

A Weekly Update from City Hall

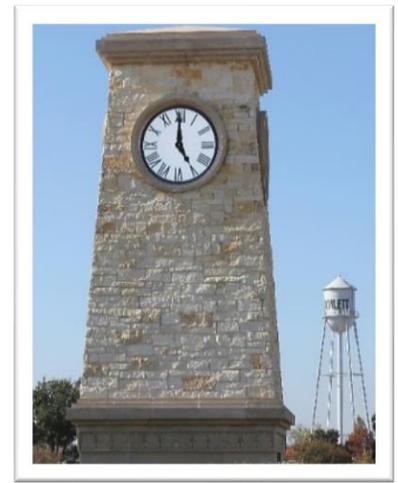
FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 6

04.14.20

Rowlett
TEXAS
THE place to live, work and play.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



"I'd like to thank all of you for working together to flatten the curve of this pandemic. We are not out of the woods yet, although the rate of positive infections has slowed down, the number of impacted individuals continues to rise - but your efforts to stay at home and practice social distancing when you must go out are having a noticeable effect on case numbers. Please keep it up - I can't wait until we can all get together in person once again!"

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Rockwall Central Appraisal District @ Dallas Central Appraisal District

This week, [Rockwall County Appraisal District](#) (RCAD) will release property tax assessment letters, which is the normal timetable for this process. [Dallas County Appraisal District](#) (DCAD) has stated that their appraisal notice process is under review and that the timetable has not yet been determined. Appraisal Districts are legally required to assess property values at 100% of market value as of January 1 each year, regardless of what happens to actual values subsequent to that date. Therefore, any impact on real estate market values due to the COVID-19 health crisis will not be seen until the January 1, 2021 reappraisal date. There are currently no provisions in the tax code to deviate from this defined process and therefore any changes would require legislative action.

It is our understanding that Rowlett residential properties will experience an average market value increase of approximately 10%, however, individual properties could experience market value increases greater than this 10%. Regardless of any increase in market value as determined by the Appraisal Districts, each individual residential property can only increase in taxable value by a maximum of 10% in any given year. Any fair market valuation increases over this 10% are then deferred to increases to taxable value in future year(s).

The initial tax assessment notification process is the start of the annual tax process. After the appraisal district completes the appraisal and notifies individual property owners, property owners then have the right to protest their assessed value with the appraisal district. The deadline to file a protest to your market value assessment is May 15, or 30 days after notice of your assessed value is released, whichever is later. Protest process modifications are underway to accommodate COVID-19 directives:

- RCAD (www.rockwallcad.com)
 - Appraisers will hold scheduled meetings via telephone rather than in person.
 - Currently investigating options to include social distancing protocols for in person hearings.

Dallas County Safer at Home 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 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



- o Property owners may file a protest utilizing the e-file option or by submitting their protest forms via email or fax.
- DCAD(www.dallascad.org)
 - o The protest process is under review and the timetable has not yet been determined.
 - o Property owners are encouraged to conduct business using the online programs.

After assessed values are finalized, decision making moves to the respective taxing authority (i.e. county, city, school district, etc.) in terms of setting an actual tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year. For Rowlett, that process occurs over the summer before adoption in August.



City of Rowlett Offers Small Business Stimulus Grant Program

– Small businesses in the City of Rowlett, like small businesses throughout the country, are suffering financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimates suggest that lost consumer spending may reach \$16.5 billion across the Dallas-Fort Worth region between March and October of 2020. As a result, many small

businesses will experience significant revenue losses. Recognizing the unprecedented financial impacts to the local economy and to our community's small businesses, the Rowlett City Council has approved an initial funding of \$100,000 to establish the Rowlett Business Stimulus (ROBUST) Grant program.

“As part of an overall strategic priority of fostering economic vitality, the City Council adopted a goal to strengthen the City's employment base,” said Rowlett Councilmember Blake Margolis. “We feel strongly that the Rowlett business community now needs our support during this extraordinary health crisis.”

Developed by the Rowlett Ready arm of the [Rowlett Community Organizations Active in Disaster](#) (RCOAD), the ROBUST Grant will provide short-term, immediate financial aid to small businesses who meet certain criteria and have sustained economic losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing a maximum award total of \$10,000 per business, applicants may qualify for grant funds in two categories: Lease/Mortgage Assistance and Payroll Assistance.

Qualifying criteria includes but is not limited to:

- Must be a locally owned, independent business responsible for all revenues and expenses.
- Must have 20 or less FTE (Full time equivalent) for payroll as of April 1, 2020.
- Must have current or anticipated revenue decline beginning March 1, 2020 resulting from COVID-19 impacts.
- Must have a physical and publicly accessible location within the City of Rowlett in a commercial building or business district with a valid Certificate of Occupancy.
- Must have been in continuous operation for a period of at least six months prior to the application date.

“On behalf of the Rowlett Ready COAD and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, I want to thank the City of Rowlett for quickly passing this historic Rowlett Business Stimulus Grant program,” said Rowlett Chamber of Commerce President Michael Gallops. “This program will allow small business owners to retain employees and make their lease payments. This could be the difference in them surviving or closing their business.”

For more information or to apply, go to www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST. Funding is available on a first-come-first-serve basis, applications will be accepted beginning at 8am April 17th through 5pm April 30th.

Dallas County Safer at Home Order

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 13, 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 – March 16, 2020

Coronavirus Information – Texas Health & Human Services Site

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

Tenant Hotline

RFD Telemedic Program Information

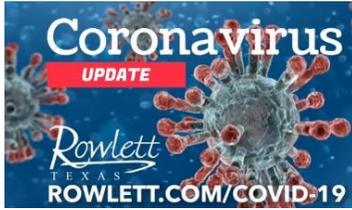
RFD How to Wear Mask/Gloves

Notify Me – Subscribe TODAY!

Connect Rowlett – Sign up today!

May General Election Postponed to November 3





The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 7pm Monday, April 13th:

- National – 582,619 cases, (43,482 recovered), 23,529 deaths
- Texas – 13,588 cases, (2,269 recovered), 288 deaths
- North Texas - 3,945 cases, (563 recovered), 89 deaths
- Dallas County – 1,788 cases, (recovered n/a) 32 deaths
- City of Garland – 178 cases (42 recovered), 6 deaths
- Rockwall County – 29 cases, (0 recovered) 0 deaths
- City of Rowlett – 31 cases (10 recovered), 2 deaths

Our Rowlett cases include 16 women and 15 men. They range in age from late teens to 80's. Ten are under 40 years old and eight 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, closures and the measures instituted to help protect our community.

If you have been tested at either of the public drive-thru test sites in Dallas, you will get a call from the RESULTS CENTER in 3-5 days. Visit the following sites to download a copy of your results:

- American Airlines Center** - <https://myquest.questdiagnostics.com/web/home>.
- Ellis David Field House** - www.labcorp.com/results.

Individuals who have not received their results after seven days may request assistance by emailing www.dallascbtsresults@dallascityhall.com the following info:

Name	Location of Test
Date/Time of Test	Telephone Number



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS – The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has left many without an income, and some are facing hunger for the first time. If you would like to make a [donation to the North Texas Food Bank](#), just click on the link...and help feed our neighbors.

If you know someone in need now, here are a few links that may help them:

- [Mobile Food Pantry](#)
- [Get Food Assistance](#)
- [SNAP Information](#)
- [Senior Programs](#)



GOT STRESS? 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.**

[NTBHA 24-7 COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line - Spanish](#)
[Other Community Resources](#)

Please sign up for **CONNECT ROWLETT** today – Download the Smart911 app, available at the Apple Store or Google Play. Stay up to date with notifications about emergencies and City information. You'll get reliable information about the fast changing COVID-19 situation or other emergencies by text, email or phone call – however you choose. You have the option to provide critical medical information about high risk household members and when a person in your household calls 911, that information is automatically provided for the first responder, saving critical time. All information is safe and secure.



The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures can be difficult to maintain – grocery stores or post office as examples. Please save the surgical masks or N-95 respirators, for healthcare workers and our first responders to wear.





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!



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...

NEXT VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING IS TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST



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.

Dallas County Establishes Tenant Hotline

For those individuals experiencing hardships with paying rent and also possibly facing eventual eviction, this hotline can provide information and help connect you with agencies and groups that may be able to provide some help.

Email: tenanthotline@dallascounty.org

Call: 214-653-6563 or 833-743-0072

Website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/tenant-hotline.php>



DART ADDS GROCERY PICKUP & DELIVERY TO ITS PARATRANSIT SERVICE CUSTOMERS

While shelter-at-home orders remain in place, and as fewer customers take trains or buses, DART continues to branch out with services to the community. On Monday, April 13th, [DART paratransit](#) drivers added grocery pickup and delivery to its services for customers.

The agency's drivers will pick up groceries from the store and deliver them directly to the customer for free. Paratransit riders must place their orders directly with the grocery store and provide DART with pickup ID information.

Customers interested in signing up, or learning more about the service, can call one of the DART Mobility Ambassadors at (214) 828-8588, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

For DART service modifications, details can be found at www.dart.org/mod or by calling DART Customer Service at (214) 979-1111.





Garland Independent School District (GISD) Changed Meal Distribution Times and Procedures - Starting this week 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.



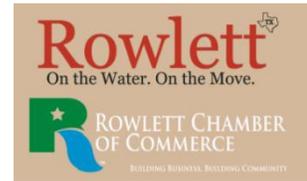
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

For your information the Community Development Department has created a list of essential businesses and their specific uses. Access those [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

You've lost your job due to COVID-19 – What should you do now?

- FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
 - ✓ Apply through [Texas Workforce Commission](#) – or 800.939.6631
 - ✓ If calling, Rowlett's recommended day and times are Tues – Thurs – Sat between 8am – 12noon.
- FIND A NEW JOB
 - ✓ Check out these websites:
 - www.wfsdallas.com
 - www.dfwjobs.com/rockwall-county
 - www.workintexas.com
 - www.sayyestodallas.com/jobs/displaced-workers/
- UP YOUR JOB SKILLS
 - ✓ Training Sites:
 - <https://workeco.wfsdallas.com/programs>
 - www.workintexas.com
- STAY INFORMED
 - ✓ Sign up for Texas Workforce Solutions email updates for job seekers:
 - www.twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-job-seekers



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 that are available, as well as additional local, regional, state, federal government, national, and international resources. The [Rowlett Chamber](#) has many good resources on its webpage too.

AND...there's a list of [Rowlett Food Establishments OPEN FOR BUSINESS](#) and how they can be shopped. Plus a [Link to The Cares Act Key Components](#)



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.



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](#)

Questions about your **pet and their health**? Here is the [Texas Animal Health Commission's FAQ](#)

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

Rowlett Restaurants/Food Establishments – [Open for business](#)

Dallas County Orders – [Safer @ Home](#)
[Long Term Care Facility](#)

Texas Governor's Orders – [Executive Order](#)
[March 31 Essential Services and Activities Executive Order](#)
[Governor Greg Abbott Air Travel Order](#)
[Governor Greg Abbott Detention Centers Order](#)
[Governor Greg Abbott Louisiana Texas Travel Order](#)

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.

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

FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CENSUS – my2020census.gov or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

