A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No.3 04.03.20

THE place to live, work and play.

CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...

“Thank you to everyone for staying up to date with all of the information we share. The situation continues to evolve very rapidly and I really appreciate your attention to the ongoing changes. I am so encouraged to see us all working together and am truly grateful for the sacrifices made by everyone as we strive to safeguard the health of our citizens. Stay safe, stay kind, and stay home!”

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 8pm Thursday, April 2.

National – 243,453 cases (9,001 recovered), 5,926 deaths
North Texas - 1,722 cases, 34 deaths
Dallas County – 831 cases, 17 deaths
Rockwall County – 10 cases, 0 deaths
City of Rowlett – 14 cases (4 have recovered), 1 death

For comparison, here are Wednesday’s numbers (April 1)
National – 231,372 cases, 4,757 deaths
Texas – 4,068, 60 deaths
North Texas - 1,513 cases, 26 deaths
Dallas County – 731 cases, 15 deaths
Rockwall County – 10 cases, 0 deaths
City of Rowlett – 12 cases (4 have recovered), 1 death

These are only the confirmed cases. Expect that this virus is everywhere and that you are at risk any time you leave your house - confirmed test results are not telling the whole story right now. There are potentially many other cases in Rowlett, in Dallas County and in Rockwall County that are not included in these counts as they have not been tested.

Our Rowlett cases include 8 women and 6 men. They range in age from late teens to mid 70’s. Six are under 40 years old. The majority are under age 60. This is NOT a virus that affects just our older population!

The City of Rowlett joins with other governmental entities in protecting the privacy and safety of households with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. With federal guidance, the City’s health authority provides direction to those individuals to self-quarantine. When necessary, the City’s health authority can legally enforce directives for isolation, quarantine or conditional release, including movement restrictions, for the purpose of protecting the public’s health.

AMENDED SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER
(as of 4-2-2020 1pm)

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. April 13 & 27, 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 by Virtual Meeting

**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.

ALL OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL CITY BUILDINGS
* EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY *
* UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
* BY APPOINTMENT ONLY IF NEEDED
Rowlett will continue to alert the public about any new cases but will restrict information to age range and gender as it is available to us.

7th Amended Order – Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian has amended the City of Rowlett Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

This Order, which ensures uniform application to all areas of the City that are situated within Dallas County as well as Rockwall County, took effect at 11:59pm on April 2nd and continues through April 30th.

In summary, this amended order:
- Adds guidelines on how essential retail establishments must operate to maintain the safety of their employees and the public;
- Prohibits sale of self-service items in grocery stores, convenience stores and gas stations;
- Clarifies that childcare services are only allowed for employees of Essential Businesses;
- Aligns Religious and Worship Services provisions with Executive Order GA 14 issued March 31, 2020 by the Governor of the State of Texas; and
- Refines requirements within a Long Term Care Facility with a resident with a diagnosis of COVID-19.

Thank you for staying up to date with all of the information we continue to share – it evolves daily and we appreciate your attention to the changes!

Rowlett Fire Department Implements TeleMedic Program – 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.

The program targets the approximately eighty percent of patients who contract COVID-19 and experience only mild symptoms of the illness. Firefighter/Paramedics provide these patients 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.

“Following the current CDC recommendations, patients experiencing mild symptoms of the COVID-19, should self-isolate and manage their symptoms of the virus,” said Rowlett Fire Chief Neil Howard. “Provider-led treatment and transport of these patients furthers the risk of infection to first responders, healthcare providers, other citizens, and may overtax a medical facility’s ability to care for more critical patients. The TeleMedic program will alleviate some of this strain and enhances our ongoing mission of community risk reduction.”

The TeleMedic program has already proven successful. On their first call, Firefighter/Paramedics virtually screened an older citizen with underlying...
health conditions who was experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The TeleMedics determined the patient was in no immediate danger within a brief period. They provided the patient with alternate means of end-point diagnoses and care to significantly reduce the potential for further exposure and provided recommendations on managing the symptoms of the virus.

Public Health Directive...Due to the risk of rapid virus spread and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, Dr. Tim Lambert, Health Authority for Garland, Rowlett and Sachse, is directing all residents within those jurisdictions who are experiencing a fever (≥100.0°F or 37.8° C) and respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 including lower respiratory illness, cough or shortness of breath to stay home when sick. If you feel feverish or develop a cough or difficulty breathing, take your temperature, self-isolate and limit contact with family members and the general public. If you plan to seek medical attention from your healthcare provider, please call ahead to make an appointment and discuss your illness. If symptoms become severe, seek emergency medical attention by calling 911.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #MyRowlettFD

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD 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. The City Council may receive public input – to provide comments 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. For additional assistance, please contact the Action Center at 972-412-6100 or cac@rowlett.com.

To listen to the Council Meetings by telephone only, please call: 1-877-853-5247 and when asked, enter Meeting ID #: 136 667 610. NOTE: This number will only allow you to listen and not make live comments; as stated above, to comment on an agenda item or make a general comment, please send an email to CitizenInput@rowlett.com by 3:30pm on the day of the meeting and it will be read into the record during the meeting. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time for all of us.

MARCH 30TH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – Lots of helpful and up to date COVID-19 information was shared during the March 30th virtual City Council Meeting – we encourage you to watch it at Rowlett.com. And going forward, please tune in live on RTN16 or via streaming at Rowlett.com, meetings will continue to be held virtually for an indefinite time. Regular meetings occur on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Special Meetings will be held on the Mondays of the regular meeting off weeks - this way Council is meeting every week while we are under a disaster declaration.
Upcoming Council Meeting schedule:
Tuesday, April 7 – Regular Meeting
Monday, April 13 – Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 21 – Regular Meeting
Monday, April 27 – Special Meeting

Thank you again for staying engaged and current on all of the information affecting our community. The information changes rapidly and most of the time the changes will impact you and your family personally!
#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #StayHome #StaySafe

HONOR THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES – Are you looking for a way to say, “Thank you!” to those heroes on the front lines? The Rowlett Chamber of Commerce is asking everyone to join them and #UniteWithLight tonight – Friday, April 3rd – from 8-9pm. Place a light outside - battery operated candle, flashlight or just turn on your porch lights. This might be a nice opportunity to teach the kiddos about humility and gratitude – let THEM pick out the light source, then hang out on the porch and enjoy the thankful illumination.

6 area Chambers - Rowlett Chamber of Commerce | Caddo Mills Chamber of Commerce | Greenville Chamber of Commerce | Lake Tawakoni Regional Chamber of Commerce | Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce | Royse City Chamber of Commerce are uniting for this event, so let’s band together with them and thank the doctors, nurses, medical professionals, first responders, truckers, childcare professionals, grocery store and restaurant personnel, and everyone else working to help us stay safe as we all stay home.
#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

DON’T BE A VICTIM TO THESE SCAMS…Here are some that are popping up targeting older adults:
(Visit www.theseniorsource.org for more information)

Robocalls – HANG UP! Scammers or scammy companies use illegal robocalls to profit from Coronavirus-related fears – posing as the IRS or Medicare. Visit the Federal Trade Commission’s website to hear scam calls: www.ftc.gov/coronavirus

Testing Scam – scammers are calling or knocking on doors in white lab coats or hazmat gear claiming to be with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention selling fake at-home Coronavirus tests.

Treatment Scam – scammers are calling or knocking on doors in white lab coats or hazmat gear claiming to be with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention selling fake cures, vaccines, and medical advice on unproven treatments.

Supply Scam – scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses to sell medical supplies in high demand, like surgical masks. When you try to purchase supplies, they pocket the money.

Provider Scam – scammers are contacting people by phone and email, pretending to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or family member for COVID-19 and demanding payment.

Charity Scam – scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas impacted by coronavirus.

Phishing Scam – scammers are sending emails posing as health officials, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They want to trick you into downloading malware or providing personal identification and financial information.

App Scam – scammers are creating and controlling mobile apps used to track the spread of COVID-19. If used, these apps insert malware on your device that steals your personal and financial information.

Compassion & Romance Scams – scammers will use this opportunity to prey on your vulnerability while you are contained and isolated to your home, developing a friendship or romantic relationship with you to gain your trust and obtain your personal and financial information.
Fake Stimulus Check Scams

BEWARE OF RED FLAGS:

• Urgency – scammers will apply pressure or use fear to get your account.
• Scarcity – scammers will claim there is a limited supply, so you must “buy now.”
• Social Consensus – scammers want you to think everyone else is doing it too, and you don’t want to be left behind!
• Credible Sources – scammers will claim they are with a reputable business or organization.

TIP: Do NOT click on links from sources you do not know, and only call known phone numbers

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #StaySafe

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT


Important information on business funding mechanisms are available, as well as additional local, regional, state, federal government, national, and international resources. Link to The Cares Act Key Components.

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://rowlettcamber.com/coronavirus

Today the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce 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 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!

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RowlettOnTheMove #RowlettChamber

LIBRARY

Even though the Library building is closed, we’re still here for you! To help individuals access our online services, we’ve removed blocks for anyone with excessive fines or fees. We also are accepting online applications for a Temporary Digital Access Library Card or call the Library Service Desk at 972-412-6161.

Give us a call or email reference@rowlett.com if you need assistance getting hooked up with digital services. We’re now assisting customers from 9-9 seven days a week! We’ve also added a way for you to contact Library staff – send us a text at 972-200-3860.
Little ones can enjoy one of the libraries virtual storytimes...

Our special storytime guest **Police Chief Godfrey reads “I’m Not Scared”**

Mrs. Lauren reads “Dragons Eat Noodles on Tuesdays”

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**

*#RowlettAtHome* is up and in full force. We love all the pictures we are getting from activities and crafts around Rowlett. Keep checking our social media pages for new and exciting ideas.

*#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #RowlettAtHome*

**Rowlett Takes Bingo Online For Stay-At-Home Entertainment**

Yes, we did – we made the news! Click above to see it!
As a reminder...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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Park</th>
<th>Springfield Park</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pecan Grove Park</td>
<td>Katy Park</td>
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AND...ALL playgrounds are closed 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 |

REMINDER: AARP SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED! The survey will be available through March 31, 2020
https://aarp.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2se6AqY3FnsI3zv

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.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES, EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION:

Facts regarding COVID-19 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.
www.rowlett.com/covid-19

Essential Household Activities questions – Email cac@rowlett.com or call 972-412-6100

Essential Business Activities questions – Email jtucker@rowlett.com

Testing questions? Here is the Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview (pdf)

Questions about your pet and their health? Here is the Texas Animal Health Commission’s FAQ (pdf)

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

Texas Governor’s Orders – Executive Order (pdf)
March 31 Essential Services and Activities Executive Order (pdf)
Governor Greg Abbott Air Travel Order (pdf)
Governor Greg Abbott Detention Centers Order (pdf)
Governor Greg Abbot Louisiana Texas Travel Order (pdf)
REMINDERS:

**UPDATE ON FCC GARBAGE COLLECTION** – ALL trash items must be bagged now. DO NOT bag recyclables.

**LIMITED ACCESS TO MOST CITY BUILDINGS** – 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.

**REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE U.S. CENSUS** – While you are home, fill out the Census – please don’t be a burden on the system; if not filled out **soon** a Census person will be in contact with you!

**NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES/CODE ENFORCEMENT** – Will continue to operate as usual

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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.

#StayInformed #StayKind #StaySafe #StayHome

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

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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**