A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

COVID-19 – No.4 04.07.20

CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN…

“I know the last few weeks have been a whirlwind of information. We are all adjusting to the temporary restrictions placed upon our lives aimed at helping our communities navigate this unprecedented event and protect our most vulnerable. There is no greater resource in Rowlett than our people, and you all continue to inspire so many. We’re working from home; struggling to keep our children happy, healthy and educated while schools are closed; perhaps facing the pressures of lost income; or maybe just worn out — worried about loved ones, weary from the impacts of psychological stress, eager to know when life may return to some semblance of normal. Some of our families are dealing with all of these struggles at once, and my heart goes out to you. Here’s what I do know: together, Rowlett will weather this storm and we’ll come out of it stronger than before. For now, though - stay home, stay safe, let’s all take care of each other.”

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 7pm Tuesday, April 7th:

National – 393,223 cases (20,763 recovered), 12,722 deaths
Texas – 7,568, 150 deaths
North Texas – 2,682, 56 deaths
Dallas County – 1,261 cases, 19 deaths
Rockwall County – 15 cases, 0 deaths
City of Rowlett – 22 cases (6 have recovered), 2 deaths
City of Garland – 107 cases (18 have recovered), 3 deaths

For comparison, here are numbers for Monday, April 6th:

National – 366,614 cases (19,581 recovered), 10,783 deaths
Texas – 7,347, 144 deaths
North Texas – 2,345, 49 deaths
Dallas County – 1,115 cases, 18 deaths
Rockwall County – 12 cases, 0 deaths
City of Rowlett – 18 cases (6 have recovered), 1 death

Our Rowlett cases include 13 women and 9 men. They range in age from late teens to 80’s. Nine are under 40 years old and six are over the age of 60.

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. Please visit www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19 for more information and the measures instituted to help protect our community.

AMENDED SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER

Important City Meetings

City Council –
Regular Meetings: April 21, May 5 & 19: 5:30 pm *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 MEET INGS. 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
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.

Please stay home and stay safe.

8th Amended Order – In our coordination with Dallas County and Rockwall County, it has been clear that we share a common goal and together are working diligently to strike a balance between life-safety and livelihood. It is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Given the frequency with which the County orders are amended, we have chosen to reduce the administrative burden and confusion by incorporating the Dallas County Orders into the City of Rowlett Order. These orders will continue to evolve and adapt to community needs and to reflect state and federal mandates in place. We will continue to communicate when these orders are amended and the major changes contained therein.

Dallas County has amended their Safer At Home Order under their Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to include the following changes:

-Extended Dallas County Shelter in Place until April 30th
-Establishes safety rules for Manufacturers and Distributors
-Establishes safety standards for real estate activities, including real estate and inspection services and showings (Open Houses are still not allowed)
-Establishes safety rules for Pawn Shops and Financial Institutions, including check cashing businesses
-Establishes safety rules for common carriers, motor carriers, private carriers, shippers, delivery services, moving companies and contract carriers that load or unload cargo, supplies, equipment or goods at any point located in Dallas County.

City of Rowlett amended our Order under our Declaration of Local Disaster (currently extends until April 30th):
-To incorporate the Dallas County Orders, including future revisions

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures can be difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). These do not include surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and our first responders. Here’s our U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Adams, showing us how it’s done. Try it out and share your pics with us on our FaceBook page!

Rowlett Fire Department Shows How to Properly Put On and Remove Face Masks/Gloves – Our firefighters are back to show us the proper way to wear masks for maximum protection. Thank you! #MyRowlettFD

AMENDED SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER
(as of 4-8-2020 1pm)

In the Community

ACTION CENTER – Weekdays 8 -5 @ 972.412.6100 OR Online 24-7 (City Hall Building Closed; By Appointment Only)

STREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS – April 7, April 1, March 30, March 23, March 20

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

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

Coronavirus Information – Texas Health & Human Services Site

COVID-19 Testing Sites – Open 8am to 5pm Daily
AAC, 2500 Victory Plaza, Parking Lot E
Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St.
RFD Telemedic Program Information

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

Connect Rowlett – Sign up today!

May General Election Postponed to November 3

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!
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. Please click on this link to continue reading… #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.

There will be a number to call for you to listen to Council meetings held in the future, by telephone only. 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.

Upcoming Council Meeting schedule:
Monday, April 13 – Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 21 – Regular Meeting
Monday, April 27 – Special Meeting
#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

Garland Independent School District (GISD) Changes to Meal Distribution Times and Procedures - To limit interaction, starting Monday, April 6th, meals will be distributed only ONCE per day – from 11am to 1pm WITH NO MEAL DISTRIBUTION ON FRIDAY, APRIL 10. Starting the week of April 13th meal distribution will be on Monday – Wednesday – Friday. Details here: https://www.garlandisd.net/node/11272

Map of locations – Click here to open a GISD map; enter your address to find the closest location for meal pickup.

Rockwall ISD will continue to provide Grab’N’Go meals at Dobbs, Rochell and Jones Elementary Schools.


**CITY SECRETARY’S OFFICE**

Due to the Declaration of Emergency issued by the Governor of Texas, the City Council of Rowlett has officially postponed its May 2, 2020 General Election to the November 3, 2020 Uniform Election date to keep voters from gathering during a time of concern over the spread of COVID-19. (Ordinance No: ORD-011-20) Current councilmembers will remain in office.

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether #StayHome #StaySafe

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Economic Development department has an up to date and extensive COVID-19 business and workforce resource page. The webpage may also be accessed from the website's homepage at https://rowlettonthemove.com/.

On the web page is important information on business funding mechanisms are available, as well as additional local, regional, state, federal government, national, and international resources. There’s also a list of Rowlett Food Establishments OPEN FOR BUSINESS and how they can be shopped.

**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

**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.

**CITY OF ROWLETT**

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
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.

Mrs. Lauren reads “Macca the Alpaca”

Find your next favorite read on TeenBookCloud temporarily available from TumbleBooks.

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

As of Tuesday, April 7th, in an effort to encourage social distancing in our parks system, all basketball courts in the City of Rowlett parks system will be closed. Staff will be removing goals and nets.

Remember that parks open space and trails are still open to the public, but please continue to practice social distancing while visiting these parks and trails. Also, please remember leash laws are in effect and our puppers need to be on a leash while in public.

Restrooms, water fountains, playgrounds, and fitness equipment have been closed. Rowlett Community Centre, Scentral Bark Dog Park and all city baseball, soccer and softball fields are also closed to the public at this time as well.

We can’t wait to see you all back active in the parks once we #StopTheSpread! Our team continues to advocate and remind folks to social distance as they come across that in the parks.

#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

FaceBook Live Bingo every Tuesday and Thursday @ 10:30am!
Your parks and recreation staff will bring the bingo to the comfort of your home!
Our summer programs are now open. While registration in person is limited, we are still accepting summer registrations over the phone and online. Register today and keep active during the summer. Call today! 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.

The Police Department has instituted the following measures in response to COVID-19 in an effort to keep Rowlett citizens and City employees safe:

- Temporarily suspended the practice of officer fingerprinting services to the public.
- Temporarily suspended VIPS functions (Volunteers in Police Services).
- Implemented phone reporting procedures.
- Implemented the practice of having our Communications Officers ask basic screening questions when citizens call for service. We are now asking the following questions on all 1st party PD calls at residential locations:
  - Do you, or anyone in the home currently have a fever, or have run a fever in the past 7 days?
  - Do you, or anyone in the home have a COUGH, SHORTNESS of BREATH, or other FLU-LIKE symptoms?
  - If no, have you or anyone in the home been in close proximity contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days?
  - Have you or anyone in the home been outside of the country in the last 14 days?
  - If so, what place?
- Disinfected the Patrol vehicles and the interior of the Police Department with the help of Interior Maintenance Specialists.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND PGBT NORTH BOUND RIGHT TURN LANE PROJECT
The contractor is waiting for a gas line to be marked in the Right Turn Lane project and a utility pole to be moved on Main St. Silva Cell and tree installation will start soon with the sidewalks to follow.

MILLER ROAD 20”FORCE MAIN & 24” GRAVITY SEWER PROJECT
The contractor placed a temporary construction entrance into Paddle Point Park from Miller Road. In addition, the concrete barriers are being set along on construction zone in the west bound lane of Miller Rd.

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES PHASE 2 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
Quality Excavation poured all the concrete and is working on punch list. They will be backfilling around concrete and installing sod around the completed locations.

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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 Abbott Louisiana Texas Travel Order (pdf)

Don’t Be A Victim To These Scams – Visit www.theseniorsource.org and www.ftc.gov/coronavirus for more information. Do NOT click on links from sources you do not know and only call known phone numbers.

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 – Rowlett self-response rate was at 56% on Saturday, April 4th for the 2020 Census – THANK YOU to those who have completed it! We’re wanting 100% response – so if you haven’t filled it out, please do so soon or 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
How to Remove Gloves
To protect yourself, use the following steps to take off gloves

1. Grasp the outside of one glove at the wrist. Do not touch your bare skin.
2. Peel the glove away from your body, pulling it inside out.
3. Hold the glove you just removed in your gloved hand.
4. Peel off the second glove by putting your fingers inside the glove at the top of your wrist.
5. Turn the second glove inside out while pulling it away from your body, leaving the first glove inside the second.
6. Dispose of the gloves safely. Do not reuse the gloves.

Just a quick note to say thank you to all who are donning masks these days when you MUST leave the house. Many of us are also wearing disposable gloves these days as well. What to do when you’re ready to take them off? Here’s the CDC’s recommended procedure for safely removing them.

We’d like to add one more step. PLEASE dispose of them correctly. And, no – tossing them on the ground in the parking lot is NOT the way to do so (SEE PICTURE FROM KEEP ROWLETT BEAUTIFUL PSA BELOW). Please use the trash receptacles. The point of wearing personal protective equipment (ppee) is to stop the spread, failing to properly dispose of used PPE places innocent people at risk of potential exposure. For example, we all know how kids like to pick things up, often putting such things in their mouth (gross, but every parent knows this happens).

It all boils down to common courtesy. We should be considerate of others at all times, but especially during a pandemic. Even the smallest of gestures can make a difference. So, if you wear gloves, masks or other ppee, properly dispose of the items and help everyone stay safe. Thank you!

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

A Public Service Message from Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Inc.

Have you seen used gloves in parking lots? This is littering too... Not only is it bad for the environment, but other humans too. Someone has to pick this up, please don’t put someone else in danger for doing so. The retail workers are risking enough for us all already.

#DontMessWithTexas #BeKind #StaySafe #KeepRowlettBeautiful

Easter is only a few days away but because of COVID-19, we’re singing a different holiday tune: “Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays...”

We understand that Easter is usually a day spent together with extended family, but this year we’re asking you to PLEASE STAY HOME. Right now, the only people you should be spending time with are the people who live with you in your house.

Many churches are hosting “virtual” services, streamed online. Find out if yours will be offering the Easter Sunday service for you to watch from home or use Google to find a service close to you.

You can set up a family hangout via FaceTime, Google Hangouts, or Zoom and enjoy your meal together, but separately. In your own homes.

Get creative and make family memories that you’ll be talking about years from now when you’re all together - because you stayed apart in 2020!

Please share and help everyone to have a wonderful Easter weekend! #HomeForTheHolidays

#MyRowlett RowlettTexas #BetterTogether