CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

The February Mayor’s Spotlight is now available! This month, Mayor Dana-Bashian shares information about the 2020 Census and why it is so important to our community that everyone is counted!

At Tuesday night’s City Council Meeting, a proclamation was presented in honor of Black History Month and recognizing the week of February 9 – 16, 2020 as African American Pioneers Week in the City of Rowlett. The proclamation specifically recognized the Isaac and Naomi Scruggs family as African American Pioneers in the City of Rowlett. The Scruggs’ settled in Rowlett with their children in 1936, joining other relatives in the area and later built their home here. They owned farmland, had tenants and owned a local business for several years – Scruggs Store and Gas Station. Mr. Scruggs was a member of the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, the First Bank of Rowlett Community Development Committee, Rowlett Cleanup Campaign, Rowlett Save the School Committee, was a member of the Zion Missionary Baptist Church and volunteered with the Needy Children’s Fund. Other notable African American pioneering families in Rowlett were the Fuquas, Grays, Lees, and McGuires.

We are honored to recognize the great impact made by these families in our community, both past and present.

February is African American History Month, a time to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. All month, we’ll be sharing stories of courageous and influential African Americans throughout our history, all curated by the Rowlett Diversity and Inclusion Commission.

Estevanico, aka Esteban, is the earliest known person of African descent to arrive in the present-day Texas. He was born in Morocco in the early 16th century and at some point, came to Spain. He was enslaved by Andres Dorantes de Carranza, with whom he traveled as a member of the Panfilo de Narvaez expedition, which landed in the Americas in 1528. He was a great scout and greatly

Important City Meetings

City Council –
Regular Meetings: Feb. 18; 5:30 pm @ City Hall; *check agenda on website* Friday before mtg
Special Meetings: None
P&Z Commission – Feb. 11 & 25, 6:30pm @ City Hall
Animal Shelter Board – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall
Arts & Humanities Commission – Feb. 11, 6:30pm @ Library
Board of Adjustment – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall
Community Investment Advisory Board – **NO FEB Mtg** March 2, 6pm @ City Hall
Diversity Commission – Feb. 19, 6:30pm @ City Hall
Economic Development Advisory Board – Feb. 18, 8:30am @ Dev. Services Bldg. **New Time & Place**
Golf Advisory Board – March 3, 8am @ Waterview Golf Course
Library Advisory Board – Feb. 13, 6:30pm @ Library
Parks & Rec Advisory Board – Feb. 12, 6:30pm @ RCC**New Start Time**
Senior Advisory Board – Feb. 17, 10am @ City Hall
Youth Advisory Council – Feb. 17, 6pm @ RCC
2020 Census Complete Count Committee – Feb. 13, 6:30pm @ City Hall
respected among Indians. He would later escape slavery by leading an expedition and misleading the men he led while he went to live with his Indian friends.

Congratulations to Ozzie Cutter, this month’s Spirit of Rowlett Award winner! This award is to publicly recognize ordinary residents doing extra-ordinary things in our community, and the recipients are nominated by YOU – the citizens of Rowlett.

Ozzie was nominated by Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian, who says: “Ozzie came to the Library’s ESL program in 2015 as a substitute teacher. Today, she teaches two Conversational English classes, which at present are attended by 30 students from 18 different countries. Her dedication and commitment as a teacher of English is already commendable; however, she brings much, much more. It’s hard to know where to begin...

- Ozzie doesn’t just teach the language; she incorporates facets of living in America that her students may not understand. Things like:
  - Knowing how to call 911 in an emergency
  - Making a doctor’s appointment
  - Buying groceries
  - Ordering at a restaurant
  - Filling out an employment application. Through her classes, many students have improved their language skills to a point where they were able to secure entry level employment. Sometimes that effort included Ozzie’s active involvement in seeking out those job opportunities.
  - Explaining the concept of school zones and other traffic laws
  - Jargon and slang
  - She regularly markets the ESL classes, taking fliers to businesses and organizations that are likely to have people in need of assistance with English.

- Her teaching strategies include a project approach, one being a family tree to help students learn the different English words for relatives.

- Ozzie facilitates students’ ability to attend classes, occasionally picking them up and taking them home when a ride is needed.

- She takes a personal interest in their lives, hosting pot locks and social get-togethers, and working with individuals who need extra help outside of class.

- Ozzie’s care and concern for her students goes above and beyond. For example, she once accompanied a student who got a speeding ticket to court, explaining what the ticket said and meant, and stepped him through the resolution process.

- She also volunteers with Catholic Charities in Dallas and encourages her students’ involvement in community activities. Ozzie and her students participated in a Library cultural exchange program, volunteered in the local Reindeer Project and assisted in the City’s Trunk or Treat event this year.

- Ozzie’s energy, enthusiasm and sense of humor are infectious. She facilitates ESL students’ integration into the community in a variety of creative ways, which increases their ability to participate in the life of Rowlett and to give back in return!”

We hope you enjoy this interview of Ozzie by Mayor Pro Tem Martha Brown. Nominate a local hero today!
Rowlett is an AARP Age-Friendly Community! At Tuesday night’s City Council Meeting, a proclamation was presented welcoming the City of Rowlett as the 431st member (and the FIRST city named in 2020) of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The Rowlett Senior Advisory Board, along with the City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department, have been working on this designation over the past six months.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is the US affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and urbanization. This initiative provides a structured process that guides change and serves as a catalyst to educate, encourage, promote and recognize improvement that benefit residents of all ages and life stages. Enrollment in the network provides member communities with the resources to become more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning models, and best practices.

AARP’s participation in the program advances efforts to help people live easily and comfortably in their homes and communities as they age. AARP’s presence encourages older adults to take a more active role in their communities and have their voices heard. Initiatives focus on areas such as housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion and combating isolation among older citizens.

The Rowlett Senior Advisory Board will partner with Rowlett City Council to kick off a community-wide survey in this month to determine what our citizens need to ensure Rowlett remains inclusive for all age groups!

2020 US Census – The US Census Bureau has launched the 2020 Census – a national effort to count every person living in the United States.

Be sure to fill out your Census and encourage your family, neighbors and community to do the same. More questions? Visit 2020 Census.

The 2020 Home Owners Association Legal Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 8:30am to 2pm at the Rowlett Community Centre.

The cost is $10 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Email your questions to AskTheMayor@Rowlett.com

The newest video is now available for viewing and all are on the City’s YouTube channel – @RowlettTexasVideo.
CITY SECRETARY’S OFFICE

Are you interested in being a Councilmember? The election for City Council will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020. For more information about the election and becoming a candidate, visit the Election page on the City’s website.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?
** You must register to vote or make any change of address by April 2, 2020 to vote in the local election on May 2, 2020. **

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Tint World is now open at 7001 Rowlett Rd!

Dalrock Deals, located at 9400 Lakeview Pkwy, had their Grand Opening on Thursday!

Cruzito’s Mexican Cuisine, located at 9802 Lakeview Pkwy, is hoping to open next week.

Fresh Ink Tattoo Studios will open soon at 3841 Main St. in the Village of Rowlett Downtown.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A few more pictures from the dedication for our new Training Tower on Schrade Rd. We had councilmembers, executive team, and many other city officials join us for this momentous event. The Rowlett Fire Department conducted a tour of the tower and demonstrated putting out a fire. Mayor Tammy even scaled the side of the tower and was “rescued” by firefighter Jeremy Myers! Fun was had by all! It was a very exciting moment for our department.

Last Saturday, the crew from Station 4 was invited to judge the chili cook off at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The guys had no problem participating at this event. Thanks Sacred Heart for having us!

LIBRARY

Participate in a poetry contest to commemorate Love Your Library Month in February! Declare your love for the library for a chance to win a $10 gift card from Half Price Books. Entry forms are due February 29th and can be picked up at the Library Service Desk.
In 2020, the Library will host Second Saturday Seminars for Adults at 3pm to educate and enrich the lives of everyday citizens. February 8th, Joan Hill from New York Life, will discuss retirement planning and the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 (also known as the SECURE Act). On March 14th, a representative with Hope Cottage will discuss foster parenting.

Rowlett’s YOUNG ARTIST EXHIBIT is back!! Is your youngster looking for a way to show off their talents? Look no further! Entries are due March 21st, but don’t delay in starting to work on your entry today!

ALL ENTRIES will be on display at the Rowlett Annex Building (4004 Main St.) from March 20th – April 24th. Visit the link above for more information.

GEEK OUT Board games for grown-ups 1st & 3rd Thursday of the Month @ 6pm

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Men’s Basketball League Spring 2020 registration has opened and goes through March 29th. Register today at the Rowlett Community Centre or call the Front Desk at 972-412-6170!

REMINDER: Call 972.412.6170 FOR:

- Rowlett Youth Spring Baseball League: For Ages 3-12
  Registration open through February 23rd
- Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League:
  Registration open through March 8th
- Rowlett Youth Spring Volleyball:
  For ages 7 – 12
  Registration open through March 8th

Starting Tuesday, February 11th: 6th degree black belt, Bobby Blakey, is taking on a new adventure in Homeschool Taekwondo! Bring out your kids and earn that PE credit in a new way with taekwondo Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30pm. Classes start at $35 per month with discounts available for multiple classes.

The Rowlett Senior Advisory Board is hosting another informational seminar on Tuesday, February 11th! Come learn about the different resources to make your home ‘smarter’. The seminar will be hosted at the Rowlett Community Centre from 1-2pm! For additional information, please call 972-412-6170!

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Crime Reports – Rowlett PD provides a link to the weekly crime reports so you, our citizens, can be informed about what is going on in your City.
Last Thursday, the Rowlett Police Department held its Annual Banquet where Chief Brodnax presented awards to a few outstanding employees for their dedication and outstanding performance this past year. Congratulations everyone!

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PROJECT UPDATE

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 2
Project Scope:
- Rebuild streets, sidewalks, curbs, drainage systems, street trees and lighting on Cheyenne and Lynnwood. Contact: Robert Harris or Steven Wingo
Project Status:
- Quality Excavation is currently working on completing the punch list items.

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 1
Contractor returned to make a grade correction at Westview Dr. and Llano St.; concrete removal is in progress at both locations and weather permitting, the contractor is prepared to pour concrete on Monday, February 10th on Westview Dr.

MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND PGBT NORTH BOUND RIGHT TURN LANE PROJECT
- Weather is still impacting the contractor’s ability to do any dirt/grading work; the Silva Cells arrived this week and will be placed when the ground is safe to excavate.

ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION – AMBER AVE/JENNIFER LN/ANDREA LN
- Weather has slowed progress however, Tri-Con is roughly 85% done as they laid another 100 feet of new pavement this week.
NORTH DALROCK CULVERT REPLACEMENT
Contractor poured the concrete wing walls for the culvert and in the process of preparing the subgrade for the roadway to be poured. Due to inclement weather, there was a delay this week; the contractor is planning on pouring the roadway this Saturday.

CBDG ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION – SHIPMAN/GRANT
Contractor continues installation of the 18" storm sewer pipe on the Shipman/Grant alley and is about 90% complete with the storm sewer installation.

ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALK, CURB, GUTTER, AND UTILITY CUT REPAIR-MAINTENANCE
Austin Raymond Construction currently working on four curb-gutter locations, nine sidewalk/utility repairs in Lakeridge Estates I, Kenwood Heights, Dalrock/66 and Mariner Cove subdivisions. As of today, there have been 82 – 50/50 sidewalk locations inspected and 54 estimates sent.

Never lock a piano…all the keys are inside
The Action Center is your one-stop-shop, offered by the City of Rowlett to assist citizens. Call 972.412.6100
Our Purpose Is To Serve!

The Friday @ 5 is published by the City Manager’s Office