“Working in conjunction with the State of Texas and Dallas and Rockwall Counties, the City of Rowlett will be receiving approximately $3.7 million from the CARES Act. This is such good news; we have been working on behalf of our citizens for weeks to secure this funding for our community. Based on federal guidelines, the City can utilize these funds to help residents with housing and utilities, assist small businesses who have experienced an interruption of operations, provide relief to the non-profit organizations active during the pandemic, and reimburse the City’s COVID-19-related costs. This will allow us to directly help Rowlett residents and businesses who have suffered financial impacts as a result of the COVID-19 virus. More details are coming soon – stay tuned here, on the City’s social media platforms, and at Rowlett.com for updates as they become available.”

#MyRowlett Stories

In this new section we will feature some of the great things happening in Rowlett. Your neighbors, coworkers, family - or you - may be highlighted in this section! So… if you know of someone doing something positive or of an activity honoring someone or a group in your neighborhood – or anywhere in the City – please let us know so we can cover it here! We hope you enjoy these uplifting stories every week. Let’s share all the good stuff …email us at dperrin@rowlett.com

9-1-1. How may I help you – A kitten stuck in a tree? ... Yes, this really does happen. Rowlett Fire Rescue Department (emphasis on the RESCUE for this story) responded to a nighttime distress call from a resident concerned about a little stray fluff ball who was very vocal and refused to come down after practicing his climbing skills in a tree. The crew tried to find him up there but the kitty clammed up and proved adept at avoiding detection. Utilizing all of their extensive real-world situation training, firefighters eventually located the kitten using a cat meow YouTube video. He was successfully rescued and the neighborhood was able to go back to sleep.

Never one to let a good photo op pass him by, Firefighter Paramedic Cody Holt cuddles his new buddy. And, fed him some ham after giving the little guy a bath. Great example of how your Rowlett Firefighters put their personal safety on the line every day - I mean, who voluntarily bathes a CAT?

UPDATE: The kitten later got loose INSIDE the station. Chaos ensued.

UPDATE 2: The kitten was secured and has been dispatched to his fur-ever home. All is quiet once again at Station 2.

#MyRowlett
#MyRowlett Stories continued

First Responder recognition ... Thank you to the Harborside neighborhood for this “glowing” first responder recognition! They wrote to let us know:

"We never want to forget the sacrifices made by our fallen police officers, firefighters, and all other first responders. The Harborside pool tower dusk-to-dawn light is illuminated in a blue light as a reminder of our deep appreciation for their sacrifices. The schedule for the blue light to be on is:

• Any one-week period following the on-duty death and funeral of a DFW-area police officer or first responder.
• Saturday before Memorial Day (May 23rd this year) through Tuesday after Memorial Day (May 26th).
• July 3rd through July 8th, commemorating the mass shooting of Dallas police officers in 2016.
• Last week of September through the National Night Out month-October.
• Saturday before Veterans Day through Tuesday after Veterans Day."

#MyRowlett

WHAT'S NEW...

On May 18th, Governor Abbott gave the green light for additional businesses and services to resume operations as part of the Open Texas plan. The initial plan has been followed by several amendments which authorize or modify the restrictions and protocols businesses must follow. Your can find the detailed list here: https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas.

Effective May 26th:

⇒ Driving Schools
⇒ Food-courts within shopping malls

Effective May 29th:

⇒ Waterpark Operators
⇒ Waterpark Visitors

Effective May 31st:

⇒ Day and Overnight Youth Camps may operate with health and safety protocols in place.
⇒ Youth Sports (with restrictions).
⇒ Professional basketball, baseball, car racing, football, golf, softball, and tennis leagues may apply to the Department of State Health Services for approval to hold professional sporting events in Texas without in-person spectators.
⇒ Adult Recreational Sports Operators
⇒ Adult Recreation Sport Participants

For more information and to view the Open Texas Checklist for each of these reopened businesses and services, go to https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas.
City Will Use Phased Approach to Reopen City Facilities –

Using a phased approach, the City of Rowlett will reopen limited public access to certain facilities beginning Tuesday, May 26\textsuperscript{th} in accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order and Report to Open Texas. This reduced access will allow residents, businesses, and visitors to still conduct in-person business with the City but will help to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community. All visitors are asked to wear a face covering for health and safety while inside city buildings - if our visitors do not have a face covering, one will be provided.

Following guidance and best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the City is performing enhanced cleanings of high-touch areas and putting safety measures in place such as installing sneeze guards at countertops to protect employees and the public, making hand sanitizer stations available, and applying floor decals to assist staff and customers with proper social distancing. Additionally, staff attendants at each reopened facility will monitor the occupancy and regularly wipe down and disinfect frequently used surfaces.

✔️ Opened Saturday, May 23\textsuperscript{rd}:
- Playgrounds and Scentral Bark Dog Park
- Restrooms and drinking fountains remain closed.
- Kids Kingdom remains closed.

✔️ Opened Tuesday, May 26\textsuperscript{th}:
- Rowlett Public Library
  - Open Monday-Saturday  2pm-5pm.
  - Curbside service is available Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm.
  - No programs or classes at this time.
  - Inside limit of 25 patrons at a time.

✔️ Opening Monday, June 1\textsuperscript{st} – normal hours unless otherwise indicated:
- City Hall
  - Lobby limited to five visitors at a time.
  - Meetings held by appointment only.

- Utility Payment Office
  - Entry limited to the east door.

- Animal Services
  - Limited to one visitor at a time.

- Rowlett Community Centre
  - Open Monday – Friday 7am-6pm.
  - Gym open at 25\% occupancy to members only in 45-minute time slots, reservations required.
  - Pickleball courts will be available from 10am to 2pm in 45-minute time slots, reservations required.
  - Patrons required to provide and wear face coverings and disposable gloves.
  - Lockers and showers remain closed.
  - Senior programs and fitness classes remain closed. All others may be conducted at 25\% capacity.

- Parks and Recreation Programming
  - Preschool - adult programming resumes at 25\% capacity.
Athletics practice fields open – one parent per participant in attendance.
Concession stands remain closed.

Community Development
Public Works
Human Resources

✔ Opening Monday, June 8th:
Swim lessons begin at Wet Zone with five or fewer participants (Wet Zone will remain closed at this time).

✔ Opening Monday, June 15th:
Youth sports associations may resume outdoor games and league play.

Online, phone and email services remain available and residents are encouraged to continue to utilize them as much as possible. To limit in-person contact and gathering of groups, City Council Meetings, Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings and any other necessary Boards and Commissions meetings will continue to be conducted via teleconference until further notice. Check the calendar on our website for dates/times.

We look forward to once again safely serving you in person! Please go to www.Rowlett.com for more in depth information about the reopening operations for specific departments.

Closures Still in Place Include:
Municipal Court dockets have been postponed through May 31st. The Court will continue to perform all essential functions daily including magistrate proceedings, protective order proceedings, and certain mental health proceedings. If you would like to attend an essential proceeding, please notify the court at 972-412-6222 or court@rowlett.com. Arrangements will be made for access to the court in most instances.

Fee Suspensions
- Utility disconnects for non-payment are suspended.
- Late fees on water bills are suspended.
- Library fines are suspended and account blocks have been removed.
- Code Enforcement will still provide notices, but citations are suspended.

Cancellations
- Classes, tours and other non-essential gatherings at the Police Department and Fire Stations are suspended.
- Non-essential City events are canceled, postponed or will be held virtually (each event will be separately evaluated).

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL – May 29th – The City Council will be discussing options to allocate over $3 million from the Coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security (CARES) Act. The meeting will start at 1pm and will be held virtually (see instructions below). The agenda is available here.

➢ About the CARES Act: “The CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. This over $2 trillion economic relief package was designed to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for American industries.

On May 22, 2020, the Governor announced that Texas would allocate a portion of these funds directly to Texas cities and counties. As a result, the City of Rowlett, working in conjunction with the State of Texas and Dallas/Rockwall counties, will receive approximately $3.7 million to directly help residents and businesses in Rowlett. The purpose of this item is to discuss the possible programs the funds can be used for and receive direction from City Council for implementation.”

➢ Virtual Meeting Instructions: Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing. The public can view live on the City’s website (https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/397/Streaming-Video) or via RTN16. The public may listen to the meeting live by calling 877-853-5247 and entering Meeting ID#: 836 7422 4018
To provide comment for the meeting, please send an email to CitizenInput@rowlett.com by noon on Friday, May 29th. Please state whether your comment is regarding a specific agenda item or a general comment to the Council. Your comment will be read into the record during the meeting (must be within the 3-minute time limit). There will be no comments taken during the meeting.

CARES Act Funding: Great News, Rowlett – our community will receive grant funding through the CARES Act! Your Rowlett City Council met on Friday, May 22nd to discuss the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. Read More... about the CARES Act and Watch Special Council Meeting from Friday, May 22nd.

REOPEN ROWLETT RESPONSIBLY ...CITY OF ROWLETT PROTOCOLS FOR REOPENED BUSINESSES under Governor Abbott’s Open Texas Order. Below is a list of helpful protocols and information for businesses as Rowlett starts to reopen. Please refer to these protocols often as you consider opening your business.

- Retail
- Restaurant
- Barber Shops, Hair Salons, Nail Salons, Tanning Salons
- Houses of Worship, Funeral Services, Burials and Memorials
- Outdoor Sports
- Parks and Bodies of Water
- Single Person Office Facilities
- Licensed Health Care Professionals

Governor Abbott’s Texans Helping Texans Guidelines to Open Texas

COVID-19 Testing Information

DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE AT ROWLETT WALMART (2501 LAKEVIEW PARKWAY)

✔️ Testing available Monday, Wednesday, Friday
✔️ 7-9am (the days/hours could increase depending on demand)
✔️ Appointment is required – visit DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com

👉🏽 Who can be tested?
The drive-through testing sites is available to those who meet CDC and state and local guidelines on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers, front line workers and others with symptoms of COVID-19, as well as those in high risk groups without symptoms.

👉🏽 What type of test is it?
The site will use a self-administered nasal swab test that will allow those being tested to swab their own nose onsite while in their vehicles, observed by a trained Walmart pharmacist to ensure the sample is taken correctly, and drop the sealed sample into a container on their way out of the drive-thru site.

👉🏽 How long does it take to get results?
Walmart’s lab partner, eTrueNorth, delivers results in three-five days. Patients will be notified of their test results and instructed how to proceed should they test positive.

👉🏽 Are Walmart associates at the test sites?
Walmart pharmacists are observing the swabbing. Other Walmart associates are helping with on-site support tasks such as directing traffic and ID checks at the testing sites.

👉🏽 Is there a cost for the test?
There is no out-of-pocket cost to the individual.
Is Walmart being paid for these sites?
No. Walmart is donating their parking lot space, site supplies and materials, and their associates’ time.

Thank you to our community partners at Walmart for bringing this testing site to Rowlett!

**Walmart Opens Three Additional Free Testing Locations in Dallas County**

Starting Friday, May 15th, Walmart opened four COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites in Walmart parking lots in Dallas County, including the one here in Rowlett:
- 15757 Coit Rd., Dallas, TX 75248
- 951 W. Belt Line Rd., DeSoto, TX 75115
- 5302 N Garland Ave., Garland, TX 75040

The sites are supported by Walmart, eTrueNorth and state and local officials to test anyone who meets CDC and state and local guidelines on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers and others with symptoms of COVID-19 and those in high-risk groups without symptoms. Those interested in being tested need to visit www.DolNeedaCOVID19test.com to see if eligible for testing and to make an appointment.

**Public Drive-thru Testing Sites**

**Texas Department of State Health Services Test Site Locator** – Click on this website for an interactive map showing testing sites.**

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 – Quest Diagnostics
- Ellis David Field House – Labcorp

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.

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).

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.
- 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. Patient Fact Sheet available.

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 7pm Saturday, May 23rd. We are also sharing some hospitalization statistics for North Central Texas. We’ll continue to share these stats several times/week.

National – 1,621,948 cases (361,239 recovered), 97,048 deaths  
Texas – 54,509 cases (33,385 recovered), 1,506 deaths  
North Texas – 17,490 cases (8,452 recovered), 476 deaths  
Dallas County – 8,649 cases (recovered n/a), 210 deaths  
City of Garland – 686 cases (427 recovered), 17 deaths  
Rockwall County – 168 cases (128 recovered), 11 deaths  
City of Rowlett – 75 cases (52 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 42 women and 32 men (no gender data available for one Rowlett case). They range in age from late teens to 80’s. 24 are under 40, 32 are between 40 to 59, and 18 are 60+.
**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

**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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canned Meat</th>
<th>Cereal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canned Pastas</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned Veggies</td>
<td>Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned Fruit</td>
<td>Soup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**Employer Resources**

- City of Rowlett Protocols for Reopened Businesses under Governor’s Open Texas Order can be found [here](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).
- The Governor’s Open Texas [website](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm) has the latest Open Texas checklists as well as printable signs for businesses to post.
- RestoreYourEconomy.org, a website from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), has Reopening Resources [here](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).
- National Retail Federation has an interactive map with retail restrictions by state [here](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).
- Lear Corporations’ Safe Work Playbook (reopening manual) with customizable infographics and detailed protocols for sanitation, social distancing in the break room and more is available [here](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).
- PDF’s and pictures to the right --->

New Reopening resources are available at [https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).

**Resources for Employers and Businesses:**

- [COVID-19 Resources for Employers and Businesses](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm) has been updated including Financial Assistance.
- [ReOpen Main Street’s Strategies & Ideas for Retail Establishments, Food Establishments, and Service-Based Businesses](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).
- [Rowlett Chamber Keep Your Clients and Staff Safe from the Virus](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm) – replay of video with RN Sonja Knappage.
- [Business Retention & Expansion](https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm).

**LIBRARY**

Your City of Rowlett Public Library reopens today! Browse the collection in person from 2pm to 5pm Monday through Saturday. While your Library staff is SO excited to see you again, there are a few new health and safety protocols in place to help protect everyone:

- Visits are limited to 30 minutes with a maximum of 25 patrons in the Library.
- Face coverings are required for everyone over 2 years of age - if you don’t have one, the Library has disposable masks on hand and will be happy to share.
- Fines and fees have temporarily been waived from accounts and the Library will not accept payments or donations at this time.
- Computers, printing, and photocopying are not available.
If you’re not ready to go into public buildings yet, that is totally okay! Curbside Checkout is still available, pickup hours have been shortened to 10:00am to 2:00pm Monday – Saturday so that staff can focus on each group of patrons who wish to enjoy the Library’s offerings. Patrons may check out 10 physical items by request at https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/forms.aspx?FID=210.

And don’t forget about the Library’s great selection of digital resources - all just a click away at https://tx-rowlett2.civicplus.com/93/Library.

“Impportant 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

- Business Protocol Information – this information is intended to assist our business community reopen
  - Essential Household Activities questions – Email cac@rowlett.com or call 972-412-6100
  - Essential Business Activities questions – Email jtucker@rowlett.com

- 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 – May 14, 2020

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


- Aid Organizations – Life Message, Hope in Hand Food Pantry, The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center, The North Texas Food Bank, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority

- 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; NO FOOD SERVICE THIS WEEK!

- Rockwall ISD – New Summer Hours Beginning June 1st 10am-12pm

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

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

- Dallas County Hotline – Email: 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 – Open Texas Executive Order - Phase II
  - Texans Helping Texans – The Governor's Report to Open Texas
  - 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 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.
REMINDEES:

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.