UPDATE ON FCC GARBAGE COLLECTION – In light of the announcement of eight confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Rowlett, FCC is enhancing efforts to protect those providing trash service. FCC began enforcing bagged items in the trash on Thursday March 26, 2020, rather than the previously communicated March 30th date. This requirement currently only applies to items in your garbage poly cart, items in the recycle poly cart should remain unbagged (although FCC has indicated this may change). Details are below…

👉 Beginning March 26, 2020, all items in the garbage poly carts must be in closed bags or FCC will NOT service the cart. This keeps items from escaping the carts and helps FCC staff (and the neighborhood!) practice safe COVID-19 hygiene protocols. And yes, you may use plastic grocery bags for this purpose if you do not have trash bags.

👉 If at all possible, please postpone your tree trimming and the projects that generate brush or bulk pickup items.

👉 Trash bags of grass and leaves are not considered bulk trash and will not be collected by the bulk truck. This is not new information - just a gentle reminder.

👉 If your items regularly do not all fit in one cart, please request a second cart by calling the Utility Billing department at 972-412-6105. The monthly fee for each additional cart is $11.74.

Thank you for helping our FCC friends stay safe and for doing your part to keep our neighborhoods clean and litter free! #MyRowlett #BetterTogether

WE ARE HOLDING VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS UNTIL SHELTER IN PLACE IS LIFTED! Due to the Shelter in Place declaration and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing and we encourage the public to view live on the City’s website or via RTN16. To provide comment/s for the meeting, please send an email to Citizeninput@rowlett.com by 3:30pm the day of the meeting. Please state whether your comment is regarding a specific agenda item or a general comment to Council. Your comment will be read into the record during the meeting (must be within the 3-minute time limit). Specific access to each meeting will be included on the posted agenda, which can be found on the Public Bulletin Board on the City’s website: https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/980/Public-Bulletin-Board.

SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER
Important City Meetings
City Council –
Regular Meetings: April 7 & 21; 5:30 pm @ TBD; *check agenda on website* Friday before mtg

***Special Council Meetings***
Monday nights on off weeks of Regular Meetings. March 30; 5:30pm via ZOOM meetings

COAD – Wednesday nights @ 5:30pm via GO TO MEETINGS. Contact Elise Bowers for more information.

Board of Adjustment – Will meet as needed, 7pm – Place TBD

**NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS**
All meetings will be held virtually – until further notice.
We ask that you watch our meetings on Rowlett’s Cable Channel RTN16 or streaming online through our website.

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ALL OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
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LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL CITY BUILDINGS
* EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY *
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY IF NEEDED
COVID-19 Update featuring Rowlett Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and Ed Balderas, Emergency Management Coordinator. Watch as they answer questions about The Disaster Declaration and Shelter in Place Order, what is considered essential and much more.

www.rowlett.com/covid-19 – Facts regarding the virus and how to prevent it, what to do in the event you or a family member become ill, and many other resources including the latest news concerning our community.

Email cac@rowlett.com or call 972-412-6100 for questions about essential household activities.

Email businesscovid19@dallascounty.org for questions about essential Business activities.

Rowlett Ready – www.RowlettReady.com or email needs@rowlettready.com if you need local assistance from volunteers.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether
#StayInformed #StayKind #StaySafe #StayHome

SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER – At Monday night’s Special City Council meeting, Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian amended the City’s Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency and issued a Shelter in Place Order. This order mirrors the order put in place by Dallas County and affects everyone in the City of Rowlett. The order is effective 11:59pm Tuesday, March 24th through April 30th. The Shelter in Place Order for Rockwall County was issued on March 24th effective at 11:59pm on March 24th through April 15th.

LIMITED ACCESS TO MOST CITY BUILDINGS
In an effort to protect staff and our citizens, limited public access is now in effect to most City buildings and facilities, which started on Wednesday, March 25th. We’ll still be here and fully staffed to provide the services everyone needs every day, but ask that you do business with us online at www.rowlett.com, through email and over the phone. In some offices, staff will be available by appointment. Public Safety remains our top priority and the Police and Fire Department facilities will remain open to the public. As always, call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing an emergency.

SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER
In the Community
ACTION CENTER – Weekdays 8-5 @ 972.412.6100 OR Online 24-7 (City Hall Building Closed; By Appointment Only)

COVID-19 UPDATE by Mayor & EMC – March 26, 2020

COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall Meeting – March 16, 2020

Coronavirus Information – Texas Health & Human Services Site

COVID-19 Testing Sites – Open 8am to 8pm Daily
AAC, 2500 Victory Plaza, Parking Lot E
Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St.

Notify Me – Subscribe TODAY! Stay informed and up to date

Connect Rowlett – Sign up today!

LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL CITY BUILDINGS
-EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY-
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY IF NEEDED

ALL CITY EVENTS & GATHERINGS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
This community has a long, notable history of helping our neighbors in need when disaster strikes. Rowlett residents are strong and resilient. To help those in need right now, and to provide an avenue for those who wish to help, the City of Rowlett has formed the Rowlett Community Organizations Active in Disaster Committee (RCOAD). This is a permanent committee and will provide assistance to our citizens and community during and after disaster situations.

The RCOAD is ready to help you through the COVID-2019 outbreak. Visit RowlettReady.com to find resources for spiritual and emotional care, business assistance information, local food bank and utility assistance, and more. www.rowlettready.com is also now able to accept donations, coordinate volunteer opportunities, and facilitate needs for Rowlett residents.

Rowlett COAD will meet every Wednesday night at 5:30pm via TO GO MEETINGS, contact Elise Bowers for more information. 
#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RowlettReady

**GOOD INFORMATION TO KNOW…**
If you have to go to the grocery store, make sure you do it wisely. And please be patient with the folks serving you in our stores, this is a stressful time for them as well and your smile would really brighten their day 😊.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #KindnessCounts

**DON’T FORGET THE U.S. CENSUS!**

**2020 US Census** – While you are home, you can respond to the Census!
- Easy, Safe, + Confidential – NO Online ID required – NO Citizenship question
- Online - My2020Census.gov
- By Phone - 844-330-2020
- By Mail

Ensuring that Texas has a complete count is vital to the quality of life Texans enjoy. The Census Bureau estimates that in 2010, Texas had an undercount of 1%, costing us at least $1 billion that could have been used for education, roads and more throughout our state.

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

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #BeCounted
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Animal Shelter
Questions about your pets’ health and caring for them right now? The Texas Animal Health Commission has put together a great resource to answer them – take a few minutes to read it and keep your pets safe too.

Can animals become ill with or spread COVID-19? There is no evidence at this time that animals can become ill with COVID-19 or that they can spread it to other animals or people. To date, the CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States.

Please visit www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19 for local Orders, shelter in place information, community and business resources, and the measures instituted to help protect our community.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #MansBestFriends

Neighborhood Services – Code Enforcement
Update on Code Enforcement – Just a quick note to let everyone know that you will continue to see Code Enforcement Officers out and about in our community. They’re not trying to pick on you, they’re helping out the neighborhood as a whole by doing their job – most of our City’s codes and ordinances are in place for health and safety reasons.

➢ Tall grass and weeds? Great hiding place for vermin, snakes and mosquitoes.
➢ Stagnant swimming pool? Fabulous breeding ground for, again, mosquitoes.
➢ Leaning fence? Those hurt when they fall on you. Hospitals have enough to do right now.
➢ No house numbers on the back of your home? First responders need those so they can find your address when you call for help.

We hope you’ll understand that COVID-19 pandemic or not, the continued safety of our citizens and community is a top priority. And although Code Enforcement is still issuing notices, citations have been suspended. So if you see them out and about, give them a friendly wave and please don’t yell at them.

Have you seen an issue in your neighborhood while out on your allowable shelter-in-place-walk-while-practicing-six-foot-social-distancing? Don’t tell us in the comments on this post, let the Action Center know at www.rowlett.com or 972-412-6100. Thanks for your help!

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #Issssseeyou

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

A MESSAGE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and Chamber President Michael Gallops offer a “Top 5” List of things that business owners can do while we are under the Disaster Declaration and Shelter in Place order including where you can find resources available to help you.

http://rowlettchamber.com/coronavirus

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.
In response to COVID-19, the Economic Development Department and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce issued a [press release](https://rowlettonthemove.com/news/49/city-of-rowlett-declaration-of-local-disaster-and-business-resources.htm). In there is information about the Small Business Administration low-interest [disaster loans](https://www.sba.gov/disaster-loans) and the quick 10-minute [survey](https://www.sba.gov/disaster-loans) developed jointly to gain an understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on Rowlett businesses, we encourage all Rowlett business owners to take it.


The [Rowlett Chamber of Commerce](https://rowlettonthemove.com/news/49/city-of-rowlett-declaration-of-local-disaster-and-business-resources.htm) is here to help small businesses weather the COVID-19 crisis. And by doing so, asks you to help our small businesses during this time. Here is an update compiled [restaurant listing](https://rowlettonthemove.com/news/49/city-of-rowlett-declaration-of-local-disaster-and-business-resources.htm) that offers drive-through, curbside pickup, delivery as well as delivery through other companies such as Door Dash, etc. Restaurants are allowed to let customers in to order, pay and leave but customers are NOT allowed to hangout or consume their food on premises. Care should be taken to avoid physical contact with employees. After getting your food employees and customers who interact should both wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. The list is subject to change, so check back often!

#InThisTogether #MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RowlettVision #RowlettPossible #RowlettChamber #ThinkChamberFirst

This picture shows a tribute in front of the employee entrance at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Lake Pointe on March 24th. We concur! **Thank you all for taking care of us! We appreciate all you do every day!**

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #Nurses&DrsAreHeroes

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**ROWLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS TELEMEDIC PROGRAM** – The Rowlett Fire Department has a long history of providing innovative solutions to complex issues. Continuing that legacy of care and commitment to our community, the Rowlett Fire Department has implemented a TeleMedic program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. TeleMedic embraces current technology and allows the online one-on-one video assessment of non-critical patients to reduce the risk of provider- or patient-borne exposure to contagions.

Accessed via FaceTime for Apple users or Google Duo for Android users, the Rowlett Fire Department staffs the program around the clock, seven days a week with a Firefighter/Paramedic. The program targets the approximately eighty percent of patients who contract COVID-19 and experience only mild symptoms of the illness. Firefighter/Paramedics provide patients utilizing the TeleMedic program with information regarding the virus, treatment recommendations, future courses of actions and a follow-up reassessment, all while ensuring they receive the level of response necessary. [Continue reading here…](https://rowlettonthemove.com/news/49/city-of-rowlett-declaration-of-local-disaster-and-business-resources.htm)

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RFDIsTheBest
LIBRARY

The Library facility may be closed to the public right now, but your Library staff is working hard to bring their programming to YOU.

Don’t have a Library Card? Get the Library’s Digital Access Library Card by calling the Library at 972-412-6161 or complete the online application for your temporary digital card now.

Follow the City of Rowlett Library on Facebook (@RowlettPublicLibrary), where they are providing weekly virtual storytimes, great links to help your kids in their new learning environment while schools are closed, screen-free games to play, resources to help beat cabin-fever, and so much more.

This is in addition to all of the great online resources already offered –
- OverDrive—North Texas for eBooks and audiobooks
- Hoopla to instantly borrow free digital movies, music, eBooks and more.
- Kanopy, which offers over 30,000 titles, including award-winning documentaries and acclaimed films, rare and hard-to-find titles, and classic films, with collections from The Great Courses, Kino Lorber, and PBS among many others.
- RBDigital Magazines & RBDigital Audiobooks
- Project Gutenberg offers public domain eBooks, with over 30,000 titles to choose from.
- LibriVox eAudiobooks. Search by author, title, genre/subject or language.
- Also, volunteer GED tutors who have students close to taking their tests are interacting with them over the phone so they don’t lose their momentum.

Oh, and while the Library is closed, materials will not be due and fines will not accrue. If you wish to return materials, the Library’s overnight drop (located to the left of the entrance) will be available.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #LibrariesROCK

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The recreation division is putting together a list of activities you can do at home and putting those online with the hashtag #RowlettAtHome. Look out for new games, crafts, and activities to keep active during your time at home.

This Friday the new National Camp at Home Day was held. People all over the country joined together to camp. They enjoyed s’mores, sleeping in their sleeping bags, and even built campsites – in their houses and in the backyard!

LOVE VOLLEYBALL? Check out these RowlettAtHome drills to do while not in school!

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RowlettAtHome
Effective Immediately all outdoor fitness equipment in City of Rowlett Parks will be closed. We will place signage on the equipment and ask citizens to please comply with the orders to protect yourselves and your families.
We currently have outdoor equipment at:

- Community Park
- Springfield Park
- Pecan Grove Park
- Katy Park

For the same reasons, we will also CLOSE ALL playgrounds to the public. Safety is our main concern during this difficult time. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. Playgrounds are at the following parks:

- Community Park – 3 playgrounds
- Pecan Grove Park – Kids Kingdom
- Isaac Scruggs Park
- Community Park
- Katy Railroad Park
- Springfield Park
- Kenwood Heights Park
- Shorewood Park
- Lakeside Park
- Twin Star Park

REMEMBER: AARP Survey Deadline Extended! The survey will be available through March 31, 2020
https://aarp.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2se6AqY3FnSl3zy

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.

“Protecting the health and safety of our citizens is our highest priority. We are vigilantly monitoring this rapidly evolving situation and will continue to participate in state, regional and local response measures. I thank each of you for what you are doing to ensure the safety of our community.”
~ Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian ~

“Thank you for all of your positive messages of support as we navigate through these rough waters together - you have no idea how much we appreciate it.” ~ Rowlett Council & Staff ~

With so many changes and disruptions to our normal day-to-day lives, it's completely understandable to feel troubled. In an effort to help get us all through this, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority has established a mental health support line for those dealing with the trauma and stress of COVID-19. The phone number is 833-251-7544 and the line is open 24/7.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

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