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a monthly newsletter for the Rowlett community

Rowlett On the Move

ISSUE NO. 1510
OCTOBER, 2015

Ensure YOUR outdoor irrigation system is functioning correctly...this is often a "culprit"!

High Utility Bills the Result of Several Factors

The Lifting of Water Restrictions and Ongoing NTMWD Rate Increases, Combined with a Long, Hot Summer, Result in More Usage and Higher Bills.



North Texas experienced unprecedented rainfall this spring, which resulted in full lakes across the region and the end of water restrictions! However, that same abundant and much-needed rain was followed by over two months without any at all, which means many, many citizens across the region used quite a bit more water over the past couple of months. This

increase in irrigation, combined with an annual 10 percent increase in the cost of water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), which is passed on to the City's utility customers, has resulted in higher utility bills than most have experienced in the past few years.

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Attracting Quality Development is Key to our Future!

SALES TAX FROM PACKAGED LIQUOR SALES ALLOCATED TO *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

The Rowlett City Council recognizes that funding incentives in order to be competitive with neighboring communities is necessary in today's business environment.

Economic Development is vital to keeping our community's tax rate manageable. Quite simply put, the more quality development the City can attract to Rowlett, which leads to increased property taxes, the more funding will be available for crucial infrastructure and amenity improvements and maintenance without raising taxes. Therefore, the City plans to utilize, short-term, the sales tax revenue garnered from packaged liquor on Economic Development.



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High Water Consumption

As in other neighboring cities, much of the dramatic increase in water usage can be attributed to the extremely dry weather north Texas experienced during July and August, along with the easing of watering restrictions now permitting twice a week lawn watering, which was not allowed at this time last year. Additionally, water rates have increased significantly since 2010 due to increases in the rate charged by Rowlett's water supplier, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). These two factors combined have led to some pretty high utility bills. First and foremost...we hear you! The Mayor, City Council members and many City staff members live in Rowlett, too and pay the same utility rates as you do.

The City of Rowlett Utility Billing Department has responded to a large number of water-related billing inquiries recently. There are two statements we are consistently hearing:

- 1 *My bill has never been this high.*
- 2 *My usage has never been this high.*

The City typically responds to these concerns by conducting a review of the customer's usage history to identify unusual fluctuations in usage, an evaluation of weather data, verification of the accuracy of meter readings, and, when warranted, an inspection of the meter for indications of a water leak. In most cases, it's found that usage has simply increased. In fact, *in response to these concerns about increased usage, City Manager Brian Funderburk has conducted a study utilizing information from 39 customers* that posted on Facebook and who have lived in Rowlett at least seven years. This timeframe was important so that customer usage before, during, and after the water restrictions during the drought could be included.

This study, along with rate changes over the past 5-6 years really helped us shed light on the high bill/high usage questions.

How is the Amount of Water Each Customer Uses Calculated?

Actual consumption is obtained for every customer each month, the City does not "estimate" or "level" this consumption, it is gathered each month. The City has two "cycle" areas. Cycle 1 is generally on the west side of the lake and Cycle 2 is generally on the east side of the lake. The City has one truck equipped with electronic meter reading equipment that drives down every street to pull the reading from every meter each cycle. Cycle 1 is typically read on approximately the 15th of each month with a bill due date of the 20th of the following month, and Cycle 2 is typically read on approximately the 1st of each month with a bill due date of the 5th of the following month. When the electronic reading data collected is uploaded from the reading computer to the City's billing system, addresses that did not get picked up by the computer on the drive by will be physically read by a meter reader within three days of the non-read date. The meter reading equipment or process was not a part of the recent billing system upgrade and was not affected by the system upgrade or conversion.

The NTMWD does not play any role in the City's meter reading. NTMWD has a contract with all of their customer cities that requires them to pay for a certain amount of water, whether each city sells it or not. NTMWD only meters the amount of water they provide the City's water system as a whole, not the amount that Rowlett residents individually use.

CITY OF ROWLETT
SELECTED RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WATER USAGE
2009-2015

Neighborhood	Aug-09	Aug-10	Aug-11	Aug-12	Aug-13	Aug-14	Aug-15
Castle Hill Estates	5,100	32,200	34,800	39,600	21,200	4,700	23,900
Dalrock Heights Addition	16,600	18,300	20,900	19,200	12,900	5,400	14,400
Flower Hill PH 3	4,700	7,000	12,300	8,200	7,700	3,900	15,900
Flower Hill PH 6	21,500	34,900	26,700	26,300	17,200	7,800	22,300
Harborview No. 1	9,700	18,600	48,300	33,900	37,200	14,900	34,700
Kenwood Heights	12,000	1,600	2,700	1,400	1,100	1,000	2,100
Kenwood Heights Ph 3	3,100	6,100	4,600	5,500	4,800	3,200	25,000
Lakecrest Estates	9,900	6,200	8,500	10,500	9,400	7,600	7,100
Lakeland Heights	11,000	8,100	11,800	10,300	8,200	5,100	10,100
Lakeridge Estates 1	14,900	15,700	16,500	29,800	8,000	7,700	9,000
Liberty Creek	27,000	34,900	38,100	28,800	28,900	13,000	32,000
Magnolia Springs PH 2 A/B	35,200	42,200	41,700	29,000	18,300	9,100	33,800
Mariner Park Section 1	11,000	4,000	12,600	14,500	11,400	15,400	19,300
Mariner Park Section 1	STUCK	21,500	16,000	36,900	43,500	18,500	61,700
Mariner Park Section 2	4,000	14,200	14,700	23,200	20,300	14,000	23,000
Mariners Cove Phase 1	33,600	80,800	48,400	30,000	32,100	32,200	97,900
Quail Glen Addition	13,100	5,400	22,000	18,400	11,800	12,700	11,400
Ridgecove	22,100	41,600	39,500	25,500	21,300	15,400	38,200
Ridgecrest Addition No. 2	2,300	9,100	7,800	6,400	7,800	1,800	5,000
Springfield Addition PH 1	13,300	27,000	26,200	27,400	19,200	6,800	31,400
Springfield Addition PH 4	4,500	7,200	7,300	6,800	5,400	2,500	3,800
Springfield Estates PH A	9,700	17,600	19,000	30,100	16,400	8,300	32,700
Springfield Estates PH B	20,000	31,900	32,100	22,800	23,600	10,900	32,300
Springfield Estates Phase B	12,200	23,000	30,200	19,400	10,300	7,200	34,500
The Peninsula No. 2	7,900	5,800	6,800	7,700	5,500	4,700	5,200
The Peninsula No. 6	20,700	50,800	29,200	17,900	13,900	27,200	17,000
Toler Bay Estates	16,300	21,600	44,200	16,100	13,900	21,700	35,800
Toler Bay Estates 4	4,900	10,300	14,300	23,500	10,000	7,500	25,300
Toler Ridge No. 2	12,900	20,600	18,200	23,200	11,100	7,700	20,800
Toler Ridge No. 2	8,200	22,200	12,800	11,900	6,200	5,000	6,500
Villas At Waterview PH 2	5,300	7,200	11,000	6,100	6,000	2,600	8,800
Waterview PH 2	18,600	31,700	31,900	45,200	31,100	16,800	44,200
Waterview PH 9	26,200	17,200	40,600	49,500	22,700	6,400	18,900
Westwood Estates No. 3	14,900	17,100	27,000	18,300	19,400	9,600	33,200
Westwood Estates No. 3	4,600	6,300	11,200	13,100	5,100	1,500	4,900
Westwood Estates No. 5	8,300	20,200	32,200	24,200	17,600	6,400	13,900
Westwood Estates No. 5	6,100	9,600	10,200	14,300	6,100	6,600	14,800
Westwood Shores PH 1	16,600	19,000	7,000	8,000	21,500	14,800	20,500
Winners Circle	4,900	10,300	14,300	23,500	10,000	7,500	25,300

Amounts as high or higher than in Aug 2015.

Percentage of customers who have used an equal amount or higher in previous years (27 out of 39)

69.2%

Please view the full study and get all the details!
www.rowlett.com/WaterUsageStudy

Great News for *Economic Development*

Packaged liquor was on the ballot in Rowlett this past May and passed by the voters with over a 70% approval rate.

The City Council recently voted to earmark the portion of sales taxes generated from packaged liquor sales to fund economic development.

At this point in time, how much revenue this will be is unknown. It may be a full two years before the impact is fully realized. As a result, in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the City has been extremely conservative in its estimates until stores have been opened and the impact on City taxes is determined. It could be several hundred thousand dollars annually, once all of the stores are fully open and operational. Today, the revenue is minimal, because the first packaged liquor store opened only a few weeks ago.

One of the ongoing challenges Rowlett faces is how to fund economic development. Cities all over the metroplex and state fund economic

development in several different ways. Some have a private Economic Development Corporation that is funded by the city to attract new businesses. Others use a portion (\$.01) of the total sales taxes generated to fund economic development. This, in many cases, adds up to millions of dollars a year (in addition to other tax incentives).

Rowlett has neither an EDC nor that \$.01. Instead, our citizens voted over 30 years ago to fund DART (\$.01 of our sales taxes) to fulfill our future transportation needs. To date, our community has given DART over \$90 million, money which could have funded economic development. Conversely, the fact that Rowlett has DART Light Rail access not only makes us the gateway into the metroplex from the eastern region of the state and gives us easy access to Dallas, DFW Airport and beyond, but makes us very attractive for developers and businesses looking for a prime location!



Rowlett is a "DART City"

1% of local sales tax revenue is equal to approximately \$5.6 million annually (Fiscal Year 2014 latest reporting). Many other, non-DART cities, utilize these dollars to fund Economic Development Corporations.



Rowlett is in a predicament. How do we fund economic development and compete with other cities?

Businesses carefully research possible locations...they will choose to locate here only if they can make money!

We all would like more of our favorite businesses in Rowlett - restaurants, shopping, grocery stores and companies. These businesses look at many factors, such as total population, median income, daytime population, access, land cost and other demographics. They also look at incentives - how much is a city willing to give them to come and locate there. Cash is often an incentive offered to help fund these projects.

One example: Rockwall paid \$1 million to Bimbo Bakery to locate there.

Rowlett is not so fortunate. Our incentives are somewhat limited and include more recognizable incentives like: sales and property tax abatements, impact fee waivers and land to name a few. Unfortunately, our City owns very little property.

The money generated from packaged liquor will provide another "tool" in our "tool chest" to help bring the types of businesses many citizens have asked for to our City. This will allow Rowlett to better compete against neighboring cities for the business. In the past ten years, several businesses have chosen to develop in Rockwall and Garland. In many cases, the incentives they provided were better than those Rowlett could provide. Now to be fair, it's not all about the money. Location, land values and access are also critical elements of the deal. Perceived land values in Rowlett also make it difficult to compete. At the end of the day, it's a financial decision for the business and they are in the business to make the most money they can.



So...what do we do?

In turn, new businesses bring jobs, convenience to Rowlett residents and more property and sales taxes to our City. This is a good thing! In many cases, a small investment on the part of the City will yield great long term revenues for our community. This allows us to better fund our infrastructure, parks and other needs.

The sales taxes generated, albeit small compared to other cities, from packaged liquor sales will give Rowlett another "tool" in its "tool chest" to help attract new businesses to our City.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Electronic Recycling & Document Shred

Saturday, October 10

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Rowlett High School

Get rid of the e-waste cluttering up your home! “E-waste “ is defined as any electronic equipment that has reached its “end-of-life” or “end-of-

usage,” whether in working or non-working condition, such as Monitors, TV’s, Computers, Laptops, Printers, Cell Phones, Corded Phones, Stereos, DVD Players, batteries of any type, ink and toner cartridges... almost anything that runs on electricity! This event also includes document shredding! First three boxes are free, limit additional four @ \$3 each. Email info@keeprowlettbeautiful.org or call 972-463-3929 for more information.



Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11

11:00 A.M.

Rowlett Community Centre

Join us 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 come show your support and appreciation to those who have made so very many sacrifices for our freedom.



Diversity Day

Saturday, October 3

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.



ANIMAL SHELTER MAINTAINS A 98% LIVE RELEASE RATE!

The Story of Ruffles

Ruffles came to the shelter as a stray who had wandered into a resident’s garage. During his five-day hold, shelter staff and volunteers alike fell in love with his cuddly demeanor and gorgeous looks. After the vet made sure Ruffles was healthy, he went into the successful FRAS outreach at the PetSmart in Rowlett, where they have an ongoing cat adoption center set up. Knowing how loving Ruffles was, we were sure he would get adopted fairly quickly, but boy even we were surprised when he was adopted just hours after his arrival! Ruffles is just one of many deserving kitties that find good homes through this effective partnership with PetSmart

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 such as PetSmart.

Have You Created Your Connect Rowlett Profile Yet?

Connect Rowlett Emergency Notification Service



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 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.)

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

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Dairy Queen Opens!

Doors opened Saturday, August 29. Blizzards and Hunger-Busters are now available!



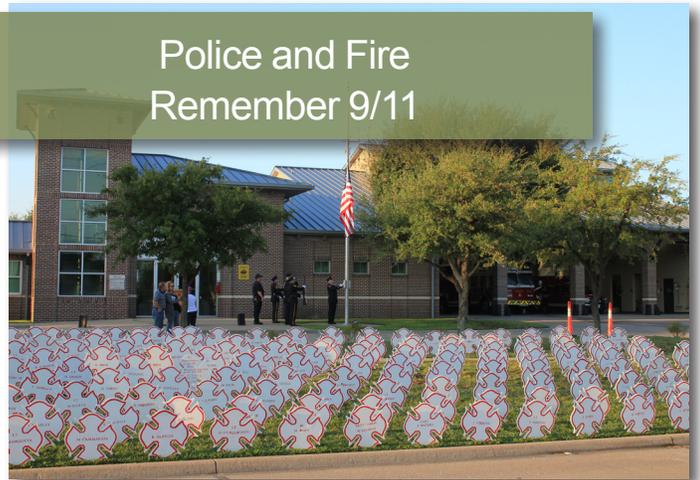
Terra Lago Breaks Ground

\$50 million, 447 unit high-end mixed-residential community adjacent to Scenic Point Park broke ground on Tuesday, September 8. Phase one completion is anticipated in fall, 2017!



Great American Cleanup

Keep Rowlett Beautiful sponsored this fun, community cleanup event, which took place on Saturday, September 19. Citizens pitched in at parks, along streets and even in the lake!



Police and Fire Remember 9/11

Citizens, members of the Rowlett Police and Fire Rescue Departments, City Councilmembers and City staff gathered to honor those first responders who gave their lives on that tragic day in our history 14 years ago.



Family Honors Rowlett Fire Rescue

A heart attack patient and his family invited Rowlett Fire Rescue Crews to a lunch in their honor for a record-setting 10 minutes "door to balloon (D2B) time". This was a really big deal because they actually bypassed the Emergency Department altogether. The patient and crew were met at the ER doors by the cardiologist and taken directly to the Cath Lab for treatment. This was all part of the training and follow-up to the Caruth Grant from 2010. The priceless part of this lunch for the crew was meeting the patient, his wife, and mother-in-law, who were all present at the time of the call. Rowlett Fire Rescue crews have dedicated themselves to performing at the highest level of service and the honor of setting this record further illustrates why they were awarded the Mission: Lifeline Gold award earlier this year.

The Engine 4 crew included (above l to r) Firefighter /Paramedics Barry Sullivan, Michael Garrett, Mike Youngblood, Driver Jordan Stone, Captain Jack Peoples and Battalion Chief Shain Hunn.

RECENTLY IN ROWLETT...



Fire Rescue
Fills the Boot!

Members of Rowlett Fire Rescue participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's "Fill the Boot" campaign. Thank you to all of the Rowlett citizens on the road who gave so generously!



BACK THE BLUE



The community came together for a day-long show of support for the Rowlett Police Department, and indeed for law enforcement officers nationwide, on Friday, September 4, chosen in honor of Deputy Sherriff Darren Goforth, who was laid to rest at 11:00 A.M. The RPD also took part in Governor Abbott's call to action at 11:00, when they turned on their red and blue flashing lights for one minute. This show of support did not end on that day though, it has continued for weeks!

On behalf of the men and women of the Rowlett Police Department we want to publicly say "THANK YOU" for all of the support you've shown us over the past several weeks. During a time in our nation when radical groups call for the deaths of police officers, OUR CITIZENS surrounded Rowlett Police Officers with overwhelming public support. You sent cards, along with food and drinks to the police department.

Citizens would buy our lunch without ever allowing us to know who you were.

Churches and businesses sponsored events to show appreciation. The Rowlett Police Department knows our CITIZENS are behind us. We want our CITIZENS to know we've got your back. Serving you is an honor and privilege.

Thank you.

Chief Mike Brodnax



Construction Corner

an update on public works projects around town



Big A Road 20 Inch Water Main Project

Offsite Water Main for the 1.25MG Elevated Storage Tank Project

Wilson has completed the reconstruction of both the southbound and northbound lanes of traffic on Rowlett Road.

The water main taps have been completed at Larry Street and Rowlett Road with final main installation of the isolation valve at Dexham and Covington Drive in progress.



The City's continued efforts to improve the distribution system is very much reflected in this project! Tri-Con Services has completed the installation of the valve vault at Big A Road and the southbound PGBT service road. Construction has started on the replacement of driveways and sidewalk along Rowlett Road from Big A to SH 66 and Greenway Drive and Freedom Lane. This main line is designed to work in conjunction with the new 1.25 million gallon elevated storage tank on Main Street to assist in stabilizing water pressure in the system.



16" Water Main - Main Street from PGBT to Roundabout

Tri-Con Services was issued a Notice to Proceed on August 17, 2015, for the installation of 1,750 linear feet of 16-inch water main along Main Street from PGBT to the Roundabout. The existing waterline along Main Street was over 30 years old and not large enough to meet the future demands of development along Main Street and PGBT. This 16-inch waterline will ensure capacity needs are met for growth in the Downtown area.

Tri-Con Services has installed approximately 630 linear feet of main and anticipate the project to be complete prior to the May 13, 2016 deadline.



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

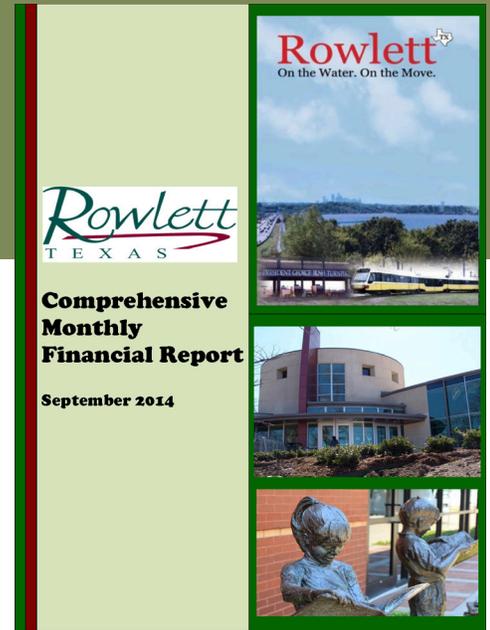
"The net surplus from operations is \$6.9 million. This is \$5.3 million better than expected at this point in the year."

*Wendy Badgett
Interim Director of Finance*

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 September includes financial information through July, the tenth month of the City's fiscal year.

On the revenue side of the equation, across all funds, the City has earned or received \$75.5 million thus far in FY 2015. This amount is 89.7 percent of the approved operating budget of \$84.2 million and is ***4.4 percent higher*** than the forecast projected through the month of July.



Expenditures have totaled \$68.6 million through the same time period. This amount is 79.7 percent of the approved operating budget of \$86.1 million and is ***3.0 percent lower*** than forecast through June. Based on these figures, the net surplus from operations is \$6.9 million, which is \$5.3 million better than expected at this point in the fiscal year.

[View the September Financial Report!](#)

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Senior Lunch Social

Thursday, October 8

Rowlett Community Centre

11:30 A.M.

Every month the Rowlett Community Centre hosts a Pot Luck Lunch Social on the second Thursday of the month.

Please pre-register by calling 972-412-6170 and bring a side dish to share!

October - Lasagna
November - Turkey



Senior Healthchecks

Tuesday, October 13

Rowlett Community Centre

This free service is provided by the Rowlett Fire Department. Firefighters will be available to take blood pressure and blood sugar readings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



AARP Safe Drivers Class

Saturday, October 17

Rowlett Community Centre

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

\$15 AARP members,
\$20 non-members

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES...

...by the Rowlett Library

Saturday Movie: *Ghostbusters*

Saturday, October 3

2:00 P.M. @ Rowlett Community Centre

Families, kids, teens and tweens are invited to enjoy a free movie and popcorn! In *GHOSTBUSTERS*, three unemployed parapsychology professors set up shop as a unique ghost removal service. Rated PG.

Financial Literacy for Adults

Saturday, October 17

2:00 P.M. @ Rowlett Community Centre

In today's economy, it is more important than ever to build and maintain an excellent credit score. If you want to get a home loan, start a business or purchase a vehicle, credit is a major factor. A representative from Wells Fargo Bank will answer questions regarding credit and major purchases.

Love on a Leash Therapy Dogs Info

Saturday, October 17

11:00 A.M. @ City Hall

An informative meeting to highlight the benefits that can come from reading with a trained therapy dog. Parents of school-age readers will have the opportunity to sign their children up for a 15 minute private reading session in a safe non-threatening environment. Actual reading program will be held the second Wednesday of each month, 3:30-4:30 p.m., beginning in November.

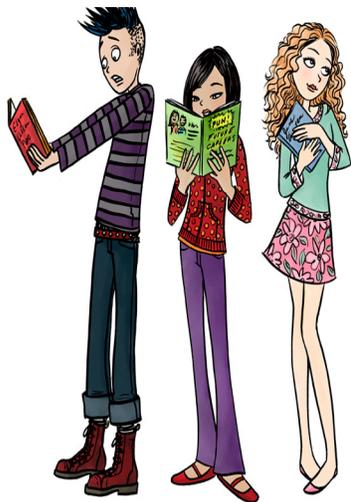


Halloween Treats at the Library

Saturday, October 31

All Day

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



TEEN READ WEEK

2015 Theme is "Get Away @ Your Library!"

October 19 - 23

The American Library Association urges all tweens and teens 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.

Monday, October 19: *Outer Space* – use the new catalog to find YA books about space.

Tuesday, October 20: *Inner Space* – use Duolingo to warp your mind.

Wednesday, October 21: *Other Worldly* – check the databases for information on psychic abilities.

Thursday, October 22: *Big City* – check out some music cds, or download from Overdrive.

Friday, October 23: *Open Country* – check out the magazines both paper copies and digital using Zinio.

*Parents: our community's teens and tweens need a library card...
it's their passport to a lifetime of learning!*

CREEPY! SPOOKY! SCARY! BOO!

STORY TIME! at the Rowlett Library

The Library offers story times for all ages...

The Young & the Restless Baby Story Time

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

For babies up to age 2

October 6 – I Hear

October 13 – I Play

October 20 – I Feel

October 27 – Peekaboo

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 7 – Who, who

October 14 – Scarecrow and Crow

October 21 – Pumpkin in My Garden

October 28 – Boo to You

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 Thursday @ 10:00 & 10:30 A.M.

For children 3 years of age and older

October 1 – Scarecrow Stories

October 8 – Clever Cows

October 15 – Monkey See, Monkey Do

October 22 – Animal Antics

October 29 – Trick or Treat

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



Whatever on Wednesdays

Wednesdays @ 4:00 P.M.

Ages 13-18

Get together with other teens and discuss current books, media and online content, such as the best TV series for a weekend binge, the best viral videos, the best games from Tabletop and, of course, the best Young Adult books. Best of all? This can be found at your Library!

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

Tuesdays @ 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!

We Need YOUR Input Today!



Planning for the Future is Underway

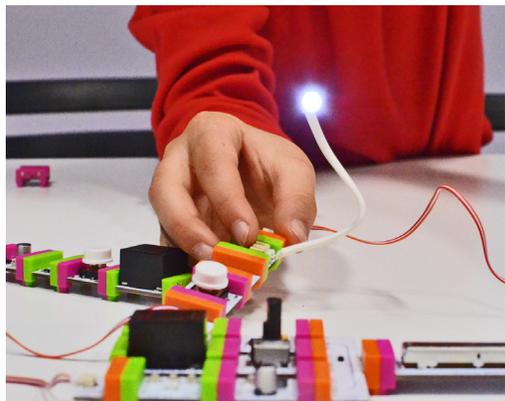
Rowlett Public Library needs YOUR help in creating a vision for our future Library space.

The City Council appointed a Library Visioning Task Force in July, 2015, charged with creating the framework for what Rowlett's new downtown Library will look like. Members of the Task Force include key Library stakeholders from the Library Board and Friends of the Library, as well as citizen representatives, Councilmembers, the City Manager and Library staff.

The Task Force has created a survey so Library customers just like you may provide YOUR input on what YOU envision our future Library should provide!

Take the Survey [HERE!](#)

ROWLETT LIBRARY OFFERS TECH ASSISTANCE!



This month I'd like to talk to you a bit about things you can do with your kids to get them more interested in creating technology. This is important for a couple reasons. Practically speaking, knowing how to create something new leads to a better general understanding of it. If kids can improve their overall understanding of technology, they will have a better grasp of the tools needed to engage with the world around them. Creating is also a lot of fun. As much as we enjoy using a computer program or device that someone else has made, there's something really neat about making something yourself. So, by giving your kids fun opportunities to create something themselves, you're also offering them a valuable learning experience.

There are two products I'd like to talk about, one focusing on hardware and one on software.

Hardware – LittleBits

LittleBits are color coded, magnetic pieces that can be put together to form basic machines. They are made up of power, input, and output pieces.

Phil's Technology Corner

Kids: Don't Just USE Technology... Create Something All Your Own!

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

For example, connect a power piece to a button piece, then connect that to a light. When you do this and push the button, the light comes on. Swap out the button piece for a slider to dim or brighten the light. Each piece is labeled so it's clear what it does. The fun of LittleBits isn't to follow a recipe and build an already designed machine. Instead, you're given basic building blocks to form your own creations. There are several different kits available, focusing on different types of electronics. All the pieces are interchangeable, so mix and match the different kits to build more complicated creations.

Software – Scratch

Scratch is a coding language developed by Lifelong Kindergarten Group at MIT. Traditional coding languages typically require a pretty significant time commitment before you can start making anything really neat. However, with Scratch it's easy to start making things right away. Scratch is a visual coding language. Using a drag and drop interface, kids can stack different colored blocks of commands together, which

then translate to an animation on the screen. Almost immediately, kids can see the results of their efforts on the screen, so they get that instant gratification that will hopefully encourage them to keep learning. While doing so, they are building the skills necessary for coding. They also learn important strategies for solving problems, designing projects, and communicating ideas. These are all skills which are useful across the board, so even if your kids don't end up as computer programmers, Scratch can be a valuable tool. More importantly, to them it's just a lot of fun to play with! Best of all? It's FREE!

These are just two products available to encourage an interest in creating technology. LittleBits can be somewhat costly (about \$100-\$150 for each kit), but as I mentioned earlier, Scratch is free. Hopefully you'll find them useful.

If you have any questions about this, or any of the other Tech Tips we've covered, please come on in and see me at the Rowlett Public Library!

One-on-One Technology Assistance



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

One-on-One Tech Help

**Every Friday
Rowlett Library
Flexible times**

Two 30 minute sessions are available every Friday for reservation. Contact Technical Services Supervisor Phil Barott at 972-412-6161 or via [email](#). Reservations are on a first come first served basis so call today!

ROWLETT PARKS & RECREATION

Fall Programming at the RCC!

You Can Paint!

Saturday, October 3, November 7 or December 5

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

\$20 & \$20 supply fee

Complete an amazing finished landscape, seascape or still life worthy of framing with step-by-step guidance from Robert and Susan Garden, award winning artists noted for their teaching talents. All art supplies are provided, but please bring paper towels and wear old clothes.

Skyhawks Soccer

Tuesdays, October 6-27

6:00 P.M.

Ages 7-9, \$49

Using Skyhawks progression-oriented curriculum, your young athlete will gain the technical skills and sport knowledge required for the next step into soccer, the world's most popular sport. Designed for beginner and intermediate players, this camp focuses on dribbling, passing, shooting and ball control.

Skyhawks Soccer Skills & Agility

Tuesdays, October 6-27

7:15 P.M.

Ages 9-14, \$49

Using Skyhawks progression-oriented curriculum, your young athlete will gain the technical skills and sport knowledge required for the next step into soccer, the world's most popular sport. This intermediate class focuses on dribbling, passing, shooting, and ball control. Players will gain improved skills through drills, exercises and games, and concludes with the World Cup Soccer Game.

Baton & Twirling

Wednesdays, October 7-28

7:45 P.M.

Ages 6-13, \$48

This class provides twirling and baton to improve motor skills, balance, flexibility and posture. Routines will be taught for a finale show! Students are required to purchase a ribbon baton.

ACT Prep

Saturdays, October 10 – November 14

9:00 A.M. – Noon

Ages 14-18, \$75

Improve the chances of entry into the college of choice by increasing ACT scores. The ACT Prep course is 18 hours of classroom instruction in math, grammar, writing and science reasoning. Students complete two practice ACT test. The ACT course book is not included in the class fee.



Spooktacular Teen Night Out

Saturday, October 17

7-9:00 P.M.

Ages 10-15, \$10

Ghosts, goblins and zombies, oh my! Join us for a haunted evening with ghoulish costumes and lots of screams. Come spend this night of terror with your scariest friends while eating creepy foods and dancing to the monster beats!



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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.

Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP Smoke Alarm Campaign

Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.

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 working 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 on the ceiling or high on the wall 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. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms, they should be at least 10 feet from the stove.

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.

What else I should do with my smoke detector?

Hold practice drills with your whole family so everyone knows what to do when a smoke detector sounds!



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 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	3 Diversity Day Noon-4pm @ RCC Free Movie & Popcorn: <i>Ghostbusters</i> 2pm @ RCC
4 National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-10)	5	6 National Night Out	7	8 Senior Lunch Social 11:30am @ RCC	9 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	10 Electronic Recycling 9am-1pm @ RHS ACT Prep Class begins 9am-Noon @ RCC
11	12	13 Senior Health Checks @ RCC Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	14	15	16 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	17 Reading Therapy Dogs 11am @ City Hall Financial Literacy 2-4pm @ RCC AARP Safe Driver Class 9am-1pm @ RCC Teen Spooktacular 7-9pm @ RCC
18	19 Teen Read Week @ Library (Oct. 19-23)	20 City Council Meeting 7:30pm @ City Hall	21	22	23 One-on-One Tech Help @ Library	24
25	26	27 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6pm @ City Hall	28	29	30	31 Halloween Get a Treat @ Library- all day