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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Revisions

In the August issue of this newsletter, we spoke about the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY2015) Proposed Budget. After the City Council's budget work sessions, which took place in August, some revisions have been made - most notably a decrease in the proposed tax rate increase, from five cents to four. Here is updated information, along with a recap of the proposals presented.

What a difference a year makes! After five straight years of decline in property tax values, the City is beginning to see the onset of an improved housing market and the promise of new growth. As Rowlett moves away from the specter of additional declines in the property tax base, we can now look forward to financially putting the City back on track. And, **after nine straight years with the same tax rate, the City is now prepared to increase the tax rate by four cents.** The combination of improved tax values, new growth, and additional tax dollars will finally provide an opportunity for the City to fix structural weaknesses in the budget, address years of deferred maintenance, mitigate some difficult challenges, and enhance the community's parks and amenities.

This is truly a great time to live in Rowlett! Last year we were named the *Number One Best Small City in America to Move To* and more recently, the *Tenth Safest City in Texas*. In addition, the adoption of form-based codes has brought high quality development to our City, including the Village of Rowlett downtown project and the Homestead at Liberty Grove. Exciting new business developments are also on the horizon. Now is the time to continue the positive momentum occurring in our hometown!

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ISSUE NO. 1409
SEPTEMBER, 2014

Weekly Landscape Watering Allowed Through October 31!

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TEMPORARILY EASES STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS

To ensure water quality is maintained throughout the City's water distribution system, **water weekly beginning September 1.**

Effective September 1, 2014, to ensure water quality is maintained throughout the water distribution systems, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) is easing Stage 3 restrictions to allow landscape watering once a week with sprinklers or irrigation systems through the end of October 2014.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires that water providers, such as the City of Rowlett, maintain chlorine residuals in transmission and distribution systems to assure water



cont. on page 4

To Recap: What will the 4¢ Tax Rate Increase Fund?



Add 1/2 of one cent to the Property Tax Rate for Alley Improvements

Currently, about 60 percent of Rowlett neighborhoods have alleys. While many alleys are in good shape, and over 50 have been reconstructed with bond funds and Cash CIP, 40 percent still need to be replaced or reconstructed at a cost of over \$27 million. At the current production rate, this would take about 27 years, a pace which is neither sustainable nor publically acceptable. However, during this spring's *Rowlett, My Community, My Money, My Choice* campaign, citizens participating were split right down the middle as to what the right answer to address funding this problem is: assess fees to alley users or increase property taxes for all residents.



In response, City staff, with input from the City Council, is developing a new program for enhanced alley replacement and improvements. In the coming months, our community will have the conversation about how this program

will be funded going forward. This may include a component of the upcoming bond election in May of next year, perhaps in combination with prorated fees, however the final determination of a long-term solution is currently in the discussion stages.



Over the next year, staff will develop the program with the intent of providing a funding solution to initiate a sustainable program at the conclusion of the bond election. In the meantime, funding will continue at \$730,000 per year, the same level provided in recent years. A half cent increase to the property tax rate has been proposed as part of the FY2015 Budget, which would generate an additional \$163,702. This will

fund planning and engineering in the first year, so that projects are "shovel-ready" for construction when the City Council and our community determine the long-term funding solution.



Add 2¢ to the Property Tax Rate to Cover the General Fund Budget Shortfall

The City of Rowlett has had the *same tax rate for nine straight years*. After absorbing a \$1.9 million decline in property tax revenues over the past five years, the City no longer has the ability to bridge the gap beyond this fiscal year. As preparation for this recommendation, staff conducted the My Rowlett campaign to educate the community about the City's financial needs. In addition, over the past nine months, staff has scrubbed the budget and cut approximately \$600,000, leaving a remaining budget shortfall of about \$950,000. This balance *can only be fixed by either an increase in the tax rate or a reduction in services*. Two cents, along with additional revenue from improved property tax values, will fix the structural imbalances in the General Fund. Combine this with future growth and economic development and the City does not anticipate another tax rate increase for operating purposes in the five year planning window.





Add 3/4 of one cent to the Property Tax Rate to Enhance Parks Maintenance Standards and Improvements

The City decreased parks and trails system budget dollars \$1.1 million dollars between FY2007 and FY2013, during the Great Recession, and it shows. During this time, park infrastructure and amenities continued to age, and some playgrounds, ball fields and other recreational amenities show extreme wear and tear. Parks are important amenities that developers, business prospects and future residents consider before investing their dollars, and the maintenance of a community's park system speaks directly to its philosophy about quality of life. If Rowlett wants to change this downward trend, we will need to reinvest in our parks.

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department has about *one parks maintenance employee per 65 acres. The DFW standard is closer to one employee per 30 acres.* In addition, the City spends about 21.6

percent less per acre than the median average of other DFW cities. This proposal would add about \$245,552 annually, which will allow two additional parks maintenance staff per year for the next three years. Park maintenance standards will be enhanced as well, with a strategic focus on visibility including turf management, ball field improvements, shade structures for playgrounds, etc. Also included in a three-year plan formulated by Parks and Recreation staff is playground equipment at Twin Star Park, buildings and grounds capital maintenance, for example, the patio at Springfield Park, along with additional erosion control and capital maintenance at Lakeside Park, which includes repairs to the fishing pier and sand volleyball court along with new entry signage. Enhancements at Pecan Grove Park, including lighting the picnic area, are also planned.



Add 3/4 of one cent to the Property Tax Rate for Community Enhancement Programs

Much like with parks, communities are often judged by a myriad of intangibles and first impressions are important. Amenities such as entrance features, medians, landscaping and screening walls go a long way toward creating an expectation of community quality and a feeling of hometown pride. In Rowlett, the back-to-back droughts in 2005-2006 and in 2011-2014 have wreaked havoc on these amenities and many appear tired and unimaginative. This proposal would add about \$245,552 to be used for screening walls and fences, neighborhood entry features, median improvements and landscaping, streetscapes and signage, all of which can help attract new business and development.



For more information on the FY 2015 Proposed Budget

[Read the August Rowlett on the Move newsletter](#)
[View the FY2015 Proposed Budget](#)
[Read the FY2015 Proposed Budget FAQ](#)

Weekly Landscape Watering in Effect Through October 31!



North Texas Municipal Water District *Temporarily* Eases Stage 3 Water Restrictions

quality so that the treated water supply is safe for use. Annually, chlorine residuals are depleted by increases in temperature during summer months. During the summer of 2014, NTMWD consumers have reduced their water usage so well that maintaining chlorine residuals has been compounded by the decreased demands.

To maintain water quality, the City, along with other NTMWD Member and Customer Cities, performs flushing of hydrants to remove the water that has decreased chlorine residuals. To improve the circulation and increase the water flow within the water systems, allowance of once per week watering with sprinkler or irrigation systems will assist in maintaining the required chlorine residuals.

The combinations of periodic summer rain events and reduced water usage facilitates the NTMWD's ability to move to once per week watering for the two month period of September

and October. While water quality remains the top priority, water conservation and the wise use of water is still critical to maintain current available supplies until the drought eases. Lavon Lake is currently at elevation 480.27' and the once-per-week watering allowance should only decrease it by less than two feet, therefore would still not require initiation of Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

The City of Rowlett would like to thank citizens for their tremendous conservation efforts this summer. You have demonstrated that informed customers will do the right things to conserve!

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 **seven** 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.

SEPTEMBER 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 3 & 4	2 1	3 6 & 7	4 2	5 8 & 9	6 5
7 0	8 3 & 4	9 1	10 6 & 7	11 2	12 8 & 9	13 5
14 0	15 3 & 4	16 1	17 6 & 7	18 2	19 8 & 9	20 5
21 0	22 3 & 4	23 1	24 6 & 7	25 2	26 8 & 9	27 5
28 0	29 3 & 4	30 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.

CELEBRATE OUR SAFE COMMUNITY!



Top 10 Safest Cities in Texas

1. Flower Mound
2. Keller
3. Friendswood
4. Little Elm
5. Allen
6. Missouri City
7. The Colony
8. Coppell
9. Leander
10. Rowlett

Rowlett Named *10th Safest City in Texas*

Real estate research blog, Movoto created this list comparing the latest Uniform Crime Report from the FBI (2012) to find crime data for the top 100 most populous cities in Texas.

In order to fairly compare places with both large and small populations, they calculated the rates of murders, violent crimes, property crimes and total crimes based on crimes per 100,000 residents. Cities were then ranked with a score from one to 100, with one being the safest possible score.

Movoto says **Rowlett** is: *"... a quiet, upscale, and highly desirable bedroom community of Dallas, not only for its beautiful location on Lake Ray Hubbard, but also for its safety."*

So that murders, violent crimes, and property crimes would account for more (because some crimes are more severe than others), these rankings were worth 30 percent of the overall score, where the total number of crimes would be worth just 10 percent.

In 2012, Rowlett had just 1,847 crimes per 100,000. Of those, there were 1,726 property crimes and 121 violent crimes, with no murders.

Start Planning Your Neighborhood Party Now! NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

One of the factors keeping our community safe is the partnership between citizens and the Rowlett Police Department. We invite you and your neighborhood to participate in the 31st Annual National Night Out, an event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.



National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and to send a message to criminals letting them know that citizens are organized and fighting back.

Residents throughout the community

are encouraged to turn on the porch light, lock the door and gather with neighbors to show unity against criminal activity. Many neighborhoods plan special events such as block parties, swimming parties and cookouts. If yours is one of those, the Rowlett Police, Fire Rescue and Public Works Departments would love the opportunity to drop in and visit with everyone. They can bring the SWAT vehicle, squad cars, fire

engines, large construction vehicles and more for kids (and adults!) to climb on, into and enjoy. Mayor Todd Gottel and members of the City Council and City staff will also be dropping in on all the celebrations.

Please contact Officer Chad Caldwell in the Police Department's Community Services Division via [email](#) or at 972-412-6242 to sign up your neighborhood or for more information.

Third Consecutive Year for this Honor

City Receives Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle Award

Upgraded from Gold to Platinum Award!



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

The City of Rowlett has received the Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle Award for the third consecutive year. The new Platinum level was just introduced for 2014 – the City was at the Gold level for the past two years, which was the highest level attainable.

The Platinum level added several requirements related to debt service reporting on the City's website. The City of Rowlett was found fully compliant with these, satisfying all the Gold level requirements and meeting all 22 criteria, PLUS satisfying these additional website transparency requirements added to the program:

Debt information – posting summary information about outstanding debt, such as current debt obligations, descriptions, dates issued, total amounts and maturity dates.

Link to the Texas Comptroller's transparency webpage:

TexasTransparency.org - This

website is a one-stop source to collect all available information on local government finances in our state, including the existing and proposed debt of cities, counties, school and hospital districts and hundreds of special-purpose districts throughout Texas.

Bond election pledge – The chief executive (e.g., mayor, county judge, superintendent or executive director) signs a pledge to post, on the entity website, information about the proposed bond package(s) and existing debt and provide the Comptroller's office with a link to this information no later than one business day after the public notice of the bond election.

Texas Comptroller
Leadership Circle
Platinum Member

Rowlett is Now a Smart911 Community!

Create a **Smart911** Safety Profile for faster and more effective emergency response!

Smart911 is a FREE national service that allows citizens to create a free Safety Profile for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. This can result in life-saving seconds and even minutes in response to the emergency. With over 56,000 residents living in the City and over 25,000 9-1-1 calls coming into the Rowlett Police Department each year, Smart911 will give 9-1-1 call takers the ability to send the appropriate response teams to the right location and with more information.

Citizens can visit www.smart911.com to sign up and create a free Safety Profile, providing information such as the names and photos of family members, health conditions, medications, pets in the home, vehicle details and emergency contacts. All information in each profile is voluntary, and each household can determine what details are important to include, as each household is different and therefore the potential rescue needs will also vary.

How Does a **Smart911** Safety Profile Assist First Responders?

- Provides an address when a call for assistance is made from a mobile phone, even if cell service is poor or the call is dropped.
- If there is a fire in the home, it can immediately provide details on how to gain access, the number of residents and pets inside, and a floor plan detailing the location of bedrooms and nearest exits.
- Delivers important details on how to treat a patient during a medical emergency, ranging from drug allergies to medical conditions such as epilepsy or autism.
- Provides vehicle information, the citizen's medical treatment restrictions and emergency contact details in the event of a car accident.

Smart911 has been adopted in 35 states and over 500 municipalities. It has been credited with positively impacting emergency situations and saving lives across the U.S. Smart911 is private and secure, and is only made available to 9-1-1 when an emergency call is made.



We are thrilled to be able to utilize available technologies to help enhance our existing public safety services for all residents. Now our citizens can be proactive about their own emergency response by giving us the information we need to better help them during a time of great distress, when communicating even the simplest of details can be difficult.

Beth English
Rowlett Police Department Communications
Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Senior Travel Expo

Tuesday, September 9
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

The Senior Advisory Board and AAA Texas host this event featuring vacation packages, guided tours and cruise vacations especially designed for senior citizens. Learn about hot

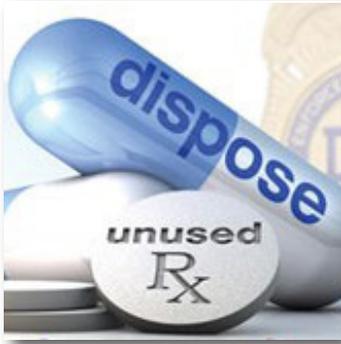
destinations, current travel trends, and plan your next vacation, while enjoying special “Show Day Only” discounts and benefits.



Senior Chocktaw Casino Trip

Wednesday, September 17
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
\$10

Hop on the bus at the RCC for Durant, OK. and enjoy a day of fun!



National Prescription Take Back Day

Saturday, September 27
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

The Rowlett Police Department is participating in the National Take Back Day, a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Agency focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation’s medicine cabinets. A national take-back day provides a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

Family Fun!

Movies on Main

Fridays in September
Library lawn
6:30 P.M.

Pack a picnic dinner and head on down to Main Street for a memorable evening of family cinema under the stars! Free movies begin at dusk. There will also be face painting, music, lawn games and other children activities. Popcorn, snow cones and other snacks will be provided free of charge by local businesses and churches!



Friday, September 5
The Smurfs 2

Enjoy a meet and greet with a real “Smurf”!



Friday, September 12
Free Birds

Rowlett Rotary Club provides an airshow and static display.



Friday, September 19
Monsters University
David Slick entertains with juggling, magic and stunt skills.

Diversity Day!

Saturday, October 4
Noon – 4:00 P.M.
Rowlett Community Centre

The Community Centre is transformed into a global exploration of various cultures and heritages found right here in the City of Rowlett. Enjoy performances by exciting dancers, singers, storytellers and more from around the world. Experience and celebrate the variety of cultures by visiting booths featuring food tastings, activities and crafts.

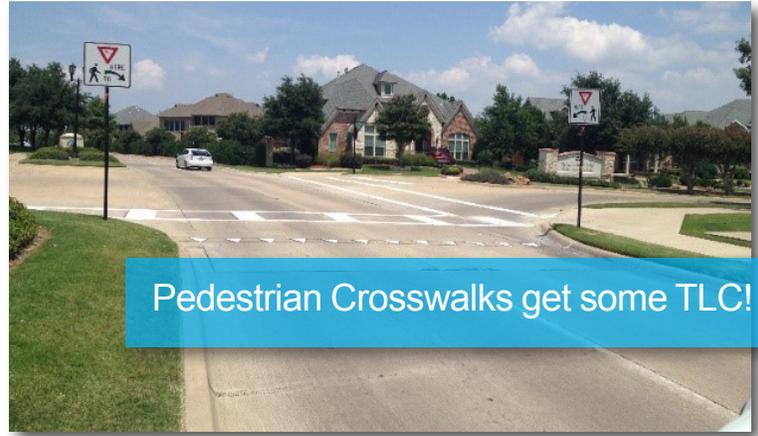


RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Fire Rescue Hosts
Tree House Academy

Firefighters from Station 3 invited the children of Tree House Academy to enjoy a tour of the engine and ambulance. As you can see, it wasn't just the kids who had a good time!



Pedestrian Crosswalks get some TLC!

Crosswalks throughout the City have been improved and refreshed to improve pedestrian safety. Crews worked diligently to ensure they were completed before school began, so that safe crossing situations for the children are provided as they return to class.



Police Department Holds Summer
Youth and Teen Academies

School Resource Officers held the final sessions of the Police Department's 2nd Annual Youth & Teen Academies. The free summer program is designed to encourage understanding and better communication between young citizens and the Police Department



by interactively educating participants on the different divisions of the police department including Patrol, SWAT, Negotiating and Dispatch, just to name a few.



The Wet Zone Guard Games

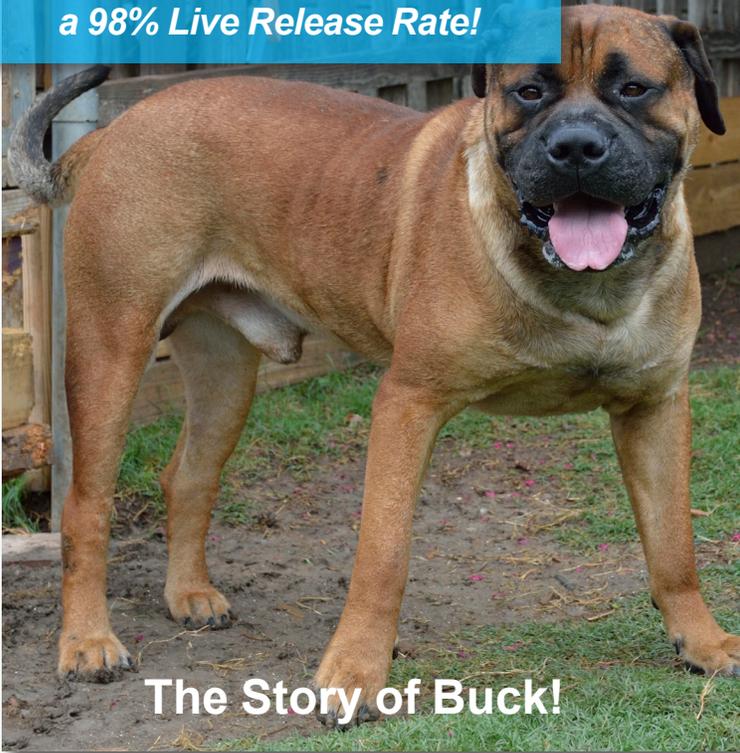
30 Wet Zone Lifeguards were divided into teams of three and competed in three events, Rescue Relay Races, Back Boarding a victim with a spinal injury and First Aid Trivia Quiz, during the annual Guard Games! This event is fun for the Wet Zone staff and is also a good opportunity for them to practice their lifeguarding skills under pressure. The 1st Place Winners from left to right: Dylan Morrow, Skylar Stanley, Nathan Kalladin.



Kenwood Park Improvements

A shade structure has been installed over the playground at Kenwood Heights Park. This feature not only provides a level of protection from ultra-violet rays, but enhances longevity of the play equipment. We look forward to adding more shade structures at other Rowlett parks!

Animal Shelter Maintains a 98% Live Release Rate!



The Story of Buck!

A large, Mastiff mix came into the shelter as a stray on July 27, 2014. "Buck" was a gentle giant that everyone at the shelter absolutely fell in love with. He was only two years old, but he was heartworm positive. This was especially hard news to take, not many people want to adopt a large, heartworm positive, slobbery dog like Buck. But...that didn't phase a wonderful City employee who has already adopted multiple "hard to place" dogs from our shelter. On August 4, Buck found his "forever" home.

A follow up: the wife of the employee who took him home has asked that we not allow her husband back in the shelter. Not a chance, he's one of our best customers!!



Donations for our Furry Friends!



Over 30 children and teachers from the Primrose School of Rowlett visited the Animal Shelter with donations of food, bones, toys and gift certificates for the animals housed there. The shelter staff were so grateful to these wonderful, generous young members of our community!



Code Enforcement tip of the month



Keep those Trees and Shrubs Trimmed!

Overhead vertical clearance of public sidewalks must be seven (7) feet; lateral clearance of public sidewalks must be six (6) inches from each edge of the sidewalk.

Overhead vertical clearance of streets must be twelve (12) feet, lateral clearance of streets, and no encroachment over or above the back of a curb or edge of pavement.

Sight clearance at intersections of city streets must have a sight distance of 200 feet. Sight clearance for signs must have an uninhibited sight distance of 100 feet.

Overhead vertical clearance of public alleys and easements is twelve (12) feet; lateral clearance is eighteen (18) inches.

**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.

"The net surplus from operations is \$3.4 million. This is \$1.2 million better than expected at this point in the year."

*Alan Guard
Chief Financial Officer*

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.

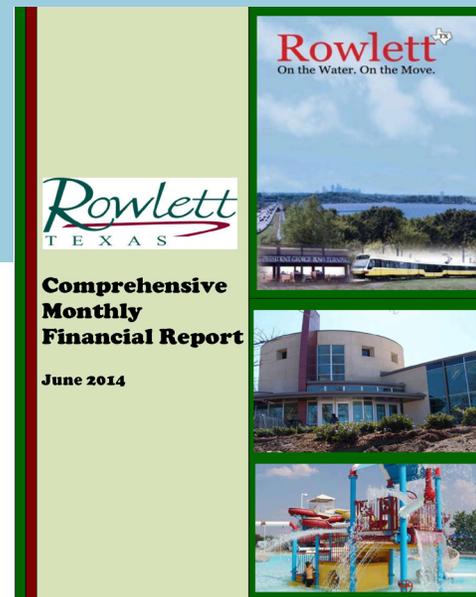
The report provided to Council in August includes financial information through June. We are now eight months, or three quarters through the City's fiscal year. As we move into September, and as we are now in

the City's budget season, staff has been reviewing revenue trends more closely as we prepare revenue and expenditure estimates for City Council to consider for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget.

On the revenue side of the equation, overall, the City has earned or received \$64.4 million for all funds in FY 2014. This amount is 79.2 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.4 million and is precisely as forecast through the month of June.

Expenditures have totaled \$61.1 million through the same time period. This amount is 75.4 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.0 million and is **1.3 percent lower** than forecast through June. Based on these figures the net surplus from operations is \$3.3 million. This is \$0.8 million better than expected at this point in the year. This is a continuation of the positive trends we have seen so far this fiscal year.

As previously noted, the report serves as an early warning system for staff and the City Council. The first page of the report, in fact, is a handy one-page summary



that can direct the reader to specific areas of concern. Listed on the page are the various key pieces of data that are analyzed each month, including major operating funds and specific revenue and expenditure comparisons. This page allows you to see performance at a glance. Green indicates the item is positive, or within a negative variance of less than one percent; yellow indicates a warning for decision makers and indicates the trend is negative between one and five percent of expected performance; red indicates a negative trend of more than five percent. This summary page provides a quick reference that allows the reader to go right to the page in the report where they can find more detailed information about a particular item.

[View the entire report here.](#) If you have any questions please contact Alan Guard, Chief Financial Officer [via email](#) or 972-412-6288.



DID YOU KNOW

Now Open: DART Light Rail from Rowlett to DFW!



Rowlett residents can now leave the car at home and take DART Light-rail to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), with the opening of the last Orange Line segment to the new DFW Airport Station. The August 18 opening means the country's longest light rail system links Rowlett to the world's third-busiest airport.

DFW Airport built the station as part of its Terminal Renewal and Improvement Program while DART's contractors focused on the rail line extension. According to DART President/Executive Director Gary Thomas, sharing construction duties allowed DART to open the station in mid-August, four months sooner than scheduled.

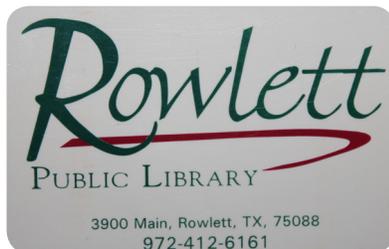
Early morning and late night trains ensure passengers and employees can get to their flights, work or home. The first Orange Line train departing downtown Dallas arrives at DFW Airport Station at 3:50 A.M. The last train departs DFW Airport Station for downtown Dallas at 1:12 A.M. weekdays; 12:12 A.M. weekends. Details about the station are available at www.DART.org/DFWAirport.

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

The library card is the smartest card in your wallet because it's your free ticket to lifetime learning and entertainment. Parents, it's the most important school supply of them all. Come on in to the Rowlett Public Library and get yours today!

An important reminder as students head back to school: the Rowlett Public Library offers the most important school supply of all ... a library card! Students of all ages will find the tools they need to succeed at the Library.

From free access to databases and homework help, to encyclopedias and test preparation materials, the Library has something for every student. And young readers can enjoy educational programs and activities in addition to a wide variety of reading resources that make learning fun. Nook and Kindle users can even check out e-books!



The entertainment available from the Rowlett Library doesn't stop at reading material. Check out music CD's by top of the charts artists and the latest movie and television series on DVD!

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. It's the smartest card in your wallet because it's your free ticket to lifetime learning and entertainment. For more information on how to sign up for a library card, stop by the Library at 3900 Main Street today, call 972-412-6161 or visit us online at www.rowlett.com!



2014 Summer Reading Program *Fizz, Boom, Read Wrap-up!*

The numbers are in and this year's Summer Reading Program was a great success!

1,529 children
347 teens & 'tweens
303 adults
=
2,179 readers!

Online registration was key in encouraging sign-ups this year, and staff were pleased to see a **34 percent increase over last year** in child/teen program completion.

Keeley Elementary School took the lead for highest student participation with **106 students** involved.

Grand prize drawings were held for program participation. Winners of the Adult and Teen categories were awarded Kindle ebook readers, Children's categories received ME Readers children's electronic books.



Ann Lamb
Adult Category



Tyler Coleman
Teen Category



Carson Baltao - age 7
Child Category



Maggie Lucero - age 6
Child Category



Ethan & Kayla Crofoot -
ages 3 mos. & 2
Child Category

Summer reading keeps young minds and curiosities engaged throughout the summer months, a time when vital literacy and classroom skills are at their greatest risk. Way to Read, Rowlett!!

Back To School at the Rowlett Library

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

Library Skills for Homeschoolers

Friday, September 5
10:30 A.M.

Home school parents and children are invited to explore what the Library has to offer. Learn how to borrow materials and how to access databases for free with this hands-on workshop conducted by a librarian.

Saturday Movie – *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*

Saturday, September 6
2:00 P.M.

Attention families: join us on the first Saturday of every month for a free movie and popcorn! Pirate Captain sets out on a mission to defeat his rivals Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz for the Pirate of the year Award. The quest takes Captain and his crew from the shores of Blood Island to the foggy streets of Victorian London. Rated PG.

International Talk Like a Pirate Day

Saturday, September 20
2:00 P.M.

Based on the crazy notion of author Dave Barry, National Talk Like a Pirate Day celebrates all things PIRATE. So let your inner pirate loose and wear costumes, use silly pirate phrases and play carnival games for pirate prizes.



STORY TIME! by the Rowlett Library

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

September 1 - *No Story Time*

September 8 - *I Can Move*

September 15 - *I Can See*

September 22 - *I Can Taste*

September 29 - *I Can Hear*

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.

Ages 18 months to 3 years

September 3 - *Grandma and Grandpa are Great!*

September 10 - *Goodnight*

September 17 - *Duck, Duck, Goose*

September 24 - *Fall is Here!*

Toddlers will have lots of fun learning as they are introduced to letters of the alphabet and new words to build their vocabulary.

Shake, Rattle and Read *Preschool Story Time*

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

For children 3 years of age and older

September 5 - *Because of a Sneeze*

September 12 - *It's Quacking Time*

September 19 - *Animals Go How?*

September 26 - *Little Lizards*

Continue your child's introduction to letters and words through stories, books, rhymes and much more!

Prime Time Book Club

Thursdays, @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 6-11

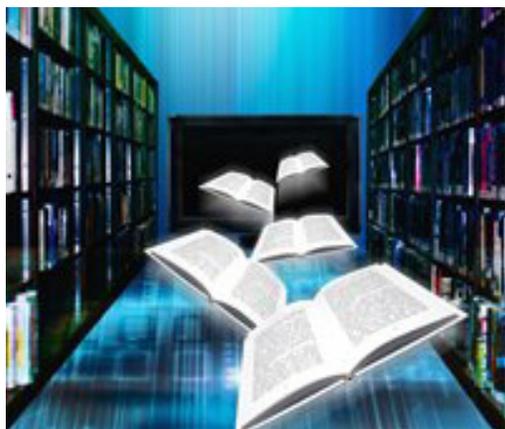
September will feature books about PIRATES during this weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 to 5. Each week, a book series or favorite book will be read and discussed, with a take-home activity to do relating to the books.

Pajama Story Time

Thursday @ 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!



Phil's Technology Corner

Intro to Apollo: A New *Integrated Library System*

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

Recently, the Rowlett Library replaced its Integrated Library System (ILS), which is what the library uses to perform many of its most important functions. It's the database that hosts the titles and authors of all of our materials. It's how we check books in and out to you, and how we keep track of who has what. It's how we provide online access to the catalog and your account. It's the heart of all Library operations! Apollo, the new system, is from Biblionix.

So, why was a new ILS necessary?

The previous software had been in place since 2003. It served us well, but any piece of software that is 11 years old (ancient in "technology years") is going to have issues. Not only was the hardware that the library database was stored on old and slowly dying, but support and parts for repairs were no longer

available. There have been incidences when the whole system was down for days at a time; more recently customers have experienced hourly freeze-ups. All of this due to aging software and hardware.

So, what do we get with the new ILS?

Most importantly: stability. Apollo is cloud based, which means none of the system hardware is stored at the library. Instead, it's located in secure data centers accessed via the Internet. Apollo also has an offline checkout system, so even if the Internet goes down, Library staff will still be able to check out materials to cardholders.

The new catalog may look different, but it has much of the same functionality of the old catalog. Look up books, CDs and movies online, renew checked out

materials, and place reserves on items not currently available. In addition, you'll not only see cover photos for the materials, many will also have professional reviews to provide a little extra help in choosing your next checkout. Apollo also gives users more online account management options, including the ability to virtually update contact information instead of making a trip into the physical Library. A particularly exciting new offering is the OverDrive eBook integration. No more navigating to an external website to find and download eBooks. With Apollo those books are integrated with our catalog, so finding them is a lot easier!

[Check it out now!](#) You can also visit us at the Library for a personal tour of all the new changes!

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!



eBooks at the Library

**Tuesday, September 9
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.**

Check out eBooks from the library with a service called OverDrive. Come learn how to access and use it!



craigslist

**Tuesday, September 23
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.**

Great way to make money, new friends, find a job or get a good deal. Come learn how!



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

Activities for the Whole Family!

Little Kickers Soccer

Thursdays, September 25-October 23

6:00 P.M.

Ages 3-5

This five week instructional program teaches basic soccer skills to kids just starting out in the sport. A practice game will be played the last week of the program.

Winter Youth Basketball League *Registration Open*

Ages 5-14

\$65 – Rowlett Community Centre members

\$70 – Rowlett resident

Eight game season played on Saturdays in January and February.

Youth and Adult Inline Hockey Leagues

Registration Open

Youth Leagues play 12 games plus playoffs

Ages 4-18,

\$150 (includes jersey)

Adult Leagues play 8 games plus playoffs

18 years & up

\$100 (no jersey)

\$70 – Rowlett resident



Call 972-412-6170
to sign up!

**GET FIT AND STAY ACTIVE AND ENTERTAINED
AT THE ROWLETT COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**School is back in session...
time to focus on YOU!**

**Shape up with fall fitness
classes!**

Jazzercise

7 Days a Week, various times

Jazzercise is the world's leading dance-fitness program, combining elements of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and much more to create truly effective programs for people of every age and fitness level.

Spin

Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 P.M.

Get noticeable results from this choreographed, cardio cycling workout that burns 500-800 calories in one hour! Spin class improves endurance, increases strength, builds muscle tone and reshapes your body. Class is free to members on a first-come basis, or reserve a bike for \$25 per month.

Activities for Seniors!

SAIL (Stay Active in Life)

Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M.

A free program set to music and designed to improve strength, balance and fitness for seniors.

PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)

Wednesdays @ 1:00 P.M. and

Fridays @ 9:30 A.M.

Free program helps keep joints flexible, muscles strong and reduce the pain and stiffness associated with arthritis. The routines use gentle range-of-motion movements that are suitable for every fitness level.

Senior Fitness Fun

Thursdays @ 9:30 A.M.

This program incorporates a warm-up, 20 minutes of low impact aerobics, hand-eye coordination exercises, flexibility training and relaxation movements. All exercises are guaranteed to loosen up those stiff joints, get that heart pumping and even cause you to sweat a little.



Rowlett Police Department Reminds Drivers - Do Not Follow too Closely!

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) states that inattention contributes to 88 percent of all rear-end collisions nationally.

Although driver inattention is not considered a violation of the Texas Transportation Code, following too closely is a violation and is oftentimes an element of road rage. According to the Texas Transportation Code, "An operator shall, if following a vehicle, maintain an assured clear distance between the two vehicles so that, considering the speed of the vehicles, traffic, and the conditions of the highway, the operator can safely stop without colliding with the preceding vehicle or veering into another vehicle, object, or person on or near the highway."

“Drivers do not realize they were following too closely until they rear end another driver. Our goal is to reduce crashes and gain voluntary compliance by educating the public of the dangers of following too closely.”

Lt. Michael Godfrey
Rowlett Police Department

In an effort to increase safety, reduce vehicle collisions, and assist with enforcement of following too closely violations, the Rowlett Police Department, with the assistance of money awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), purchased a laser. The laser is capable of calculating the speed of vehicles and measuring the following distance and time separation between vehicles traveling in the same lane.

The laser, manufactured by Laser Technologies Incorporated (LTI), is used by aiming the laser on the front bumper of the lead vehicle and quickly aiming the laser on the front bumper of the following vehicle. The laser displays the speed of each vehicle and calculates the following distance and travel time between the front bumpers of both vehicles.



3

Tips to Prevent Rear-end Collisions

Follow the 2-second Rule

Identify a reference point ahead of the vehicle directly in front of you. When the vehicle ahead of you passes the reference point, begin counting. If you reach the reference point in less than two seconds you are following too closely.

Pay Attention

The average perception and reaction time for a sober healthy adult is 1.5 seconds. That means it takes 1.5 seconds to think, react and apply the brakes or steer to avoid a hazard.

Calm Down

Although driver inattention is not considered a violation of the Texas Transportation Code, following too closely is a violation and is oftentimes an element of road rage.

Rowlett

City Calendar

September

	1	2 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	3	4	5 One on One Tech Help @ Library Movies on Main <i>The Smurfs 2</i> 6:30pm @ Downtown	6 Saturday Movie <i>Pirates: Band of Misfits</i> 2pm @ Library
7	8	9 eBooks 10:30 & 2 @ Library Senior Travel Expo 10-2 @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	10	11	12 One on One Tech Help @ Library Movies on Main <i>Free Birds</i> 6:30pm @ Downtown	13 Wills & Planning 2pm @ Library
14	15	16 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	17 Seniors Chocktaw Trip 8am @ RCC	18	19 One on One Tech Help @ Library Movies on Main <i>Monsters University</i> 6:30pm @ Downtown	20 Talk Like a Pirate Day 2pm @ Library
21	22	23 craigslist 10:30 & 2 @ Library Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	24	25	26 One on One Tech Help @ Library	27 Prescription Takeback Day 10-2 @ RCC
28	29	30				