

# A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

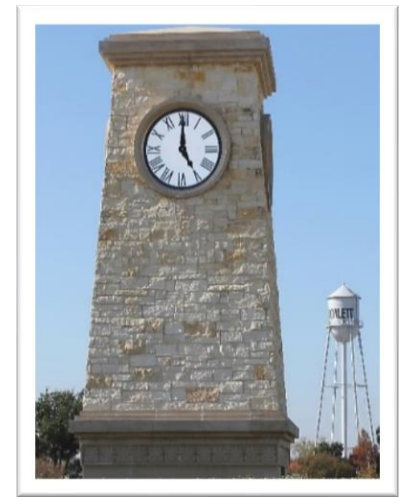
## SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 12

05.07.20

Rowlett  
TEXAS

THE place to live, work and play.



### A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



*“This week, some of our businesses are gradually beginning the process of reopening and many of us are returning to work. But we are not out of the woods yet, positive COVID-19 test results are still on the rise in both Dallas and Rockwall Counties. To protect YOUR family and those you love, please follow the directives issued by Governor Abbott and continue to eliminate nonessential trips out of your house and work remotely whenever possible. If you must go out, wear a face covering and keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others. Rowlett residents are doing a great job and we all really appreciate your sacrifices!”*

Check out the [Special Edition Spotlight on Rowlett](#) for May – this month Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and City Manager Brian Funderburk discuss all of the current COVID-19 updates and information to date.



### WHAT'S NEW...



**More openings...** On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Governor Greg Abbott issued a new Executive Order to support his Open Texas plan and lifted the restraints for more businesses to open on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Reopening at 12:01am, May 8<sup>th</sup>:

- Cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons/shops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers practice their trade; provided, however, that all such salons, shops, and establishments must ensure at least six feet of social distancing between operating workstations. The Governor also strongly recommended masks for both stylists and customers and using a reservation system to avoid grouping of walk-ins in waiting areas.
- Tanning salons; provided, however, that all such salons must ensure at least six feet of social distancing between operating workstations.
- Swimming pools; provided, however, that indoor swimming pools may operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the pool facility; outdoor swimming pools may operate at up to 25% of normal operating limits as determined by the pool operator; and local public swimming pools may so operate only if permitted by the local government.

Reopening at 12:01am, May 18<sup>th</sup>:

- Services provided by office workers in offices that operate at up to the greater of five individuals, or 25% of the total office workforce; provided, however, that the individuals maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Manufacturing services, for facilities that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility.

### **Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency – 9<sup>th</sup> Amended Order**

### **Important City Meetings**

#### **City Council** –

Regular Meetings: May 19; 5:30 pm

\*check agenda on [website](#)\* Friday before mtg

#### **Special Council Meetings**

**Annual Strategy Planning Session -**

May 16, 8:00am-5:00pm

Special Meetings Will be Scheduled as Needed Going Forward

**RCOAD** – Wednesday nights @

5:30pm via GO TO MEETINGS.

Contact [Elise Bowers](#) for more information.

**Board of Adjustment** – Will meet as needed via ZOOM

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*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**



## WHAT'S NEW...continued

- Gyms and exercise facilities and classes that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the gym or exercise facility; provided, however, that locker rooms and shower facilities must remain closed, but restrooms may open. Customers must wear gloves covering their whole hand, all equipment must be disinfected after each use, and any equipment brought in (such as a yoga mat), must be disinfected before and after use. Individuals must maintain appropriate social distancing.

Bars, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, sexually oriented businesses, or interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys, video arcades, amusement parks, water parks, or splash pads, are to remain closed as guidelines for reopening have not yet been established.

The Governor also clarified that weddings and wedding receptions are part of the currently reopened services:

- Wedding venues and the services required to conduct weddings; provided, however, that for weddings held indoors other than at a church, congregation, or house of worship, the facility may operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility.
- Wedding reception services, for facilities that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility; provided, however, that the occupancy limits do not apply to the outdoor areas of a wedding reception or to outdoor wedding receptions.

The Governor's Executive Orders are the governing documents for all of Texas - County and City Orders may not restrict essential or reopened services, may not expand essential or reopened services, and may not allow gatherings prohibited by these orders. You may read the order, along with Governor Abbott's "[Texans Helping Texans – the Governor's Open Texas Report](#)" at [www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19](http://www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19). The "[Texans Helping Texans](#)" publication, which provides detailed guidance for individuals, retailers, customers, restaurants, movie theaters, museums and libraries, outdoor sports participation, places of worship and single-person offices.

Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian amended the [City of Rowlett Disaster Declaration and Orders](#), effective through May 15<sup>th</sup> in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders.

**HOMEOWNER'S ASSISTANCE** – This site tracks policies adopted by the federal government, State of Texas, and local jurisdictions to help Texas residents stay in their homes during the pandemic and accompanying financial crisis. Please review this site if you need assistance staying in your home.



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**Waterview Golf Course is open...**Great news, golfers – with modified operations, American Golf reopened Waterview Golf Course for play on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Limitations include:

- Maximum of 4 players per group.
- 6' minimum social distancing required throughout the property.
- Tee times will be spaced 12 minutes apart to allow for proper social distancing between groups.
- 1 rider per golf cart.

For more information and to book a tee time, please visit [www.waterviewgc.com](http://www.waterviewgc.com).



## 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** – May 5, April 28, 21, 13, 7, & 1; March 30, 23, & 20

**Reopen Texas Video by Mayor & Chamber President** – April 28, 2020

**Coronavirus Information** – Texas Health & Human Services Site

**COVID-19 Testing Sites** – See our website for information on all testing sites

**Reopen Rowlett Responsibly** – Information on City's website

**RFD Telemedic Program Information**

**RFD How to Wear Mask/Gloves**

**Notify Me** – Subscribe TODAY!

**Connect Rowlett** – Sign up today!

**Tenant Hotline**

**Homeowner's Assistance** – Information to Keep your Home



## WHAT'S NEW...continued

**Food Giveaway...On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** from 9am-Noon, Mount Hebron Baptist Church is partnering with the [North Texas Food Bank](#) to distribute 2,500 boxes of food to those in need. The food donations are open to all and there are no eligibility requirements. First come, first served. Located at [1233 State Highway 66](#)



## REVELANT INFORMATION...



### COVID-19 Testing Information

#### Testing

Counterfeit COVID-19 and antibody testing kits are now becoming increasingly available online and throughout the DFW area. **Please be aware that legitimate tests are not available over the counter at any retail locations.** All COVID-19 tests are operating under FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA), so be wary of claims that a test is FDA-approved or -cleared. Additionally, a provider with an EUA for the PCR test (the test to confirm COVID-19) may not have an EUA for a serology test (for antibodies).

Questions about Testing? Here is the [Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview](#)

#### Public Drive-thru Testing Sites

[Texas Department of State Health Services Test Site Locator](#)

Self-swab tests have been implemented at the Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St., and American Airlines Center, 2617 Victory Ave. Parking Lot E, public testing sites. These tests are less invasive, safer, and help preserve PPE supplies. Testing criteria includes:

- 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.
- First responders, DART drivers, healthcare workers, grocery store and essential retail store workers, regardless of symptoms.
- All others must exhibit at least one of the [CDC guidance on the Symptoms of Coronavirus](#).
- 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 Monday-Saturday, 8am to 5pm, Sunday 8am-Noon unless otherwise determined by testing capacity, which is 500 per day, or weather conditions.

**If you have been tested at either of the public drive-thru test sites in Dallas, you will receive a phone call from the RESULTS CENTER in 3-7 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](http://www.labcorp.com/results).

Individuals that have not received their results after 7 days may request assistance via [email](#) with the following info: Name, Location of Test, Date/Time of Test, Phone Number.

#### Drive-thru Rapid Test Sites

[2060 South Buckner Boulevard](#) (Dallas) – Walgreens

[8600 Camp Bowie West Boulevard](#) (Fort Worth) – Walgreens

Each site will be able to perform 160 tests daily and after completing an [online health assessment](#), testing is available by appointment only, administered by pharmacists and at no cost to individuals who meet [eligibility criteria](#) established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Patients will be informed of their results within 24 hours of testing. [More information on Public Testing Sites](#)

[1025 W. Trinity Mills Road](#) – Walmart Warehouse Parking Lot (Walmart Distribution Center)

Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am to 4pm. Performing 250 tests per day, weather permitting. Check eligibility and schedule an appointment through eTrueNorth at [www.DOINEEDaCOVID19test.com](http://www.DOINEEDaCOVID19test.com)

#### At-home Testing

Pixel by LabCorp is now offering at-home nasal swab test kits. This is the **ONLY** at-home COVID-19 test with an EUA from the FDA.



- o To order, go [here](#) and complete a short eligibility survey. If eligible, order and receive the kit via FedEx, collect and ship the sample, online results will be available approximately two days after LabCorp receives your test.
- o [Patient Fact Sheet](#)

**Antibody Testing**

- o There are currently NO approved at-home antibody tests. The counterfeit test kits are potentially dangerous, produced haphazardly, and may even be contaminated.
- o As of May 4, twelve serology (antibody) tests have received an EUA. **NONE** are at-home tests. The FDA has released a summary page for serology tests that have been issued an EUA; [here](#) is the information on these tests.

It's important to understand that a negative result on a standard COVID-19 test is not a waiver for symptomatic persons to cease self-quarantine and/or social distancing measures. Additionally, it does not mean that a person who receives a negative result on one test won't receive a positive result from the exact same type of test performed five minutes later. Similarly, a positive result on an IgM and/or IgG antibody test does not mean that a person is completely immune or, in the case of a positive IgG result, recovered.

The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 6pm Wednesday, May 6th:

National – 1,223,468 cases (189,910 recovered), 73,095 deaths  
 Texas – 34,422 (17,622 recovered), 948 deaths  
 North Texas – 10,336 cases (2,105 recovered), 290 deaths  
 Dallas County – 4,869 cases (recovered n/a), 123 deaths  
 City of Garland – 436 cases (211 recovered), 12 deaths  
 Rockwall County – 105 cases (recovered 56), 4 deaths  
 City of Rowlett – 55 cases (25 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 31 women and 23 men (no gender data available for one Rowlett case). They range in age from late teens to 80's. 18 are under 40, 25 are between 40 to 59, and 12 are 60 +.

**LATEST SCAM ALERT** – Counterfeit COVID-19 and antibody testing kits are now becoming increasingly available online and throughout the DFW area. The image in this post is an example of a fake at-home antibody test sold for \$40 out of a New London, CT convenience store. Please be aware that legitimate tests are not available over the counter at any retail locations. All COVID-19 tests are operating under FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA), so be wary of claims that a test is FDA-approved or -cleared. Additionally, a provider with an EUA for the PCR test (the test to confirm COVID-19) may not have an EUA for a serology test (for antibodies).



Please stay vigilant, valid up to date information is your best defense against these scammers. If you need a COVID-19 test or antibody test, call your doctor or visit one of the public test sites. The Texas Department of State Health Services maintains a listing of these sites [here](#).



Life Message – Rowlett's incredible aid organization could use your financial support. Donate today on their [website](#).

This valuable organization has served our community for the past 22 years (9 years as a food pantry) and is the largest distributor of food for [The North Texas Food Bank](#), which is also suffering greatly during this pandemic.

Life Message also operates [The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center \(VROC\)](#) which has seen increased demands from area veterans with diminished resources. If you would like to help support either of these amazing resources located right

here in our hometown, you can [donate](#) today!

**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



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](#)



**[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!



**[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 SPECIAL MEETING – ANNUAL STRATEGY PLANING SESSION-SATURDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto: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](mailto:cac@rowlett.com).



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**[RowlettReady-Community Organizations Active in Disaster](#)**



To help those in need right now, and to provide an avenue for those who wish to help, the City of Rowlett formed the Rowlett Community Organizations Active in Disaster Committee (RCOAD). This a permanent committee and will provide assistance to Rowlett citizens and the community during and after disaster situations.

The RCOAD is ready to help Rowlet through the COVID-2019 outbreak. Visit [RowlettReady.com](http://RowlettReady.com) to find resources for spiritual and emotional care, business assistance information, local food bank and utility



assistance, and more. [RowlettReady.com](http://RowlettReady.com) is also now able to accept donations, coordinate volunteer opportunities, and facilitate needs for Rowlett residents.

RCOAD received 99 applications for the ROBUST – **Rowlett Business Stimulus** grant and on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the team awarded 19 grants totaling \$100,000. RCOAD is currently working on future funding opportunities.

RCOAD has also contacted 460 seniors for a “welfare check” and make sure their needs are being met. The team has assisted 21 seniors with needs and a second round of calls began this week. RCOAD continues to provide assistance to Rowlett residents.

### **Rowlett Food Establishments OPEN FOR BUSINESS**



Now more than ever your local business community needs you to SHOP ROWLETT...from the retail shop downtown to the restaurant on the corner, they need your business. Shop Rowlett – Stay Local!

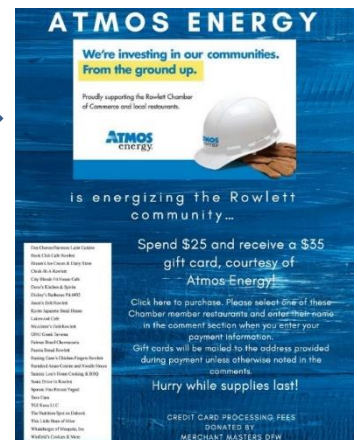
The Economic Development department has an up to date and extensive [COVID-19 business and workforce resource page](#). Results from the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey, administered by this office and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, can be found on this webpage. There are two sets of results, one from April 6<sup>th</sup> and one from April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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. Governor Abbott issued an Open Texas report on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The report can be viewed on the COVID-19 Business & Workforce Resources page or at <https://rowlettonthemove.com/userfiles/file/OpenTexas-Report%204.27.20.pdf>.

In addition, the Industry specific (Retailers, Restaurants, and Single Person Offices) checklists from the report are separated out and available in the Employer section of the COVID-19 Business & Workforce Resources page.

The [Rowlett Chamber](#) has many good resources on its webpage too.

The Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, Atmos Energy, and Merchant Masters DFW have partnered to offer \$35 gift cards for the price of \$25 to Chamber restaurants. To purchase a gift card, go to <https://rowlettchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/184521>



### **LIBRARY**

The Rowlett Public Library now offers **Curbside Checkout**. **DETAILS:** Patrons may check out 10 physical items by request at <https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/forms.aspx?FID=210>.

### **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](http://www.rowlett.com/covid-19)

**Business Protocol Information** – this information is intended to assist our business community

**Essential Household Activities** questions – Email [cac@rowlett.com](mailto:cac@rowlett.com) or call 972-412-6100

**Essential Business Activities** questions – Email [jtucker@rowlett.com](mailto:jtucker@rowlett.com)

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



**Testing** questions? [City of Rowlett Testing Information](#) & [Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview](#)

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

[City of Rowlett Amended Disaster Declaration and Orders](#) – April 28, 2020

**Rowlett Ready** Information – [www.RowlettReady.com](http://www.RowlettReady.com) or email [needs@rowlettready.com](mailto:needs@rowlettready.com) if you need local assistance from volunteers.

**RO**wlett **BU**siness **ST**imulus Grant Program Information – [www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST](http://www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST)

**Aid Organizations** – [Life Message](#), [The North Texas Food Bank](#), [The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center](#), [Hope in Hand Food Pantry](#), [North Texas Behavioral Health Authority](#)

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

**Reopen Texas Video by Mayor and Chamber President** – April 28, 2020

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

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

**Garland Independent School District (GISD)** – meal distribution will be on Monday – Wednesday – Friday. Details Here: <https://www.garlandisd.net/node/11272>; [Map of locations](#)

**Rockwall ISD** will continue to provide Grab"n"Go meals at [Dobbs](#), [Rochell](#) and [Jones](#) Elementary Schools.

**DART Adds Grocery Pickup & Delivery to Its Paratransit Service Customers**

**DART Service Modifications** – [www.dart.org/mod](http://www.dart.org/mod) or call DART Customer Service at (214) 979-1111

**Dallas County Hotline** – Email: [tenanthotline@dallascounty.org](mailto:tenanthotline@dallascounty.org)

Call: 214-653-6563 or 833-743-0072 Website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/tenant-hotline.php>

**HOMEOWNER'S ASSISTANCE** – Information to keep your home.

**Governor's Orders** – [Executive Order](#)

[Texans Helping Texans – The Governor's Report to Open Texas Executive Order](#)

[Hospital Capacity Executive Order](#)

[Travel Executive Order](#)

[Guidance for Houses of Worship](#)

[Previous Orders](#)

**Don't Be A Victim To These Scams, Check Scams, Latest Scam Alert - Fake Tests**

Visit [www.theseniorsource.org](http://www.theseniorsource.org) and [www.ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://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:**

**FCC BULK PICKUP** – Consider allowing your lawn to mulch its own clippings; Keep additional items beside the cart to a minimum.

**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](http://my2020census.gov) or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

