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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

Police Department Earns Recognized Law Enforcement Agency Designation

Only 106 agencies statewide have earned this prestigious designation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program.



Begun in 2006, the Recognition Program evaluates a Police Department's compliance with over 166 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement. Encompassing all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management and patrol and investigative

operations, these Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individual's rights.

This voluntary process required the Rowlett Police Department to conduct a critical self-review of the agency's policies, procedures, facilities and operations. Beginning in January 2012, the department began the lengthy process to become a "Recognized" Law Enforcement

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ISSUE NO. 1408
OCTOBER, 2014

**Weekly Landscape Watering
Allowed Through October 31!**

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TEMPORARILY EASES STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS

**Every other week watering goes back into effect on
November 1, when Stage 3 Water Restrictions return
to normal.**

To ensure water quality is maintained throughout the water distribution systems, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has temporarily eased Stage 3 restrictions to allow landscape watering once a week with sprinklers or irrigation systems through the end of October. Every other week landscape irrigation goes back into effect November 1.

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



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Chief Mike Brodnax, Officer Kristi Savage and Assistant Chief Paul Sandman

Agency” by preparing proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Business Practices. Upon completion of the internal review, an outside audit and review conducted by trained Police Chiefs from other areas of our state was requested and took place August 19-21. The result of this review was then sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association’s Recognition Committee for final analysis and decision to award “Recognized” status.

On September 2, 2014, the department

was notified that it had been awarded the coveted “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” award. Rowlett Police Department becomes only the 106th agency in the state to be so recognized. Although the Rowlett Police Department has always considered itself to be one of the best in the state, this process provided for an independent review of the department’s operations and should assure the citizens of Rowlett that its Police Department is conforming to the current state-of-the-art in law enforcement!

Blacklands Corridor Feasibility Study Proposed New Tollway Could Affect the City of Rowlett

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) conducted a feasibility study to review transportation needs in a wide area from Interstate Highway 30 in Greenville to the President George Bush Turnpike in Garland, beginning in July 2013. The feasibility study was commissioned to examine the need for transportation improvements in the corridor and identify potential projects that could enhance access, reduce congestion, address safety, and integrate with the regional transportation system.

NCTCOG determined that this study has demonstrated a transportation need exists, particularly in the vicinity of Lake Ray Hubbard and Lavon Lake. NCTCOG found that the traffic volume at the four current lake crossings is projected to increase by 95 percent, while the current transportation plan only provides a 25 percent increase in the number of lanes through these lake crossings. *NCTCOG projects significant employment and population growth, adding just shy of 200,000 new residents in the study area by 2035.*

Planners are currently conducting a multi-modal analysis of different transportation alternatives and alignments to guide development of solutions and conceptual projects. A final report will present recommended transportation improvement strategies for the entire corridor. To date, planners have assessed existing conditions, identified issues, conducted baseline forecasts, and generated alternatives. Using four criteria—safety, mobility, environmental impact and economic development, they are evaluating the alternatives utilizing these strategies:

Blacklands Corridor Conceptual Strategies

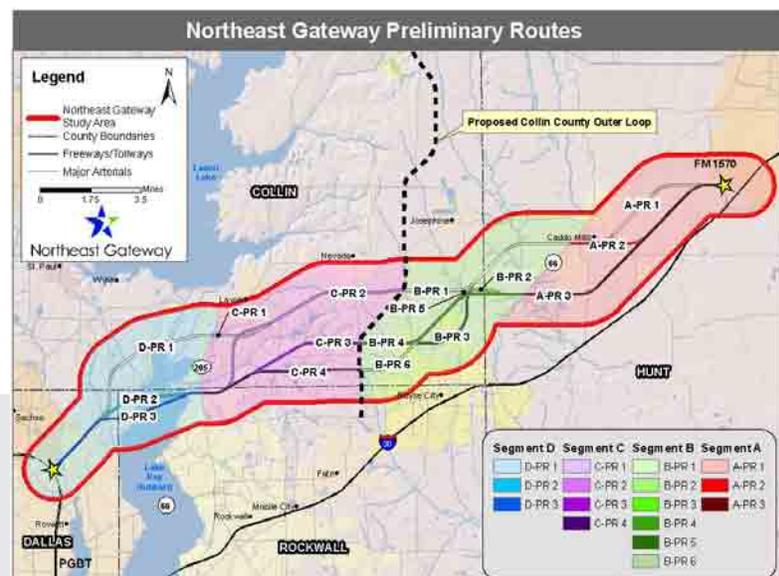
1. Baseline – no build strategy
2. Travel options/transportation systems management/intelligent transportation systems strategy
3. Bicycle/pedestrian facilities strategy
4. Freight rail strategy
5. Transit strategy
6. Improvement of arterials (SH 66, SH 78, US 380, etc.) strategy
7. Bottleneck improvements of IH 30 strategy
8. Expansion of IH 30 facility strategy (general purpose/HOV/managed lanes)
9. New location highway/freeway/tollway strategy - The feasibility study has demonstrated that a transportation need exists in the study area, particularly in the vicinity of Lake Ray Hubbard and Lavon Lake.

As a result, a private entity, the Texas Turnpike Corporation, is currently developing the proposed Texas Northeast Gateway Project, a limited access tollway facility based on the needs identified in the Blacklands Corridor Feasibility Study. There are several preliminary routes, some of which directly impact the City of Rowlett.

STAY INFORMED!

For more information and a schedule of future public meetings, please visit:

[NCTCOG Blacklands Corridor Feasibility Study](#)
[Texas Turnpike Corporation’s Texas Northeast Gateway](#)



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 479.58' 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 two 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.

OCTOBER 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6 & 7	2	3 8 & 9	4 5
5 0	6 3 & 4	7 1	8 6 & 7	9 2	10 8 & 9	11 5
12 0	13 3 & 4	14 1	15 6 & 7	16 2	17 8 & 9	18 5
19 0	20 3 & 4	21 1	22 6 & 7	23 2	24 8 & 9	25 5
26 0	27 3 & 4	28 1	29 6 & 7	30 2	31 8 & 9	
					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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Great American Cleanup

Saturday, October 11
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Pecan Grove Park

Keep Rowlett Beautiful is calling all families, scout troops, church groups, friends and neighbors! Come

on out for a city-wide volunteer cleanup day and make a difference in YOUR community! The event will culminate in a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at The Wet Zone with prize drawings. Call 972 463-3929 or email info@keeprowlettbeautiful.org for more information.



Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11
11:00 A.M.
Veterans Park
(Main Street next to the Library)

Join us at Veterans Park as we recognize and honor our local veterans. Veterans Day is a time when the community gathers together

to give thanks to those who have served our country. Please gather at Veterans Park with us to show your support and appreciation to those who have made so very many sacrifices for our freedom.



Camp Fear!

Friday & Saturday,
October 24 – 25
5:00 P.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Pecan Grove Park
\$75 per family

Rowlett's favorite overnight Halloween party is back so pack up your family, tent and sleeping bags and embark on a creepy adventure! Participate in a variety of family activities including games, a haunted hayride, tent trick or treating, s'mores and spooky storytelling. Come ready with tent decorations for a chance to win the "Best Decorated Tent" competition! Dinner and breakfast are included in the program fee. This is a family event, but some of the entertainment is designed for ages 8 years and up. For more information please call 972-412-6170

Palio's Pizza Café of Rowlett is the title sponsor and Christian Serrano's State Farm Insurance Agency in Rowlett is the "Punkin' Chunkin' Contest" sponsor.

ANIMAL SHELTER MAINTAINS A 98% LIVE RELEASE RATE!

The Story of Coal and Magpie

This story is about two very sweet kittens, a brother and sister duo named Coal and Magpie. They came into the shelter on June 25, 2014 at only 8 weeks old. These poor kittens spent 2½ months in a cage with no interested adopters. Your Animal Shelter is extremely motivated to find forever homes for every animal welcomed into the facility and one of the ways this is accomplished is by forging strategic partnerships with outside organizations. One of those successful partnerships is with PetSmart for cat adoptions, so these siblings were sterilized and taken to the store for everyone to see.

We're so happy to report that Coal and Magpie were adopted together within four days of being there!

Recently, the Rowlett Animal Shelter found itself at full capacity.

In an effort to place as many pets as possible, adoption fees were dropped to \$25, and 11 cats and dogs were placed in four days!

The Rowlett Animal Shelter would like to thank all the families who responded and gave these animals a loving new home.



Have You Created Your Connect Rowlett Profile Yet?

Connect Rowlett Emergency Notification Service



CONNECT ROWLETT FAQ

1

WHAT IS CONNECT ROWLETT?

An emergency notification service which allows Rowlett residents to opt-in and receive information via phone, text message, e-mail and more based on locations and subjects relevant to them. These notifications would include events that may affect home, workplace, families, schools and more.

2

WHEN WILL IT BE USED?

This system will be used to notify residents of imminent threats to health and safety as well as informational notifications that affect home and/or work environments. The City will send notifications regarding severe weather, flooding, gas leaks, police activity and more.

3

WILL I STILL GET EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS IF I DON'T SIGN UP?

Yes, emergency notifications will still be sent to citizens in Rowlett based on 9-1-1 data, but citizens are encouraged to sign up to customize the way information is delivered.

4

WHAT IF MY PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES?

Stay informed! If contact information changes, residents should visit their profile and update the information.

5

WILL MY CONTACT INFORMATION BE SHARED WITH OTHERS?

No. The information that citizens provide will be used only for City of Rowlett notification purposes. We will not give or sell contact or location information to any vendor or other organization.

Connect Rowlett Profile

CREATE YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL SAFETY PROFILE TO INCLUDE:

HEALTH CONDITIONS (I.E. NEEDS OXYGEN, ON DIALYSIS, ALZHEIMERS, SEVERE ALLERGIES, ETC.)

PETS

VEHICLES

AN EMERGENCY CONTACT

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

HOME ACCESS POINTS

THIS ALLOWS FIRST RESPONDERS TO BE PREPARED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE WHEN A CALL TO 911 IS PLACED

CITIZENS MAY ALSO CHOOSE THE TYPE OF MASS NOTIFICATIONS THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE (I.E. SEVERE WEATHER, COMMUNITY EVENTS, ETC.)

The success of this system depends on Rowlett citizens!

The reason for a mass notification system is to expediently alert citizens about emergencies and other events of interest in their community. Having a mass notification system allows the City to do that with one simple message.

As many residents have moved away from the traditional “land line” and now use their cell phones for calls, text and email, ***it's imperative that everyone register as individuals rather than as a household.*** This will ensure as many people as possible are notified when a disaster or emergency strikes!



CONNECT ROWLETT: [SIGN UP HERE!!](#)

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Diversity Day

Celebrating the diversity of cultures represented in the Rowlett community on Saturday, October 4, a great time was had by all!



National Night Out

19 Neighborhood Associations, Homeowners Associations and Crime Watch groups participated in the 31st Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, October 7.



Crime Watch Summit

The Rowlett Police Department held the 3rd Annual Crime Watch Summit on August 26, which was attended by members of various crime watch groups across the City, City Councilmembers and Rowlett Police Department representatives. Attendees participated in discussions including the benefits of crime watch, National Night Out, Smart911 and the PD's Citizen Police Academy.



City Swim Team is Recognized

On Tuesday, September 2 Rowlett athletes from the City of Rowlett Manta Rays Swim Team were recognized for qualifying and participating in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation State Games of Texas the last weekend of July. These athletes dedicate their summers to long hours of practice and weekend meets to become the best of the best among youth athletes!



Police and Fire Remember 9/11

The Rowlett Police Honor Guard held a short ceremony in front of the Police Department honoring all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



Rowlett Fire Station 2 displays Maltese Crosses honoring first responders who gave their lives on September 11, 2001. This display was created by Matthew Paul Hilley of Boy Scout Troop 1188 for his Eagle Scout project.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



**Fire Rescue
Achievement Ceremony**

Rowlett Fire Rescue honored their promoted firefighters at the 2014 Achievement Ceremony held on September 17.



**Shoots 'n Ladders Annual
Softball Game**

Members of the Rowlett Police and Fire Rescue departments played their annual game on Saturday, September 20. The Police carried the day, winning 20-17!



**Welcome New
Volunteers in Police Service**

Rowlett citizens Margaret Diel, A.J. Latham, Douglas Hakala and Damian Garza are sworn into the VIPS program, welcome to all and thank you for volunteering your time with the City of Rowlett!



**New Elevated
Water Storage Tank**

Construction work continues on the new 1.25 million gallon elevated storage tank on Main Street. This project is expected to be completed in June of 2015 and will enhance water pressures throughout the distribution system.



Movies on Main

Families enjoyed the fun, festive atmosphere at the Movies on Main events, held Friday evenings in September.



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 August includes financial information through July. We are now ten months through the City's fiscal year. We have only two more months left in the FY2014 fiscal year and we are fairly confident at this time that the revenue trends we have been monitoring

will be close to where they will end up on September 30.

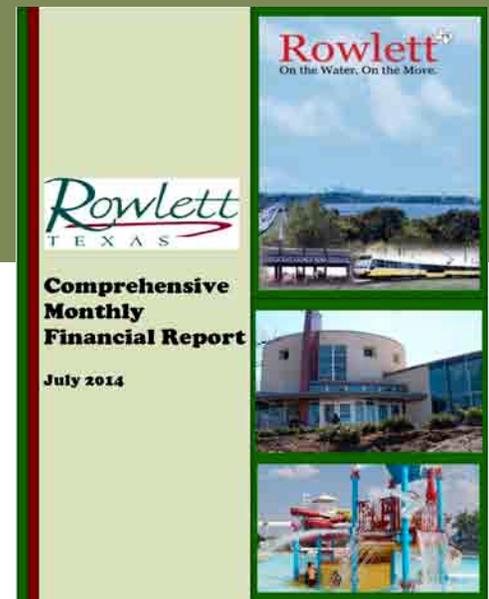
"The net surplus from operations is \$2.8 million. This is \$0.9 million better than expected at this point in the year."

Alan Guard
Chief Financial Officer

On the revenue side of the equation, overall, the City has earned or received \$69.3 million for all funds in FY 2014. This amount is 83.3 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.4 million and is 0.2 percent lower than the forecast projected through the month of July.

Expenditures have totaled \$66.5 million through the same time period. This amount is 82.1 percent of the approved operating budget of \$81.0 million and is 1.6 percent lower than forecast through July. Based on these figures, the net surplus from operations is \$2.8 million. This is \$0.9 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 noted in earlier reports, the North Texas Municipal Water District initiated Stage 3 Water Restrictions beginning June 1, 2013. This action has had a significant impact on the City's revenues from water sales. In February, due to this reduction in revenue, City Council took action



to reduce expenditures in the Utility Fund by \$1.7 million by decreasing the Utility Capital Maintenance Program. Water sales represent more than 50 percent of the Utility Fund revenues and these have been down by \$1.3 million, or 9.6 percent less, than the original budget. In order to make up for this loss, the City Council has approved a surcharge on water bills starting in October so that the Utility Capital Maintenance Program can be reinstated at its previous funding level in FY2015. Although additional revenue will occur due to the easing of Stage 3 restrictions, allowing for weekly watering during September and October, it will not be significant enough to delay or reduce the need for the surcharge. When Stage 3 water restrictions are lifted by the NTMWD, the surcharge will be removed from the water bill.

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

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Senior Roadtrip
State Fair of Texas
Thursday, October 9
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

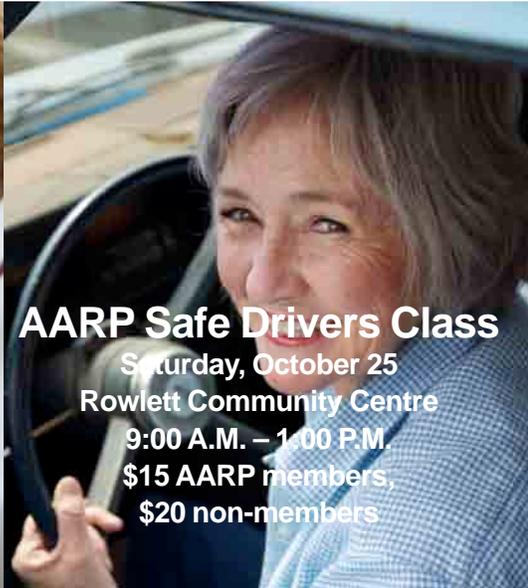
Ride the DART Train to the State Fair of Texas. Enjoy food, music, exhibits and the sights and sounds of the midway.



Senior Healthcare Seminar

Tuesday, October 21
10:00 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre
Monthly seminars address important health and independent living topics which are important to Senior citizens.



AARP Safe Drivers Class

Saturday, October 25

Rowlett Community Centre

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

\$15 AARP members,

\$20 non-members

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES...

...at the Rowlett Library

Saturday Movie at the Library: *Hotel Transylvania*

Saturday, October 4

2:00 P.M.

Families, kids, teens and tweens are invited to enjoy a free movie and popcorn! Welcome to the Hotel Transylvania, Dracula's lavish five-star resort, where monsters and their families can live it up, free from meddling from the human world. Rated PG.

Star Wars Reads Day

Saturday, October 11

2:00 P.M.

Launched in 2012 by Lucasfilm, this international event celebrates reading and Star Wars. Join the library for themed thumb print art and origami, and then check out Star Wars books and DVDs to take home!

Teen Read Week

Turn Dreams into Reality @ Your Library

October 13 - 18

Free for ages 10-18

The American Library Association urges all tweens and teens ages 10 to 18 to read during Teen Read Week. The Rowlett Public Library will be celebrating with contests and prizes for reading, encouraging kids to explore all the Library has to offer by showcasing the Young Adult Collection of books and audio books, media and DVDs, Reference materials and the PC Lab. Parents: our community's teens and tweens need a library card...it's their passport to a lifetime of learning!



Wicked Good Time

Saturday, October 18

2:00 P.M.

Dress in your scary best and participate in an interactive telling of "Big Pumpkin" by Erica Silverman, march around the library in a costume parade and watch pumpkin carving. Best costumes receive an award!

Halloween Treats at the Library

Friday, October 31

All Day

Families, dress up in your Halloween costumes and come to the Library for treats!

LIBRARY AWARDED \$2,000 TARGET FOUNDATION GRANT

Funds will be used to support a new outreach initiative: *One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten* (1KBK)



A new early literacy initiative, which encourages parents and caregivers (or even an older brother or sister) to read a book... any book... to their newborn, infant or toddler, was launched on September 2. With a goal of reading 1,000 books before a youngster starts kindergarten, the program offers a series of built-in rewards for reaching reading

milestones. Grant funds will be used to purchase program materials, incentives and prizes. In addition to promoting this program at regularly scheduled storytimes, Library staff will be making outreach visits to area daycares and preschools, presenting a special storytime and providing take-home information for parents about the 1KBK program.

It's never too early to start reading to a child, and children who make an early association with reading for pleasure are more likely to enjoy reading on their own when they are older!

CREEPY! SPOOKY! SCARY! BOO!

STORY TIME!

by the Rowlett Library

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

October 6 - Peekaboo

October 13 - Small Things

October 20 - In the Garden

October 27 - Shapes and Colors

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

October 1 - Mice Frenzy

October 8 - What a Mess!

October 15 - Frogs, Frogs Everywhere

October 22 - Monsters are Coming!

October 29 - Happy Halloween!

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

October 3 - It Looked Like Spilt Milk

October 10 - Warm Soup

October 17 - What a Farm

October 24 - Boo to You

October 31 - Happy Halloween

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

October will feature creepy, scary stories during this weekly after-school reading club for elementary school students in grades 1 through 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



ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



Smart phones are a lot of fun! Play games, keep up with Facebook and Twitter and watch favorite TV shows and movies, but more than just a fun portable computer, a smart phone can also help organize your life more efficiently and help you save money. This month I'm going to talk about a few smartphone apps to help you shop more efficiently!

RedLaser

RedLaser is a shopping comparison app. Scan the barcode of an item and it will compare the cost with other retailers. It doesn't just check online retailers, it shows nearby stores that have the items you're looking for and maps out how to get there. It will even store frequently purchased items and favorite retailers for quick price checks.

BigOven

With a database of 350,000 recipes to choose from, BigOven offers several tools to help with meal planning and grocery shopping. You can

Phil's Technology Corner

Shopping with a Smart Phone

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

also input your own recipes and clip them from other websites. Choose or enter a recipe and it automatically generates a shopping list of items needed, combine this with the built in meal planner to easily create a shopping list for the entire week. There is even a "Use up Leftovers" tool that will offer suggestions on different things you can make using ingredients you input.

Ziplist

Ziplist sorts items by what section of the grocery store you're in, saving you from running from one end of the store to another because you missed something on your list. It also lets you customize your own tags, so you organize your list however you prefer. Ziplist will also find deals on items depending on where you shop.

KeyRing

It seems that everywhere you shop now, there is another discount or rewards program with another key ring or wallet card to keep track of. The KeyRing app lets you scan all of those cards into your phone, KeyRing also keeps track of deals and coupons at different stores.

SavingStar

SavingStar is a different kind of coupon app. Rather than use coupons to save money up front when you purchase an item, you pay regular price. The money you would have saved goes into your SavingStar account, which is then redeemable through PayPal or your bank account. The app will even allow you to make purchases from Amazon.com credit or donate to charity.

Groupon

Groupon is a popular website that offers goods and services at discounted prices. The Groupon app lets you search for deals, buy them, and then redeem them all from your phone, making the service easier to use all while saving you money.

All of the apps I've discussed here are free, though some of them feature in app purchases. They are all available on both Android and Apple mobile devices and have websites you can log in to for additional features. This certainly isn't an exhaustive list; I've just chosen some apps that I've found useful or interesting. Many more are available!

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!

Basic Computer Security

Tuesday, October 7
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Free, for adults

If you own a PC or laptop, it's important to take certain measures to keep it safe from hackers and various forms of malware.

Senior Computer Class

Tuesday thru Thursday,
October 7-9
8:30 A.M.

The library offers free computer classes for Rowlett Seniors in conjunction with the Rowlett Senior Advisory Board.

Facebook

Tuesday, October 21
10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Free, for adults

Social media is a great way to find old friends and keep in touch with new ones! Learn the basics of using and posting to Facebook at this class.

The library also offers **FREE** one-on-one sessions to help you get the most from your computers and personal devices such as cell phones or tablets.



One on One Tech Help

Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times

Did you get a new iPad and aren't sure how to use it? Would you like to learn the basics of Microsoft Office? Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Technical Services Supervisor Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or via [email](#). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

Fall Programming at the RCC!

ACT Prep

Saturdays, October 18 – November 22

9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Ages 14-18

\$100

Improve the chances of entry into the college of choice by increasing ACT scores. The ACT Prep course is 21 hours of classroom instruction in math, grammar, writing and science reasoning. Students complete two practice ACT tests and six essays.



Skyhawks Basketball Camp

Mondays, October 20-December 1

6:45 P.M.

Ages 7-12

\$60

This fun, skill-intensive program is designed with the beginning to intermediate player in mind and focuses on the whole player, teaching children the skills needed both on and off the court to be a better athlete.

Skyhawks Volleyball

Wednesdays & Saturdays, October 22-December 3

6:45 P.M.

Beginner – Ages 7-12

Advanced – Ages 9-14

\$60

All aspects of the game are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. This co-ed program is designed for the beginning and intermediate player. Our volleyball staff will assist each young athlete in developing fundamental skills through game-speed drills and daily scrimmages aimed at developing the whole player.



Blastball

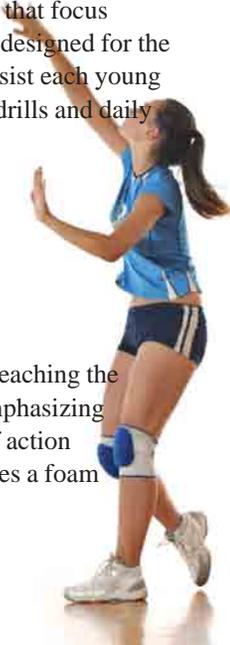
Thursdays, October 30-November 20

6:30 P.M.

Ages 3-5

\$35

Introductory game for T-Ball and baseball for boys and girls, teaching the basic fundamentals of hitting, throwing, and fielding while emphasizing the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship with plenty of action for a youngster's short attention span. The game is safe and uses a foam bat and ball with no gloves required.



5

Halloween Safety Tips

Trick or Treat!

Make sure older kids go out with friends, younger children with an adult. Set a time limit and together map out a route so you know where they'll be. Remind them not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields. Remind kids not to enter a strange house or car.

Pranks Can be a Little Tricky

Halloween is notoriously a night of pranks—toilet papering a house or filling mailboxes with shaving cream are not unusual. Explain to kids that while you want them to have a good time, some tricks could hurt other people or vandalize property. Emphasize that you disapprove of vandalism.

Eating the Treats

Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. Feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand to curb temptation. Check out all treats at home in a well-lit room and discard any opened or homemade treats. Remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while.

Keep the Costume Safe

Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near candlelit jack-o'-lanterns and other fire hazards. Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night. Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.

Make your Home & Neighborhood Safe

Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights. Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors. Ask your Neighborhood Watch or citizens' group to patrol the community. Drive slowly all evening - you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path!

For more information and to register for programs
please call 972-412-6170.

“Fall Back” and Change Smoke Detector Batteries

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2 at 2:00. A.M.

More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm. A working, properly installed smoke alarm lowers your chances of dying in a fire. In fact, reports from the National Fire Protection Association show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke alarms.

How much does a smoke detector cost?

Prices range from \$5 to \$20. Consider buying a long-life (lithium) battery-powered smoke alarm, which may last up to ten years with no battery change.

What kind of smoke detector do I buy?

Both battery-powered and house current powered smoke detectors do a good job, just get one that can sound fast. It is recommended that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric, or or dual sensor smoke alarms.

How many smoke detectors do I need?

There should be at least one detector on every floor of the house except attics, unless the attic space is used for sleeping. Additional detectors will increase the chance of early detection. Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.

Where should I place a detector?

Smoke detectors should be installed inside and outside every bedroom and sleeping area, and on every level of the home. They should be connected, so when one sounds they all sound.

How often should I replace my smoke detectors?

Replace all detectors, including those that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired detectors, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.



How do I install a smoke detector?

Battery-operated detectors can be attached directly to the ceiling or wall. Wired-in electric detectors are somewhat more difficult to install and may require an electrician.

What maintenance do smoke detectors require?

Test the detector monthly by pushing the test button. Vacuum the dust from alarm air vents annually.

Change the batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall for Daylight Savings Time.

Why doesn't my smoke detector work?

The biggest reason is because people remove the batteries - either to stop the low battery signal or a nuisance alarm - and forget to replace them. The best way to prevent this is to replace batteries at the same time each year before the low battery signal begins.

Is there anything else I should do with my smoke detector?

Yes! Hold practice drills with your whole family so they will know what to do if your detector ever alerts you of an emergency.



Code Enforcement tip of the month



Pull in Your Polycarts!

Do your part to help keep our streets clean and safe!

In an effort to prevent possible spillages and traffic hazards, it is a violation to leave your trash and recycle containers at the collection point.

Chapter 50, Section 50-2, Rowlett Development Code:

No polycarts shall be placed at the collection point before 6:00 pm on the day before collection and after 6:00 am on the day after collection.

For more info please call Rowlett Code Enforcement at 972-412-6283 or visit Rowlett.com

Rowlett

City Calendar

October

			1	2	3 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	4 Diversity Day Noon-4pm @ RCC Free Movie & Popcorn: <i>Hotel Transylvania</i> 2pm @ Library
5 National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11)	6	7 Senior Computer Class 8:30am @ Library (thru Thursday) Basic Computer Security 10:30am & 2pm @ Library City Council Meeting 5 pm @ City Hall National Night Out	8	9 Senior State Fair Trip 9:30am @ DART Station	10 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	11 Great American Cleanup 9am-1pm (meet @ Wet Zone) Star Wars Reads Day 2pm @ Library
12	13 Teen Read Week @ Library (Oct. 13-18)	14 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30 pm	15	16	17 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	18 ACT Prep Class begins 9-11am @ RCC Wicked Good Time 2-4pm @ Library
19	20	21 Facebook 10:30am & 6:30pm @ Library City Council Meeting 7:30 pm @ City Hall	22	23	24 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library Camp Fear @ Pecan Grove Park	25 AARP Safe Driver Class 9am-1pm @ RCC
26	27	28 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30 pm	29	30	31 Halloween Get a Treat @ Library-all day	