

Rowlett^{TX}

On the Water. On the Move

Economic Development News - November 2009

Enhanced Stimulus Program to KICK OFF January 2010

The City of Rowlett recognized the slowdown in the economy last May and created a local stimulus program. The purpose for the program was to encourage citizens to “Shop Rowlett”, link employment opportunities in Rowlett to out citizens, and to encourage Rowlett businesses to register as a vendor with the City. A website was created where all the information was supplied along with a printable coupon page for local retail establishments.

City Council believes the local stimulus program is important to the local businesses and economy and directed City staff to enhance the program. Staff has developed a continuation of the previous stimulus plan and hopes your business will consider being a part of the program.

The City of Rowlett plans to roll out the new stimulus plan in January 2010. At which time, any person can bring receipts that total \$250 or more spent in Rowlett to the Rowlett Library. For each \$250 increment, the persons name will be put into a monthly drawing for \$250. These monthly drawings will continue through June 2010. For each \$250 increment of receipts, each person will also be given a gift card of \$25 to be used in Rowlett stores participating in the program. Stores will collect the \$25 gift cards and turn the gift cards into the City for reimbursement. It will not cost your business to participate in the program. You will be reimbursed for every gift card you receive. This program encourages people to “Shop Rowlett” on many fronts. If you would like participate in the gift card program, please let us know by December 15, 2009.

The City of Rowlett wants to partner with your business during these tough economic times and we look forward to hearing from you in the immediate future

on your decision to participate. For more information, please contact Katie Corder, Assistant City Manager at 972-412-6158 or at kcorder@rowlett.com or Ben White, Economic Development Director at 972-463-3953 or at bwhite@rowlett.com.



John Wing of Wing Aero and a Challenge Air Co-Pilot

Local Business Spotlight

Wing Aero Products

Hope on Wings

WING AERO PRODUCTS of Rowlett, a national distributor of aviation training materials and products is in the spotlight of this addition. Wing Aero Products started in the garage of John and Nancy Wing's Rowlett home in 1986. The company was moved to a Garland location in 1987 then relocated back to Rowlett in 2000. In December 2008 the company expanded from the 7,200 square foot building to their current space of 15,000 square feet located at 5009 Martin

Visit us online at www.rowlett.com or call 972-412-6121

Drive.

Every now and then you have a company in your city that does more than their job. When a company and/or its founder uses the gifts of their trade to help others in need and make a difference in the lives of people facing extraordinary hardships to teach them they can do anything, it is worth recognition. John Wing, owner of Wing Aero Products is doing just that. Mr. Wing has been a volunteer pilot for a group known as Challenge Air for many years. The all volunteer group teaches kids with disabilities they can do far more than they think. The organization was founded by Rick Amber, a pilot that lost the use of his legs after a failed aircraft carrier landing in Vietnam. Mr. Amber's dedication to aviation and to children never stopped as he progressed through life as a teacher, pilot and flight instructor. Although Mr. Amber passed away from cancer in 1997, his dream lives on through volunteers such as our own John Wing. Each volunteer pilot must have a valid pilot's certificate and a current medical certificate. Pilots donate their aircraft, fuel and time. The aircraft must have all proper maintenance and inspections completed, and must have an insurance certificate listing Challenge Air as an additional insured. Any child of any age with a disability who shows up for an event can participate with his or her family.

"I'm very proud and humbled to be able to help these kids. Our organization (Challenge Air), nationally based here in Dallas, makes it possible for kids with special needs to experience a third dimension in their lives. No one would think of allowing a kid to drive a car or operate some complex machinery, but in this special environment we help create, a "challenged" child can actually fly an airplane.

The excitement and actual transformations that occur when we put the control yoke in these children's hands is next to magic. Usually the parents or siblings sit in the back seats and witness the "event". I've had kids that can't fully hold their heads up shriek with excitement when they see and feel the ability to "move" the aircraft on their own. I've seen an autistic boy, not having spoken a word or mutter a sound in months, begin speaking to his parents "look what I can do". Tears almost always come to the parents and me. I've

seen a blind boy (blind at birth) literally keep the airplane perfectly level in flight, making all normal and necessary adjustments to the airplane's controls, while never ever having seeing anything, much less the horizon. Next to magic, it seems a miracle. God truly gives these special children extra abilities and senses that we can only imagine "how".

I was invited to participate in this organization some five years ago by another pilot friend. We volunteer our aircraft, our time, and all expenses to proudly participate in this magic event. It happens three times a year here in the metroplex (McKinney, Love Field, and Ft. Worth Meacham Field) but these Fly Days happen all over the country. They take place in Seattle, Denver, Oklahoma City, Miami, San Diego, Tulsa, Orlando, Amarillo, Houston....and many more. Everyone feels that we (the pilots and volunteers) get more out of this activity than anyone. I find more emotional tug in this event than anything else I do (except possibly having witnessed the birth of my own children). The fact that I'm blessed to see these kids and families sense something they would never have the opportunity do otherwise is most fulfilling." John Wing. For more information visit www.challengeair.com.

CEDA

Community Economic Development Award Community Economic Development Award for Rowlett 4 Years Running

For the 4th year in a row, Rowlett was recognized for outstanding achievement in Community Economic Development by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC). Rowlett received Merit Recognition at the TEDC's annual conference in September 2009. While the award was picked up by Ben White, Director of Economic Development for the City of Rowlett, the efforts that qualified Rowlett was a collaborative effort by citizen's, local business, city council and city staff. In order to receive this honor one must show how a community did something that another community of similar or smaller size could emulate at little to no cost to their budget. With the downturn

of the economy in 2009 being devastating to both businesses and citizens across the nation, Rowlett as

Local Stimulus Plan Recognized by Texas Economic Development Council

a whole sprang into action to help. The City itself struggled with a budget deficit of \$1.5 million due to citizens not shopping and spending money in our local stores at the same rate as in the past. The City had a strong desire to come up with a way to assist our citizens and businesses with the resources available to us. Rowlett created a stimulus program/campaign that gave businesses the opportunity to offer citizens and visitors the means to save money while boosting their sales. The program consisted of four areas of assistance. The areas are shopping in Rowlett, doing business in Rowlett, working in Rowlett and playing in Rowlett.

Rowlett demonstrated that with the resources available and the participation of citizens and businesses alike we could weather the storm together. We are. Rowlett will continue the stimulus program and enhance it for the coming year. While the economy seems to be turning around we have not fully recovered yet. For more information regarding this award winning program visit www.rowlettlife.com.

New Businesses

Rowlett's New Businesses

In the month of September and October 2009 the following certificates of occupancy were issued for new businesses:

DFW Network Solutions at 5000 Rowlett Road
Citewide Painting & Construction at 4941 Gordon Smith
Kingdom Life, Inc. at 7401 Miller Road
Shower Shop at 5021 Gordon Smith
Sunshadeawing at 2814 Main Street
JW Auto Group at 5130 Gordon Smith
Studio 360 at 8602 Lakeview Parkway
Fivesonsfurniture at 4418 Lakeview Parkway
R. B. Electric at 3106 Main Street
Burger King (moved) 2507 Lakeview Parkway
Rowlett Discount Appliances at 5040 Grisham

We want to hear from YOU

If you have stories or local business news to share, please contact the Economic Development Department

City of Rowlett Mission Statement:

To provide high quality services, utilize best practices, and promote well-planned growth while enhancing our community's sense of home.

Rowlett Economic Development

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Transportation Update October 2009

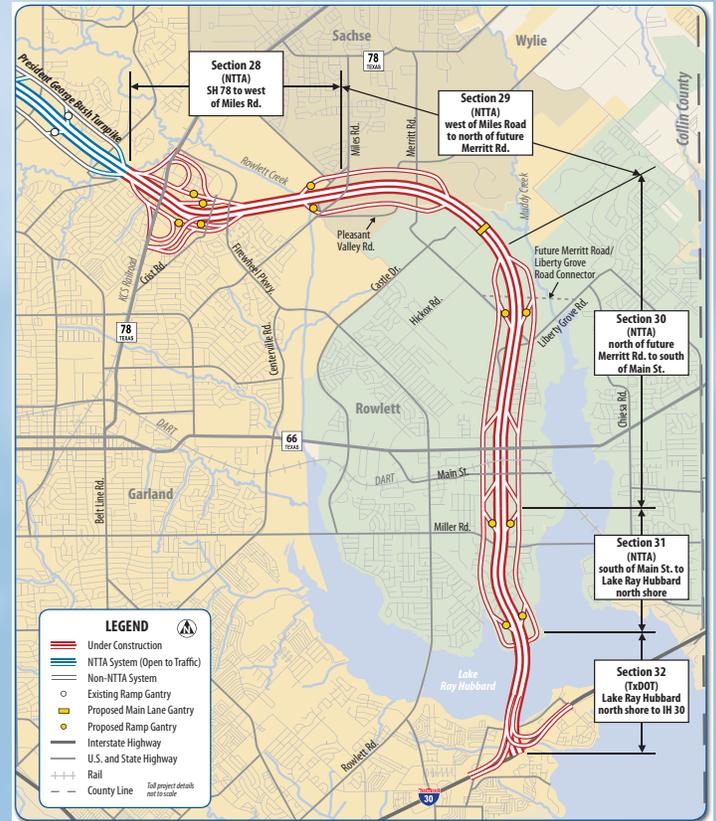
PGBT

Section 29 of the President George Bush Turnpike Eastern Extension - from Firewheel Mall thru Rowlett connecting to Interstate 30 - is under construction. This section, which goes through Sachse is 26% complete.

Section 30 existing sanitary sewer lines are being lowered. The Kirby Road detour has been completed. The traffic switch to Kirby detour is scheduled for November 1st. Temporary traffic signals will be installed on Main Street. This section is 45% complete.

Section 31 contractor is excavating for the main lanes and building retaining walls. Piers for the bridge over Miller Road are under construction. This section is 32% complete.

Section 32 is the Ray Hubbard Bridge construction. The bridge is 33% complete and is scheduled to be complete by mid 2011.



President George Bush Turnpike Eastern Extension
Progress Report

Web site: www.ntta.org

October 2009

NTTA
NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

Rowlett Economic Development

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