

A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5

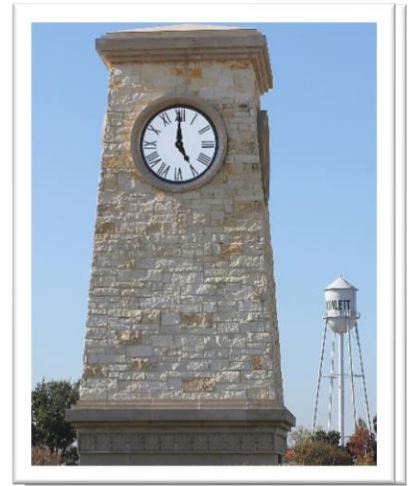
SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 7

04.17.20

Rowlett
TEXAS

THE place to live, work and play.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



"I've been touched by the many Rowlett residents who have donated supplies and food, expressed their thanks, and continue to show kindness and compassion toward one another. Treating each other with respect is important now more than ever. This is a challenging time for everyone, and our community's front-line workers, whether they are first responders, grocery store personnel, medical professionals, or those who service your garbage, are all working hard to facilitate your needs as they also juggle homeschooling kids, changing work schedules, and the added stress of putting themselves at risk every day. So let's keep up the kindness, Rowlett - whether you are speaking with neighbors, communicating with your City staff, or commenting on social media, please choose compassion and civility. We are all in this together."

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



Today, Governor Abbott issued three new [Executive Orders](#) to begin the process of reopening the state of Texas while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines. These orders provide additional exceptions to the stay-at-home order, which is still in place for the whole state until April 30. Within the orders, select activities and services that pose minimal to no threat of spreading COVID-19 are allowed to reopen using a "Retail-To-Go" model, certain restrictions on surgeries have been loosened, and school facilities will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Effective Monday, April 20

State parks will reopen with strict guidelines to reduce transmission of COVID-19—including requiring visitors to wear face coverings, maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party, and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

Effective Wednesday, April 22

Restrictions on certain elective medical procedures and testing will be loosened. Read the order [here](#):

Effective Friday, April 24

This order establishes a temporary "Retail-ToGo" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen. Under this model, reopened establishments are required to deliver items to customer's cars, homes, or other locations to minimize contact. Read the order [here](#):

Within these orders, the Governor has also established the Strike Force to Open Texas—a team of nationally recognized medical experts and private and public leaders who will advise him on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas. Read the order [here](#):

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. Virtual Meeting: **Call: 877.853.5247 (toll free) & use ID: 966 8313 8464**

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 [RIN16](#) or streaming online through our [website](#).

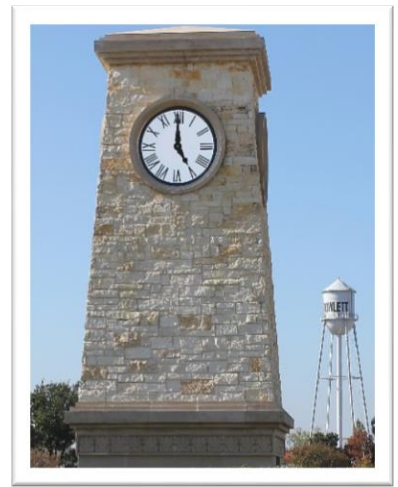
ALL OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL CITY BUILDINGS

* EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY *
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY IF NEEDED



"Texans are battling a colossal challenge—an invisible enemy that has tested our lives and our livelihoods—but overcoming challenges is part of who we are as Texans," said Governor Abbott. "We have shown that Texas can continue our efforts to contain COVID-19 while also adopting safe standards that will allow us to begin the process of reopening Texas. The Strike Force to Open Texas brings together nationally recognized medical experts with public and private sector leaders to achieve this mission. By coming together, we can get Texans back to work, practice safe standards that will prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we can overcome this pandemic."



Dallas County Safer at Home Order – Dallas County has amended their Safer At Home Order under their Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to include directives for face coverings. This Order affects all areas of the City of Rowlett, no matter the county.

Effective 11:59pm tonight – April 17th:

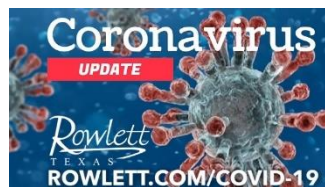
- To the greatest extent possible all persons over the age of two shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandanna or handkerchief, when patronizing an Essential Business or using public transportation.
- To the greatest extent possible, all non-medical employees who work at an Essential Businesses or perform services that are exempt under the Safer at Home Order must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths while performing their work.
- An owner or operator of an Essential Business may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear face covering.
- Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6- foot social distancing and hand washing.

To view this Order and the accompanying [Cloth Face Coverings FAQ](#), please go to www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19, where you will find a lot of good information.

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



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



Public Drive-thru Testing Sites Implemented Now –

Self-swab tests are being implemented at the Ellis Davis Field House (EDFH) and American Airlines Center (AAC) public testing sites. These tests are less invasive, safer, and help preserve PPE supplies.

Beginning April 16th, the EDFH and AAC sites will have new testing criteria:

- ◆ Persons 65 years or older can now be tested without the symptom requirement.
- ◆ Persons with chronic health issues (diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc.) can now be tested without the symptom requirement.
- ◆ All others must have a temperature of 99.6 or higher and shortness of breath or cough (this is the current symptom requirement).

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!



- ◆ A photo ID (but not necessarily a government-issued ID) and health insurance card (if a person has insurance; insurance coverage is not a testing requirement) are required.
- ◆ Both sites are operating every day from 8am to 5pm, unless otherwise determined by testing capacity or weather conditions.
- ◆ Test results will be provided through phone calls or [Quest Diagnostics](#) and [LabCorp](#) websites 3-7 days after testing. However, a delay may occur with physicians receiving the results first before providing it to tested persons. Test sites will not have this information. Individuals who have tested at a City of Dallas COVID-19 public drive-thru test site (American Airlines Center or Ellis Davis Field House) and haven't received their results after 7 days can send an email to Dallascbtsresults@dallascityhall.com with the following info: name, location of test, date/time of test, and telephone number. Someone with the City of Dallas will follow up with Quest Diagnostic or LabCorp on behalf of the individual tested.

The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 7pm Thursday, April 16th:

National – 667,801 cases (54,703 recovered), 32,917 deaths
 Texas – 16,455 (3,677 recovered), 393 deaths
 North Texas - 4,614 cases (698 recovered), 125 deaths
 Dallas County – 2,066 cases (recovered n/a), 50 deaths
 City of Garland - 200 cases (80 recovered), 8 deaths
 Rockwall County – 41 cases (0 recovered), 0 deaths
 City of Rowlett – 36 cases (18 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 17 women and 19 men. They range in age from late teens to 80's. Nine are under 40 years old and seven are over the age of 60.



We have an incredible aid organization based right here in Rowlett – and right now, they need financial support. You can donate on their website today, [Help With A Donation](#).

[Life Message](#), who has served our community for the past 22 years (9 years as a food pantry) is doing unbelievable work to help families in need throughout our region. They are the largest distributor of food for [The North Texas Food Bank](#), which is also suffering greatly during this pandemic.

April has seen a huge increase in demand for food, with 30-60 new families daily asking for assistance.

Life Message historically has operated a self-sustaining business model, which is currently not possible as many of their partners have now decreased their food donations due to reduced supplies and high demands, and income is no longer generated from their thrifts stores due to Shelter-in-Place retail operating restrictions. Life Message has also laid off several employees to reduce operating costs, many of which continue their important work at Life Message on a volunteer basis.

In 2019, Life Message:

- ♥ served over 40,000 families
- ♥ served over 3.6 million meals
- ♥ disseminated almost 4.4 million pounds of food

In March of 2020 alone, Life Message:

- ✓ served almost 3,000 families
- ✓ served almost 127,000 meals
- ✓ disseminated over 152,000 pounds of food

Life Message volunteers are continuing to serve our community and the surrounding area during this pandemic, all while putting themselves at risk on the front lines.

Life Message also operates [The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center \(VROC\)](#) which has seen increased demands from area veterans with diminished resources to service this important segment of our community.

If you would like to help support this amazing resource located right here in our hometown, you can [donate](#) today!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers at Life Message, Inc. for helping so many in need right now!





Hope in Hand food pantry is here to serve you! Serving local communities NOW!

Location: First Christian Church Rowlett
7301 Miller Rd. 75088
972.475.3559

Open: Monday – Wednesday - Saturday from 10am to Noon &
Tuesday evening from 6 to 8pm

Drive thru service! No need to get out of your vehicle.

Needs: If you would like to donate, bins are located on the patio and staff stops by several times a day to take the donations inside. All donated food will be used – whatever you drop off! Thank you in advance!

Canned Meat	Cereal
Canned Pastas	Rice
Canned Veggies	Beans
Canned Fruit	Soup

Garland Independent School District (GISD) – In effect now, 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.



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](#)
[SNAP Information](#)

[Get Food Assistance](#)
[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](#)



City of Rowlett Offers Small Business Stimulus Grant Program – City of Rowlett Offers Small Business Stimulus Grant Program 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.



For more information, go to www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST. Funding is available on a first-come-first-serve basis, applications will be accepted beginning at 8:00am Friday, April 17 through 5:00pm April 30.

“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.”

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.



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 – Call toll free # 877.853.5247 and use ID 966 8313 8464.

The City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing until further notice 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.



Rockwall Central Appraisal District & Dallas Central Appraisal District @

This week, [Rockwall County Appraisal District](#) (RCAD) released 2021 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. To continue reading, click [here](#)...

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>



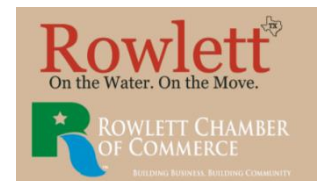
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

There is an abundance of information listed on this [flier](#) – please check it out.

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](#)



Public Service Announcements:



From [Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Inc.](#)



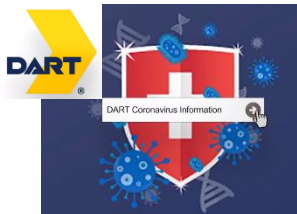
Have you seen used gloves in parking lots? This is littering too... Not only is it bad for the environment, but other humans too. Someone has to pick this up, please don't put someone else in danger for doing so. The retail workers are risking enough for us all already.

Don't be a Victim of these Scams! Coronavirus pandemic scams are proliferating, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is warning of one related specifically to the stimulus checks citizens are receiving via the mail. Scammers send a check purportedly from the "IRS," then claim that they overpaid and you need to wire some money back.



"If you get an official-looking check for more than what you were expecting — say, for \$3,000 — the next call you're likely to get is from a scammer," warns the FTC. "They'll tell you to keep your \$1,200 payment, and return the rest by sending cash, gift cards or money transfers."

Keep in mind that the IRS will not call, text or email you. "Scammers are sending official-looking messages — including postcards with a password to be used online to 'access' or 'verify' your payment or direct deposit information," warns the FTC. "The IRS will not contact you to collect your personal information or bank account. It's a scam."



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. Click on the link above for all information concerning this service.

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

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

Essential Businesses and Specific Uses – [List of Businesses](#)

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](#)

[Covering of Nose and Mouth](#)



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 Abbot Louisiana Texas Travel Order](#)
[Governor Gregg Abbott Hospital Capacity Executive Order](#)
[Governor Gregg Abbott Opening Texas Executive Order](#)
[Governor Gregg Abbott Open Texas Strike Force Executive 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.

