that was not available for police and fire services, parks, community amenities or other purposes.

*Since that time, Rowlett has experienced significant increases in its tax value,* growing 5.1 percent in FY2015 and 9.6 percent in FY2016. The value of this gain has caused a direct increase to the City's annual tax revenues by \$2.4 million during this two year period. This is equivalent to seven cents on the tax rate and cumulatively resulted in the gain of \$3.4 million in the past two years alone, plus an additional \$1.4 million based on the four cent tax increase levied in FY2015. While new construction has contributed to this increase, the existing market has driven most of this change.

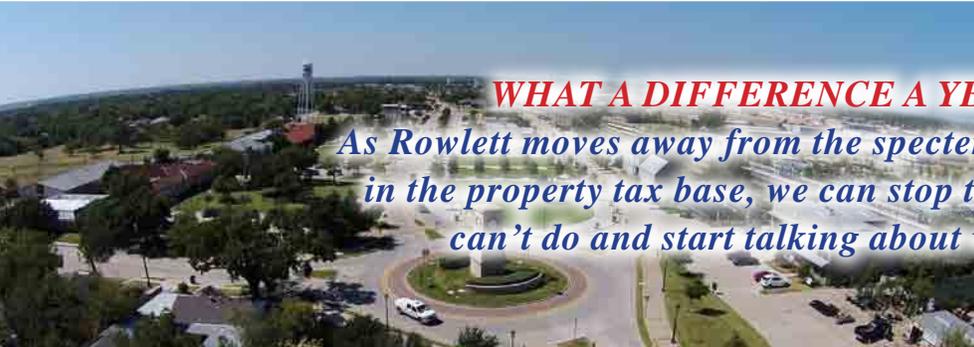
*With the additional dollars over the past two years, the City has been able to:*

- ✓ fix structural imbalances in the General Fund;
- ✓ bring employee pay up to market;
- ✓ fund the first year of a three-year capital bond program;
- ✓ add needed funds for alley improvements, parks maintenance & community amenities;
- ✓ replace obsolete equipment;
- ✓ bolster planning and economic development efforts;
- ✓ allocate monies for neighborhood revitalization and meet the needs of our seniors.

As the economy continues to grow in Rowlett over the next three to five years, the City will truly be able to make significant inroads to becoming financially sustainable and to meet the growing needs of our community.



## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!



*As Rowlett moves away from the specter of additional declines in the property tax base, we can stop talking about what we can't do and start talking about what we can do!*



# Growth, Growth and More Growth!

As indicated previously, the period between FY2010 through FY2014 created an atmosphere where the City cut costs and deferred maintenance to address the revenue decline during the Great Recession. FY2015 and FY2016 demonstrate a significant turnaround as the market in the DFW area restores property tax values back to pre-FY2010 levels. Economic growth, however, will most notably impact Rowlett's finances in FY2017 and beyond.

In May, 2015, the City of Rowlett and its development partner, Donahue Development, closed on Elgin B. Robertson, acquiring the property from the City of Dallas. This is a very exciting development for Rowlett. Renamed Bayside, this master planned 257 acre mixed-use site will be built under the City's form based code, ensuring a high quality development with numerous amenities. The complete build-out is expected over eight to ten years and will include 1.75 million square feet of commercial space and 3,000 residential units. Bayside is expected to add nearly one billion dollars in new taxable value resulting in nearly \$150 million in revenue from property, sales and hotel occupancy taxes over the next 20 years.

Bayside alone would take up enormous time and resources from the City to go through the development process. However, it doesn't stop there. Many other projects are already under construction or about to begin including, The Homestead at Liberty Grove, Terra Lago, Harmony Hills, Sprouts, and The Village of Rowlett, not to mention smaller developments and projects along Highway 66 (Lakeview Parkway) and elsewhere. While some projects will take time to develop in phases, many will be built in one phase. Over the next five years, these projects will add an additional \$700-\$900 million in new investment, potentially adding \$10-\$15 million in property taxes alone.

## So, what does this mean to Rowlett?

*With this level of growth, Rowlett can truly make a difference in the everyday lives of our citizens.*

**It provides a sufficient income stream** to meet existing needs and new community amenities while building a more sustainable future; and

**It diversifies the housing stock**, which will help maintain property values in future recessions and types of markets; and

**It provides the ability** for additional dollars for infrastructure and to issue more bonds in the future without increasing the tax rate; and

**It provides a sufficient income stream** to seriously consider reducing the property tax rate in the future; and

**It provides the opportunity to reduce unsold water** under the North Texas Municipal Water District's take-or-pay agreement and perhaps even reduce future rates and fees.

**This level of growth also creates new challenges.**

### FIRST

**IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MOVE THIS MANY PROJECTS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PLANNERS, ENGINEERS, AND INSPECTORS.**

### SECOND

**IT WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & RECREATION, AND THE LIBRARY.**

### FINALLY

**IT WILL REQUIRE THE CITY AND THE COMMUNITY TO STRATEGICALLY PRIORITIZE BETWEEN ADDRESSING UNMET CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS (I.E. STREETS AND ALLEYS) VERSUS PROVIDING ENHANCED OR ADDITIONAL AMENITIES (I.E. MEDIAN IMPROVEMENTS, PARKS AND FACILITIES) VERSUS REDUCING THE TAX RATE.**



# So, What Do We Do Now?

The combination of improved tax values and new growth, resulting in additional tax dollars, will provide opportunities to address aging infrastructure, revitalize neighborhoods, and enhance our community amenities and assets.



## Improve Utility Fund Reserves

For the past four years, north Texas has been in the grip of a significant drought, which has wreaked havoc with infrastructure and impaired the health of Rowlett's Utility Fund. While higher than normal precipitation this spring brought area lakes above normal, the Utility Fund experienced losses in the past three years that have reduced reserves below required levels. As a result, the

City proposes reducing the costs of operation and capital maintenance for two years to rebuild reserves, adding \$3.7 million to them by the end of FY2017. This would include reducing some operational line-items but would primarily consist of reducing the Utility Cash Capital Maintenance Plan and deferring an additional water & sewer revenue bond issuance until FY2018.



## Increase Infrastructure Funding

The drought over the past four years has wreaked havoc on infrastructure, both above and below ground, including our streets, alleys, drainage, and water and sewer systems. In May 2015, Rowlett citizens approved a bond election that included \$2 million for alleys and \$13.5 million for roads. At that time, there were \$27 million in needs in alley improvements alone. In order for the City to get beyond the curve so that it doesn't fall behind, it would need about \$10.5 million per year for the next eight to ten years.

streets and alleys over time to reach that \$10.5 million annual level. This will require that the City use tax revenue from future economic growth to carve out additional bonding capacity for 2018 and 2021. For every "penny" reserved for FY2018, Rowlett can bond an additional \$6 million for streets, alleys and other critical needs. In the meantime, the goal would be to use the value of an extra penny for alley improvements for the next three years and make that penny then available for bonding. In that way, the City can continue to improve infrastructure while reserving the ability to leverage even more dollars in the future.

In order to address this issue, City staff will propose increasing the amount of funding for



## Meet Community Needs

As a result of the increase in taxable assessed value for FY2016, along with the City's conservative budgeting, an additional \$559,000 is available to meet the needs of the community. The City has given priority to fund alley improvements with the idea to convert that value into bonding capacity in 2018; fund senior citizen

needs identified by the Senior Advisory Board for transportation and additional staffing; and to fund a neighborhood advocacy program. Any balance would be absorbed by the General Fund. The final allocation will occur during the upcoming budget work sessions this month.



## Hold Bond Elections Every Three Years

Freed up bonding capacity from a declining debt load provides the ability to issue additional bonds in the future without increasing the tax rate. In May 2015, the City did just that by placing \$25.8 million on the ballot for streets, alleys, parks & recreation, and public safety facilities, which Rowlett voters approved.

significant bond packages because the debt service drops dramatically in the future. Even without increasing tax values from new growth, the City could potentially leverage \$75.5 million over the next ten years for streets, alleys, neighborhood improvements and other needs. This is a significant investment that would improve collector roads as well as neighborhood streets and alleys. Using bonding capacity judiciously is a strategic priority!

Holding bond elections every three years will provide the City with the ability to leverage

## So, in Conclusion...

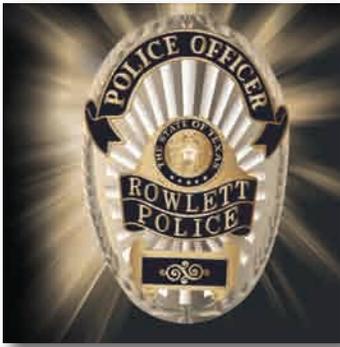
“For 2016, we can stop talking about what we can't do and talk about what we can do! In just a few years, Rowlett will look and feel noticeably different, fulfilling the vision anticipated so long ago by our citizens. However it looks, it will be uniquely Rowlett. This is truly an exciting time to live in Rowlett!”



Brian Funderburk  
City Manager

[Read the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget here!](#)

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



## Citizen Police Academy

Registration for the 36th Class is open throughout August at the Police Department!

Is CSI your favorite television show? Are you interested in the inner workings of your police department? Then the Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is for you!

Beginning September 3, the CPA is an exciting 12-week course held Thursday evenings from 7-10 pm 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. There is also 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 even do a ride along with an officer on patrol.

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



## Standard First Aid/CPR Class

Saturday, August 15  
8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.  
Rowlett Community Centre  
\$30

Rowlett Fire Rescue sponsors the American Heart Association Standard First Aid/CPR class, which is open to non-healthcare professionals 18 years or older. Classes are limited to 12 students, each of whom will receive a book and a two-year course completion card.

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

## Arts & Humanities Commission

# Annual Photography Contest

### 2015 Theme – “Whatever Floats Your Boat!”



Are you an Ansel Adams aficionado? Do you look at daily life as if through a lens? Do you have more photo albums than books in your home? Is your family tired of pulling over to the side of the road every time you leave the house so you can jump out and “get that shot”?

Then here is your chance to prove that you have what it takes - enter the Arts & Humanities Photography Contest!

Entries will be accepted at the Rowlett Community Centre on Saturday, September 5 from 10:00 A.M. – Noon.

Photos entered will be on display at the City’s Annex Building, located at 4004 Main Street, from September 8 through October 2.

First Place and Best of Show awards will be presented during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 20.

For complete rules and information visit the [Arts & Humanities page](#) of [www.rowlett.com](#).

## Categories

### People

children, students, politicians, citizens, family, etc.

### Places

lake, library, Community Centre, buildings, DART, Bush Turnpike, etc.

### Things

boats, automobiles, artwork, nature, bridges, etc.

## Guidelines

Limit of three entries per person.

Photos must have been taken within one year of contest deadline.

Entries must be 8”x10”.

Entries should be matted on black – **NO FRAMED PHOTOS ACCEPTED.**

Entries may be color or black and white.

## Prizes

\$100 - First Place in each category  
\$150 - Best of Show

*It is the goal of the Arts & Humanities Commission to encourage appreciation of, and participation in, the arts in the City of Rowlett!*

# RECENTLY IN ROWLETT..



## Officer Hoedebeck Receives MADD Award

*Congratulations to Officer Bill Hoedebeck, who received the 2015 MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Award for the second year in a row. Officer Hoedebeck completed 26 of the department's 103 arrests related to intoxicated drivers. "Take the Wheel", an initiative of MADD Dallas County, awards officers who make a difference by going above and beyond in the areas of DWI education, prevention, policy or enforcement. These officers' efforts are making an impact in reducing alcohol-related death and injury on Dallas County roads.*



## Smoke Alarm Blitz

*Recently, Fire Marshal Bryan Beckner, along with the Rowlett Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Emergency Management Specialist Ed Balderas, took part in the annual "Smoke Alarm Blitz." Targeting two of Rowlett's older home neighborhoods for a door-to-door campaign, they reached out to 162 families and installed new smoke detectors in 27 homes without a working unit and changed batteries in many more! The Rowlett Explorer Club also got in on the fun, stuffing over 150 fire safety literature bags to hand out during the blitz.*



## Lake Trash Cleanup

*City of Dallas began lake trash cleanup at the Rowlett Road bridge last month!*



## Town Hall Meeting

*State Representative Cindy Burkett held a Town Hall Meeting at Rowlett City Hall on Wednesday evening, July 8. w*



## Michael Godfrey Named Assistant Chief of Police

*Assistant Chief Godfrey has been with the Rowlett Police Department since 1999, having begun his law enforcement career with the Terrell Police Department.*

*During his tenure, he has promoted through the ranks making Sergeant on October 1, 2005, and Lieutenant on June 1, 2013. He has experience working and supervising in many areas of the Police Department including: Patrol, Support Services, Field Training Program, Crime Scene Investigations, Crisis/Hostage Negotiations, Traffic and Warrants,*

*Detention Services, and many more. He is a Master Peace Officer and graduate of the FBI National Academy, Class #258.*

# RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Fire Station 2 Tour

This Rowlett Firefighter demonstrated STOP, DROP and ROLL... he's obviously very experienced at this!

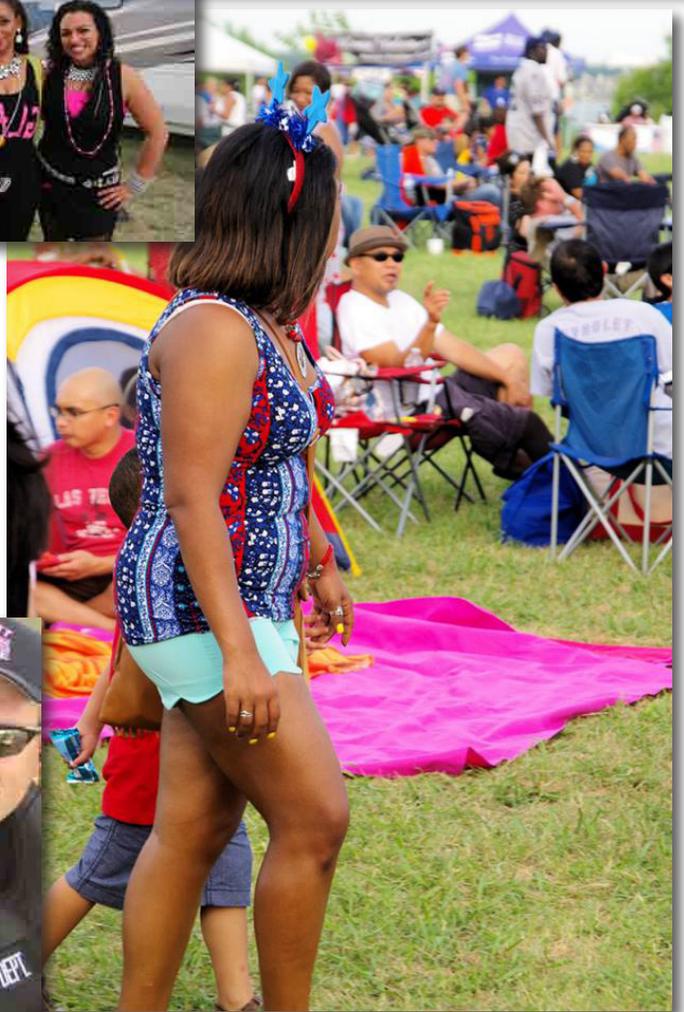


6th Annual Boards and Commissions Volunteer Fair

The City held this annual event on Thursday, July 30, to share information on how interested citizens can give back to their community through volunteerism!

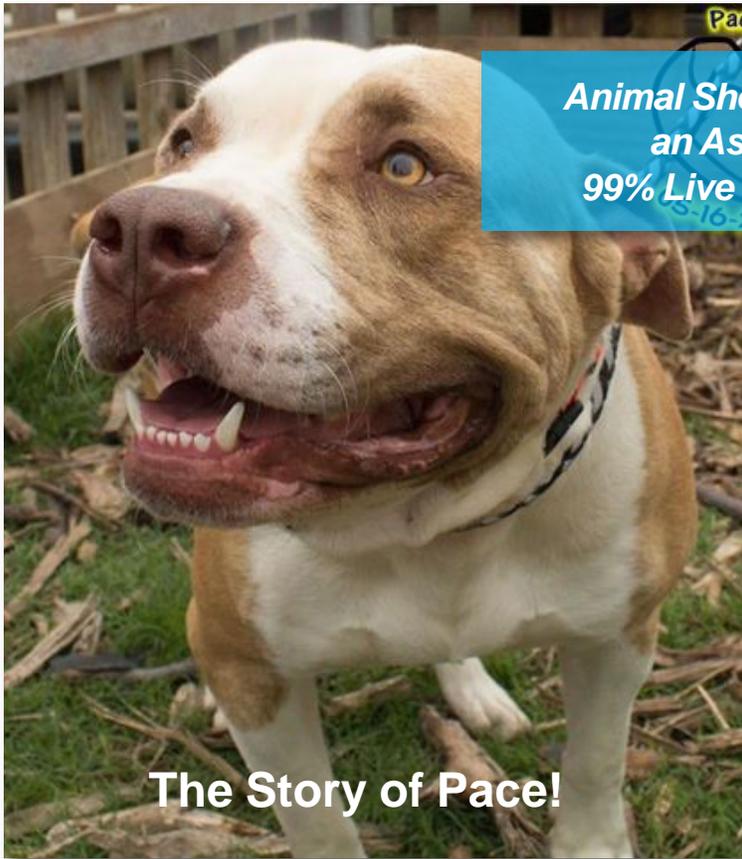


Fireworks at Bayside  
July 4, 2015



Over 20,000 people enjoyed the fireworks, a concert by Sister Sledge, fabulous fair food, a large children's area and the City's Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday July 4 at Bayside in Rowlett!





**Animal Shelter Maintains  
an Astounding  
99% Live Release Rate!**

## The Story of Pace!

Pace was brought into the shelter on May 16 by police officers who found him roaming free with another dog. We soon discovered that he is very sweet and great with people, but doesn't care much for cats. It was later determined that Pace's previous owner kept him tethered in the back yard when they were out because he liked to chew on the fence, so the decision was made to find Pace a new home. He was adopted in mid-July but returned to the shelter within a week because he was destructive with his new owner's fence, too. Upon his return, the Friends of Rowlett Animals helped us tremendously by networking him via all social network outlets and Pace was ADOPTED. He is currently being spoiled in his new home...where they keep him away from the fence!



## Pet Adoptathon!

**Saturday, August 15  
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.



## Code Enforcement tip of the month

### *Address Your Home!*

Address numbers must be attached to the front and back of house, be a minimum of 4" in height and be legible and visible from street or alley. If a fence blocks your driveway, place numbers on back of fence to ensure visibility. This could be critical in an emergency. Address numbers on the curb are not sufficient in the front, a car parked on the street could block them at anytime.

Visualize driving through a residential neighborhood or down a rural road late at night attempting to locate an address. Now, place yourself in the driver's seat of a police car, fire engine or rescue unit responding to an emergency, when seconds may mean the difference between life and death.



**For more info please call  
Rowlett Code Enforcement  
at 972-412-6283 or visit  
[Rowlett.com](http://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.

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

The report provided to Council in July

includes financial information through May. We are now eight months, or three quarters through the City's fiscal year.

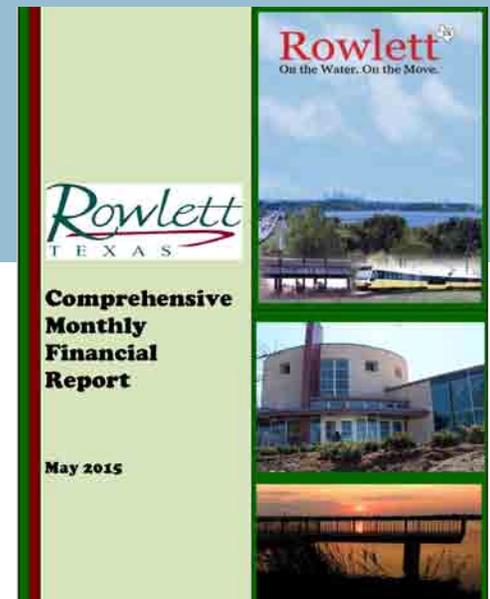
*"The net surplus from operations is \$8.2 million. This is \$5 million better than expected at this point in the fiscal year. "*

*Wendy Badgett  
Interim Finance Director*

*On the revenue side* of the equation, overall, the City has earned or received \$64.6 million for all funds in FY 2015. This amount is 75.7 percent of the approved operating budget of \$85.3 million and is **4.1 percent higher** than the forecast projected through the month of May.

*Expenditures* have totaled \$56.4 million through the same time period. This amount is 65.5 percent of the approved operating budget of \$86 million and is **4.2 percent lower** than forecast through May.

This month I want to highlight the July bond sale. At the July 21 City Council meeting, the Rowlett City Council approved a resolution to sell \$32.2 million in General Obligation Improvement and Refunding (GO) Bonds with no tax increase to citizens, and \$12.3 million in



Water & Sewer Refunding (W&S) Bonds. It has been nearly 10 years since the last measurable bonds were issued! Of the \$32.2 million in GO bonds being issued, \$9 million is the new money portion that will fund Phase I of the successful May 2015 Bond Election. This will fund approximately \$7 million in street and road projects, \$1.9 million in parks and recreation projects, and \$1 million in public safety projects. In addition to issuing the \$9.0 million from the Bond Election, the City was able to refund (or refinance) a combined \$38.3 million in GO and W&S debt, **saving the City \$4.3 million** over the life of the bonds! **This refunding will yield an average savings of over \$300,000 per year!**

View the [May Financial Report](#).

**FINANCIAL  
TRANSPARACY  
RECOGNIZED**

## Rowlett Receives Leadership Circle Award!



**Texas Comptroller  
Leadership Circle**

### The City of Rowlett has received the Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle Award for the fourth consecutive year.

The advanced Platinum level, introduced by the state and awarded to the City for 2014, has been maintained for 2015. Prior to 2014, the City was at the Gold level for two years, which was the highest level attainable during that time. The Platinum level added several requirements in 2014 related to debt, and then additional criteria was added in 2015 related to financial sustainability and raw format budget. The City was found fully compliant, satisfying 22 of 23 possible points.

*The Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Award is offered to cities that take steps to be transparent regarding financial information to their citizens.*

#### *Why is this important?*

*Transparency ensures that your taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently by making all decisions in the open and on the record. Transparency means that citizens can review and question policymakers' decisions, examine documents, root out inefficiencies and hold officials accountable for the way tax dollars are spent.*

Visit the City of Rowlett's Financial transparency webpage [here!](#)

# Construction Corner

an update on public works projects around town

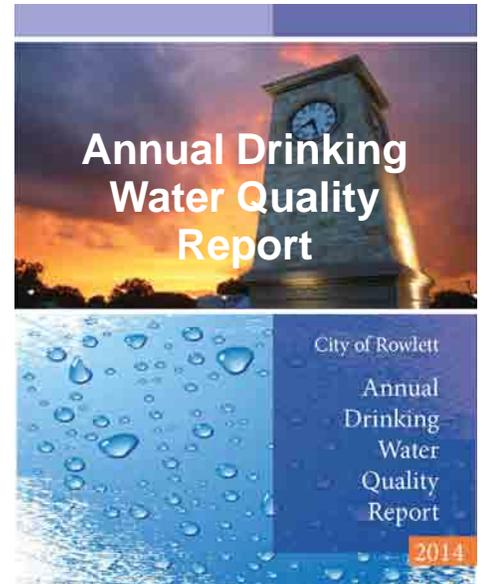


It's that time again, when the Public Works crews will be out and about flushing out some of the main water lines around town where chlorine residuals are diminishing. This process is crucial to providing safe, quality drinking water for the community.



## Big A Road 20 Inch Water Main Project

The City's continued efforts to improve the distribution system is reflected in this most recent groundbreaking! The contractor, TriCon Services, Inc. was awarded the contract to install the new 20" water main along Big A Road. This main line is designed to work in conjunction with the new 1.25 million gallon elevated storage tank on Main Street to assist in stabilizing water pressure in the system. To date, this project is approximately 30 percent complete. The majority of the installation is being made utilizing traditional open trench methods, while the remaining portions will be put in place using directional boring.



The City of Rowlett and its customers enjoy a "superior" water quality designation from the state, which is the highest a City can receive. The Utility Operations team takes pride in maintaining this designation and takes its responsibility very seriously. To this end, the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, which offers important information about the source and quality of your drinking water, is now available to [view online here](#). If you would like to have a hard copy of the report mailed to your home, please call 972-412-6100 and let us know!



## Dalrock Estates Pavement Reconstruction

The pavement reconstruction of the Dalrock Estates Subdivision is included in the 2015 Bond Package approved in May 2015. Before any pavement can be replaced, it was determined that all water and sewer lines in the neighborhood need to be replaced. Starting with Woodside, staff has begun pipe bursting the water main putting new 8" PVC pipe in place of existing 8" ductile iron. In conjunction with this process, they are replacing all residential service lines as they go. The sanitary sewer main will need to be replaced using traditional open trench methods.

Staff has already performed the first pull on Woodside. They have assembled the 8" PVC main line and continue to make bores for new water services in preparation for the second pull.



## Miller Road Bridge Reconstruction

Rebcon Construction Company has completed the installation of the City water main; however the testing and usage of the main won't be available until the completion of the project. Due to the multiple rain events this spring, a 60 day project extension was granted by Dallas County to Rebcon and the project is expected to be complete in December.



# Back To School at the Rowlett Library

Summer is almost over...time to get ready!  
Visit the library for a variety of programs  
and activities to entertain and educate.

## Library Skills for Homeschoolers!

Friday, August 28

11:00 A.M.

Home School parents and children are invited to explore the new location of Rowlett Public Library at 5702 Rowlett Road and find out what the Library has to offer just for you! Learn how to find and borrow materials, along with a tutorial on finding and accessing free online databases during this hands-on workshop conducted by a librarian.



# STORY TIME!

No Story Time for the first two weeks in August

## The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

August 17 – Water, Water

August 24 – Things with Wings

August 31 – Clap for Baby

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.

August 19 – Big, Wide Ocean

August 26 – Crazy Cars

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.

August 21 – Zoom in My Car

August 28 – In the Sky

Continue your child's introduction to letters and words through stories, books, rhymes and much more!  
For children 3 years of age and older.

## Library Camp @ The Rowlett Community Centre! Free End-of-Summer Fun *just for kids 12 and under*

### Jedi Training

Friday, August 7

2:00 P.M.

As Yoda would say, "Sharpen your skills you must!" Learn the essentials of a good Jedi and finish out the summer with a fun time! Learn about the FORCE, make your own tiny Jedi army, and battle the evil empire.

### 3D Pen Printing

Friday, August 14

2:00 P.M.

Learn about the newest way to create 3D objects - using a pen! Similar to 3D Printers, this technique allows creativity and imagination to flow into a wonderful sculptural item.

### Rule the School!

Friday, August 21

2:00 P.M.

Sharpen your back-to-school skills and finish the summer with some fun. Learn how to navigate school, what supplies are best to bring, what makes the best lunch, the latest in backpack design and how to avoid those playground spats!

# ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



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

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

## *Phil's Technology Corner*

### **Improving Smart Phone Performance**

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

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

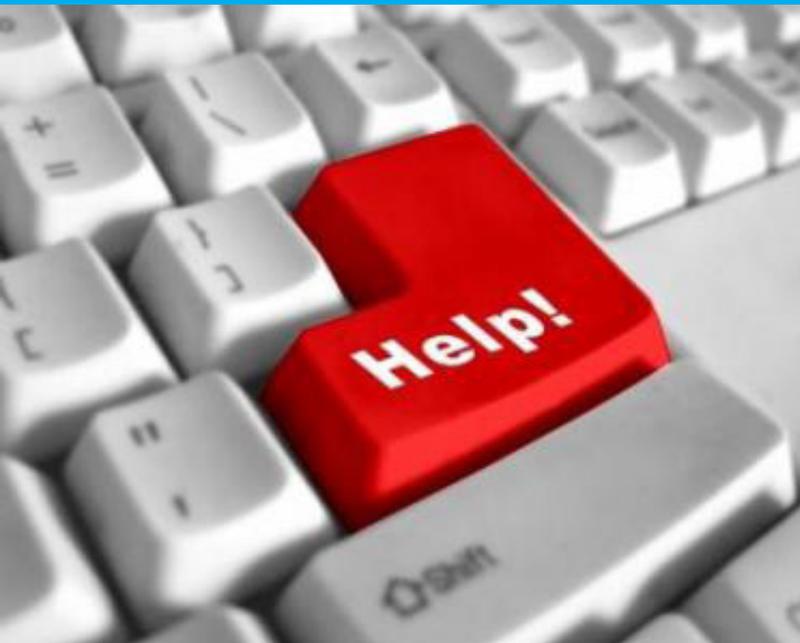
***Malware isn't the only reason you might be experiencing slower performance.*** You may just have too much stuff on your phone. We often install a bunch of different apps

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

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

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

## Technology Assistance



The library 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

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!



## End of Summer Fun!

### Rowlett Parks & Recreation *Summer "Camps" continue*

The Parks and Recreation Department has a "camp" for every child. Kids will learn, have fun, stay active and make new friends!

For more information or to register call 972-412-6170 or visit [www.Rowlett.com/ParksandRec](http://www.Rowlett.com/ParksandRec)!

#### MARTIAL ARTS CAMP

Ages 12 and up

##### Jujitsu

August 1-31

\$30, \$50 or \$60/month

Taught by US Martial Arts Hall of Fame instructor, Grand Master Duane Ethington, Jujitsu is an explosive and effective system offering easy and applicable methods of protecting yourself.

##### Tae Kwon Do

Tuesday & Thursday

August 4 – 27

Beginner – 6:30 P.M.

Intermediate/Advanced – 7:30 P.M.

\$30/month for 1 night per week, \$50/2

Learn traditional Tae Kwon Do in a positive atmosphere with 5th degree black belt Bobby Blakey. With 30+ years of training experience and numerous black

belts under him, Bobby sits on the board of the Texas Martial Arts Federation. Discipline, power, focus and conditioning are just some of the positives taught in this year round program.



*cont. on page 14*

Monday – Friday

June 8 – August 14

7:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Ages 11-14, \$15 per day or \$70/week

### SOAR Summer Day Camp

Drop the kids off at the Rowlett Community Centre where Parks and Recreation staff provides

entertaining, educational, themed-based fun to keep them up and moving all day long.

#### Manic Monday

Start the week with games, activities, crafts and contests on this Monday-fun day. Improve teamwork and problem solving skills.

#### Rookie Tuesday

A sports program with a focus on FUN! Kids will play basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, pickleball and other fun games like Frisbee and golf. Everyone has a great time while getting tons of exercise!

#### Wacky Wednesday

Play some wacky games and wear some wacky clothes! Wednesdays will have a different theme each week with fun, wardrobe and activities tied into it.

#### Tidal Wave Thursday

Water is the name of the game! Kids cool down from the hot Texas heat with a day full of wacky wild water fun! Participants will enjoy an EXTREME cool down, fun in the sun at Wet Zone Waterpark, and lots of wild water games!

#### Fantastic Fun Friday

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



## *End of Summer Fun!* **Rowlett Parks & Recreation Summer "Camps"** (cont. from page 13)

**For more information or to register call 972-412-6170!**

### **ADVENTURES IN ART CAMP**

**Monday – Thursday,  
August 3 – 6, 9:00 – 11:45 A.M.  
Ages 5-13, \$60**

Finally, an art camp for youth emphasizing fine art and creative thinking instead of just crafts! Your young artist will complete eight amazing finished works of art in this four-day camp. Paint with oils, watercolors and acrylics using color theory, time-saving techniques and more. Bring paper towels, snacks and wear old clothes!

### **YOU CAN PAINT CAMP**

**Saturday, August 8  
9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.  
Ages 13 & Up,  
\$20**

Complete an amazing finished landscape, seascape or still life worthy of framing, step-by-step under the patient guidance of Robert & Susan

Garden, award winning artists noted for their teaching talents. All art supplies and detailed instruction are provided. Bring paper towels and wear old clothes!

### **JEDI ENGINEERING LEGO CAMP**

**Monday – Friday, August 17 – 21  
9:00 A.M. – Noon  
Ages 5-8, \$179**

Young Jedi will explore worlds far, far away and engineering principles right in front of them. Defeat the Empire by designing and refining LEGO® X-Wings, R2-units and settlements on far-flung edges of the galaxy. Imagination and engineering combine to create motorized and architectural projects such as energy catapults, shield generators and defense turrets.

### **JEDI MASTER ENGINEERING LEGO CAMP**

**Monday – Friday, August 17 – 21  
1:00 – 4:00 P.M.  
Ages 9-12, \$179**

The Force is strong in this class. Build complex machines and structures based on the best designs from a galaxy far, far away. Projects include LEGO X-Wings, AT-AT walkers, Pod Racers, Star Destroyers, Cloud Cities, settlements and fortresses. Play-Well's Jedi instructors reinforce key engineering concepts and more as students tap into the powerful forces of imagination and engineering.



### **SAT PREP CAMP**

**Saturdays, August 22 – September 26  
9:00 A.M. – Noon  
Ages 14-18, \$75**

Improve the chances of getting into the college of your choice by increasing your SAT scores. This course includes 18 hours of instruction in math, grammar and writing, then students will complete two practice SAT tests.



**Dive in!**

## **The Wet Zone, Rowlett's Family Water Park**

Get wet and have a great time at the “cool” events this month before the park closes for the season!!!

### ***Season Pass Day***

Monday, August 3

We appreciate our season pass holders - this is our chance to show you how much! Bring a friend with you to the Wet Zone and they can enjoy the day on us! Each pass holder can bring one guest free of charge.

### ***Angel Swim***

Saturday, August 8

8:30 – 10:30 A.M.

This swim time is specifically set aside for those with special needs and their families. Play, swim and enjoy the Wet Zone without all the crowds!

### ***Bogo Days!***

Monday, August 10

Wednesday, August 12

Thursday, August 13

Purchase one admission and receive the second admission for FREE in celebration of the last week the park is open. Bring a friend and enjoy some splashy fun in the sun before summer ends and school is back in session!

### ***Season Pass Holder Appreciation Party!***

Saturday, August 15

9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Join Haley the Hippo as we celebrate our 2015 Season Pass holders with an end-of-the-season splash bash! The park is open just for you, so come on out and enjoy free snow cones and a morning full of fun and games.

### ***Back to School Splash Bash!***

Friday, August 14

It's the last weekday before school starts...ho hum. No worries, the Wet Zone is supplying one last day of fun and games before getting back to the grind! Kids can win cool new school supplies to start the new year off right! Park will be open all day but contests will take place between 1:00 & 4:00pm.

### ***Pooch Plunge***

Sunday, August 16

4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

\$10 per dog, humans get in free

It's time to “let the dogs out”! Join Wet Zone and the Friends of Rowlett Animals for a doggie swim day. Fun games and contests for both dogs and their owners with the proceeds from the day going to assist animals in the Rowlett area!!

**For more information visit**  
**[www.wetzonewaterpark.com](http://www.wetzonewaterpark.com)**

# Back to School Safety

It's back to school time! Community Services Officer Chad Caldwell would like to offer these tips to ensure a safe and productive school year!



## Students:

### ***Walk in groups!***

Whether walking to and from school or waiting at the bus stop, there is better safety in numbers.

### ***Do NOT talk to strangers!***

Get away from strangers and tell an adult who can be trusted about the incident as soon as possible. Do not get into a stranger's car under **any** circumstances.

### ***Do NOT take shortcuts going home!***

Travel only the route planned in advance with a parent. Use the most populated route.

### ***Don't overstuff a backpack!***

It should weigh no more than 10 to 20 percent of a child's body weight.

### ***Report bullying!***

Be the solution. Do not be part of the problem. This includes cyber bullying.

## Parents:

### ***Share these tips with school-age kids...***

#### ***Always use sidewalks and crosswalks!***

They are provided to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. And look both ways before crossing the street!

#### ***Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle!***

Helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent. To prevent injuries to cyclists and pedestrians, do not ride a bicycle inside the crosswalk.

#### ***Play safe on the playground!***

Each year, more than 200,000 kids are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for playground-associated injuries. Most of these injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment.

#### ***Follow all school bus rules!***

School buses are not playgrounds. Make sure kids understand how important it is to obey all safety rules.

#### ***Have a well-rehearsed emergency plan in place for children home alone or caring for siblings after school.***

If possible, ask a neighbor to look in or be available to them if necessary.

## Drivers:

### ***Watch for flashing lights and obey traffic laws in school zones!***

Added caution is required and disobeying speed limits inside school zones could result in a citation with a hefty fine. Also remember, no wireless communication devices (i.e. cell phones) may be used unless via a hands-free device.

### ***Do NOT honk the horn or drive erratically!***

This could startle other drivers or students utilizing crosswalks. Driving erratically includes passing school buses while their lights are flashing. Be extremely cautious around school buses, especially when loading and unloading.

### ***Do NOT block crosswalks!***

Students might have to walk outside the crosswalk and expose themselves to unnecessary danger.

### ***Always stop when directed to do so!***

This includes by signs, police officers and school crossing guards. Remember, anyone directing pedestrian traffic inside crosswalks is doing so to ensure the safety of the students.

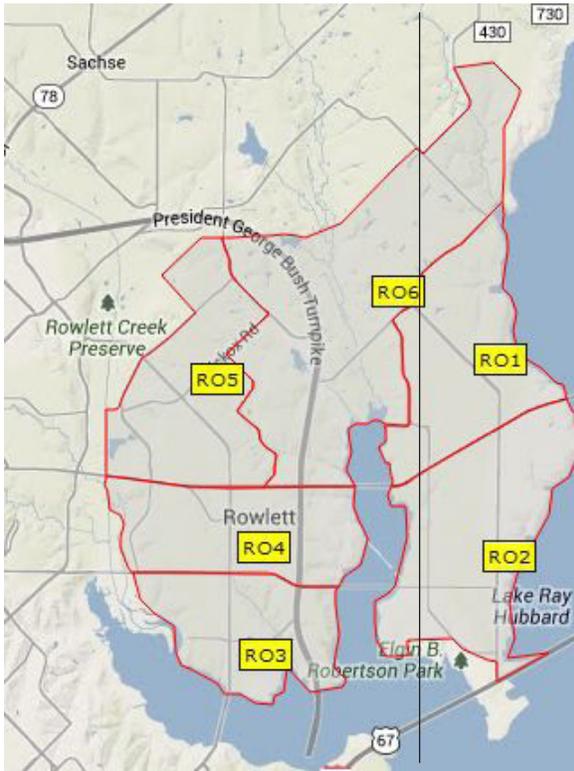
### ***Most importantly, watch for child pedestrians!***

Children, by their nature, are not the most cautious pedestrians. It is our job as adults to watch for students at ALL times, regardless of whether the proper crosswalk or assistance has been provided.

For more information on back to school safety in our community, please contact **Officer Chad Caldwell** at **972-412-6242** or via [email](#)

**MOSQUITO SEASON IS HERE  
TWO MOSQUITOS TESTING POSITIVE FOR THE WEST NILE VIRUS  
FOUND IN ROWLETT THIS SUMMER - GROUND SPRAYING OCCURED**

**2015 MOSQUITO TESTING AND ABATEMENT PLAN**



**THE CITY OF ROWLETT CONTRACTS WITH DALLAS COUNTY FOR MOSQUITO TESTING, ABATEMENT AND SPRAYING.**

This contract covers ALL of Rowlett, including the portion that is located in Rockwall County.

In 2014, Dallas County increased the number of mosquito traps set in “zones” around Rowlett from five to six for a more even activity surveillance. Dallas County also changed the ground spraying strategy in an effort to more effectively combat the spread of West Nile Virus.

After studying the 2012 human cases, the County found it very difficult to determine just where the victims came in contact with the infected mosquitoes. Therefore, instead of waiting for a **human** to test positive for the virus, they now perform ground spraying of the entire zone when a **mosquito** testing positive is located.

- In Rowlett, mosquito testing will occur on Wednesdays.
- The City will be notified of results by 10:00 A.M. on Friday.
- If positive mosquitoes were present, ground spraying of the zone will occur at dusk **the same evening** (weather permitting).

The City will notify residents of the affected area through [Connect Rowlett](#) messages and information on the City’s website, [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com).

**WHAT IS DALLAS COUNTY DOING?**

Dallas County Health officials are working with the City of Rowlett to minimize the risk of residents of contracting mosquito borne diseases. Dallas County uses an

Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program to abate mosquito populations. IMM uses various techniques that include the following tools:

**Surveillance** – The collection of mosquitoes to determine the location, species, quantity and virus potential.

**Source Reduction** – Remove water sources that support mosquito breeding habitats.

**Larvicide** – The use of EPA approved products to kill mosquito larvae in standing water or stocking water with mosquitofish.

**Adulticide** – The spraying of EPA approved products from trucks and planes to reduce mosquito populations. The pesticides that can be used for mosquito control have been judged by the EPA not to pose an unreasonable risk to human health.



**What Can I Do?  
Mosquito Proof!**

*Follow the Four D’s*

*Remember: the Best Offense  
is a Good D-fense!*

**Dress**

*Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites when outside.*

**DEET**

*Use insect repellent products with “DEET” or other EPA approved repellents and follow product instructions.*

**Drain**

*Inspect property for standing water, regularly clean roof gutters, dump water from potted plants, change birdbath and pet water daily. Upend wheelbarrows, buckets, tires, cans and other outdoor containers.*

**Dusk & Dawn**

*Stay indoors during*

*dusk and dawn hours—when mosquitoes are most active.*

**Ensure YOU receive ground spraying notifications, sign up for [Connect Rowlett](#) today!**

# Rowlett

## City Calendar

# August

						1 <b>CERT Class</b> 8am-6pm
2	3 <b>Season Pass Day</b> @ Wet Zone	4 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 7:30pm @ City Hall	5	6	7 <b>One-on-One Tech Help</b> @ Library <b>Jedi Training</b> 2pm @ Library	8 <b>CERT Class</b> 8am-6pm <b>Angel Swim</b> 8:30am @ Wet Zone
9	10 <b>BOGO Day</b> @ Wet Zone	11 <b>Tea for Teachers</b> 2pm @ Library <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 6:30pm @ City Hall	12 <b>BOGO Day</b> @ Wet Zone	13 <b>BOGO Day</b> @ Wet Zone	14 <b>Back to School Splash Bash</b> @ Wet Zone <b>One-on-One Tech Help</b> @ Library <b>3-D Pen Printing</b> 2pm @ Library	15 <b>Season Passholder Appreciation Day</b> @ Wet Zone <b>CPR Class</b> 8:30am-12:30pm <b>Pet Adoptathon</b> <b>10am-5pm</b> @ Animal Shelter
16 <b>Pooch Plunge</b> @ Wet Zone	17	18 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 7:30pm @ City Hall	19	20	21 <b>One-on-One Tech Help</b> @ Library <b>Rule the School</b> 2pm @ Library	22
23	24	25 <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting</b> 6:30pm @ City Hall	26	27	28 <b>One-on-One Tech Help</b> @ Library <b>Library Skills for Homeschoolers</b> 2pm @ Library	29
30	31					