City of Rowlett joins the fight! Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian has informed the Public Utility Commission by letter that, as the largest customer City of the North Texas Municipal Water District, Rowlett is supporting the efforts of the Cities of Garland, Mesquite, Plano, and Richardson. Together, we are urging the Commission to initiate a cost-of-service hearing, providing an opportunity for all of the District’s wholesale water customers to participate, and requesting the Commission set just and reasonable rates for the District.

“Under the compulsory take-or-pay structure, Rowlett has paid nearly $20 million for over 10 billion gallons of water that was not received or used by Rowlett citizens or customers,” Mayor Dana-Bashian states in her letter. “Based on the current cost structure in place by the District, we will continue to be charged every year for hundreds of millions of gallons of water that we do not use. The most common complaint we address with our citizens is the high cost of water compared to surrounding cities, which correlates directly to the take-or-pay cost structure in place by the District for wholesale water. Small communities such as Rowlett have no ability to mitigate the negative impact of the take-or-pay structure due to limited resources. And, we have no choice but to purchase water from the District as we have no feasible alternative.”

Would you like to join the fight as well? Rowlett citizen, Brian Galuardi, has created a petition to support a PUC review of the take or pay contract, and to support a contract that charges fairly across the entire customer base only for the amount of water used. Sign it here: [https://bit.ly/2utv3xl](https://bit.ly/2utv3xl)

Congratulations to Deputy City Manager Paul Stevens for recently receiving the Credentialled Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Mr. Stevens is one of over 1,300 local government management professionals currently credentialled through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

“Paul is an excellent leader with a proven track record of accomplishments and a strong commitment to serving the Rowlett community,” says City Manager Brian Funderburk. “I congratulate him on this well-deserved designation from the International City/County Management Association!” The full article is continued on Facebook.

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**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. 25, 6:30pm @ City Hall

**Animal Shelter Board** – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall

**Arts & Humanities Commission** – March 10, 6:30pm @ Library

**Board of Adjustment** – TBD, 7pm @ City Hall

**Community Investment Advisory Board** – 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** – March 12, 6:30pm @ Library

**Parks & Rec Advisory Board** – March 11, 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** – March 12, 6:30pm @ City Hall
Volunteer hours for January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>Hours Volunteered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Shelter</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>250.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical &amp; Interns</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service (Animal Shelter)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>257</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,510.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FTE – 8.8

Cost savings - $37,919.82 (based on The Independent Sector’s Texas rate of $25.10 per volunteer hour).

Participants in any of eight support assistance programs now qualify for DART’s Discount GoPass® Tap Card for riding public transit at half the fare. Anyone, current or new riders, who participate in any of the following programs is now eligible for DART services at half the fare:

- CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program),
- TANF (Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families),
- CEAP (Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program),
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program),
- Housing Choice Vouchers,
- Medicaid,
- Medicare,
- Texas WIC (Texas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).


**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](https://www.census.gov/

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](mailto:AskTheMayor@Rowlett.com)

The newest video is now available for viewing and all are on the City’s YouTube channel – @ [RowlettTexasVideo](https://www.youtube.com/user/RowlettTexasVideo).
**CITY SECRETARY’S OFFICE**

**EARLY VOTING**

Early Voting for the [March 3 Primary Election](#) begins Tuesday, February 18th. Click on the link for information, locations and times.

**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**

Veterans Hiring Event – Tuesday, March 24th from 10am – 2pm @ Veterans Resource & Outreach Center located at 4210 Industrial St. Bldg. 100 in Rowlett. Register to attend at vrocreception@gmail.com

Open to all branches of service, active duty, reservists, veterans, and military family members.

The [Rowlett Career Advancement Center](#) has opened at 3906 Melcer Dr. They are having their Rowlett Chamber Ribbon Cutting on March 3rd at 12pm. Training classes offered are CDL, forklift, bartending, CNA, and pharmacy technician.

**LIBRARY**

Enjoy family time on Saturday, February 15th at 2pm with a penguin craft and the movie Happy Feet.

Saturday, February 22nd at 2 pm, celebrate Black History month with crafts and a scavenger hunt. See our post about [John Arthur “Jack” Johnson](#) on Facebook.

February is Love Your Library Month. Write a poem about the Library for a chance to win a Barnes and Noble gift card. Entry forms due February 29th, enter online or pick up one at the Library Service Desk.

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**Your City Government**

**Vision** – A well-planned lakeside community of quality neighborhoods, distinctive amenities, diverse employment, and cultural charm.  
Rowlett: THE place to live, work, and play.

**Mission** – The City of Rowlett provides innovative citizen-centered services that exceed the expectations of our residents, businesses, and guests.  
Our purpose is to serve.

**Strategic Plan**

- Govern Transparently & Inclusively
- Foster Economic Vitality
- Ensure a Safe Community
- Invest in Transportation & Infrastructure
- Strengthen Neighborhood Livability
- Promote Operational Excellence
- Enhance Quality of Life

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[Strategic Plan Community Dashboard](#)
Enter one of the many contests presented by the Arts and Humanities Commission! More information about the Young Artist Contest is below…check out the [website](#) for information about the Writing Contest or Rowlett Sings!

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.

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey** – As part of our continued efforts to make Rowlett a welcoming place for people of all ages to live, we are so proud that Rowlett is now an AARP Age-Friendly Community. But we’re not done yet!

Are you 45 or older and currently live in Rowlett? If so, please participate in this survey (link above) and help us assess how to make Rowlett even more liveable!

The survey will be available through March 13, 2020, hard copies are available at the Rowlett Community Centre, 5300 Main Street. For more information, please call 972-412-6145.

Your feedback is very important, and we would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

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!

**REMINDER:** Call 972.412.6170 FOR:

- **Rowlett Youth Spring Baseball League:** For Ages 3-12 - **LAST WEEK TO REGISTER!** 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
Don’t miss this fun-filled, spectacular event! Don’t have a telescope? Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered! Telescopes will be provided during this event! The event will be hosted on Friday, February 28th, from 7:30 - 9PM behind the Wet Zone Water park, 5304 Main St! You may come and go to this event as you please - you don’t have to stay the entire time!

In the event of inclement weather, please check https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/rowlett/home after 5PM for any updates to the event!

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.

School Resource Officer Edgar Borusqueta is teaching the students at Coyle Middle School the duties of Police Officers, information about the gear they wear and general Q & A’s.

Scout Troops #51 and #52 came to the Police Station on Monday night for a tour of the building, they were able to see the Communication Officers in action and view the Detention Center. The children received coloring books, Back the Blue stickers and badges. We’re glad they came by!

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 continuing to work on the punch list items.

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 1

Contractor removed all the concrete in the area with the incorrect slopes and both locations have been cut/filled to proposed grade. Forms and steel have been set at Llano St. and the eastbound lane of Westview Dr. Weather permitting, the concrete will be poured next week then the westbound lane of Westview Dr. will be prepared for concrete the week of February 17th.

MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND PGBT NORTH BOUND RIGHT TURN LANE PROJECT

Weather is still impacting the contractor’s ability to do any work; the Silva Cells arrived this week and will be placed when the ground is dry.
ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION – AMBER AVE/JENNIFER LN/ANDREA LN
Tri-Con is finished with all pavement of the alleys and they are backfilling and laying sod. A final walk-through will be scheduled soon in preparation to close out project.

NORTH DALROCK CULVERT REPLACEMENT
Contractor installed the guardrail last weekend and the road was opened this week. Crews started the restoration of the slopes and staging area.

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. Rain has slowed progress this week.

ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALK, CURB, GUTTER, AND UTILITY CUT REPAIR-MAINTENANCE
Austin Raymond Construction currently working on 11 repairs in Lakeridge Estates I, Dalrock Heights, Flower Hill, Dalrock-66 and Mariner Cove subdivisions. As of today, there have been 87 – 50/50 sidewalk locations inspected and 65 estimates sent.

ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR PAVEMENT LEVELING SERVICES
Nortex Concrete renewal was awarded and staff is coordinating locations for repair.

Rowlett Animal Services Adopt-A-Thon
Saturday, February 15th
4402 Industrial Street
10am – 5pm

Looking for some love this Valentines? Look no further! The Rowlett Animal Shelter has several single pets looking for their perfect match. We have pooches for smooching and cats for cuddling. To find your soulmate, it’ll only cost you $25. Come join us Saturday February 15th and find the love of your life!

What kind of doctor is Dr. Pepper? A FIZZ-ician…

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