A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN…

“Many citizens have been reaching out with concern for our community and to obtain an understanding on how we ensure all members of our diverse community feel safe and supported by law enforcement officials.

The Rowlett Police Department is committed to serving the citizens of Rowlett and our community in a manner that is consistent and representative of the ideals based on impartial and fair treatment for everyone. The department and the City have publicly denounced the conduct of police officers in Minneapolis, which resulted in the untimely and tragic death of George Floyd. “We do not condone the actions of those officers and cannot justify or defend why they did what they did. Please do not allow this incident to question your faith and trust in this police department,” said Chief Godfrey. “We are saddened and our hearts go out to his family for what could have been avoided and we hope for swift justice for those involved.”

Dedicated to fostering trust, cultivating partnerships and understanding with everyone they encounter, from the Chief to the patrol officers, our police department works every day within the community to build and maintain strong relationships with all persons and groups. The Rowlett Police Department has a long history of transparency and openness with the citizens they serve - they strongly support the community and are committed to ensuring they earn the community’s support and trust in return.

The men and women who comprise the Rowlett Police Department are expected to adhere to a robust code of behavior, morals, and ethics. Thankfully, they are very good at catching bad guys. They are even better human beings. They do not take their oath lightly, they serve with integrity and fiercely safeguard the civil rights of our citizens. Ongoing training and education is a priority, including cultural diversity, policing impartially and without bias or prejudice, de-escalation techniques, verbal and physical confrontation (including methods for safe and effective restraint), community policing and procedural justice. Our officers are held to a very strict standard of professionalism and are swiftly held accountable for any violations of city or state law, department policies, the department’s strong code of ethics, or the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor.

Recent events have reinforced our belief that ensuring a safe community is a partnership, relationships and communication are key. Involvement by citizens is imperative - invite law enforcement to your community events and meetings to foster open dialog and an honest exchange of viewpoints. We are better together when we seek to understand each other. Our officers regularly partner with neighborhoods, community groups, home owners associations and neighborhood associations. We have a very successful Crimewatch Program and our National Night Out is another great opportunity to meet your neighbors and your neighborhood police officers. There are School Resource Officers in every school to build relationships with our community’s young people, and they conduct multiple youth and teen camps every summer. We also encourage people to attend the Citizen Police Academy, this 12-week program offers great insight into the incredible work your police department is doing and provides a great opportunity to build the relationships necessary for a healthy community.

Rowlett has come together in the face of adversity before and always comes out stronger on the other side. As a nation, we are trying to rectify the injustices that led to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breona Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, and many others. I am so proud of the way our citizens have chosen to peacefully stand up and let their voices be heard.
One of the first actions I undertook when becoming mayor was to start a Diversity & Inclusion Commission and a Youth Advisory Council. These were two areas that I thought were underrepresented when I came into office. Both of these groups are doing amazing work. I would encourage you and all of our citizens to become involved with these or any of the other opportunities we have out there for citizen engagement. Here are some of the areas which may be of interest to you:

- Citizen Policy Academy
- Citizen Fire Academy
- Rowlett City Academy
- Volunteers in Police Service
- Community Emergency Response Team
- Boards & Commissions
- Good Neighbor Awards
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Volunteer Program
- Spirit of Rowlett Awards
- Men & Ladies of Honor
- Life Message
- Rotary Club
- Keep Rowlett Beautiful
- School Resource Officers
- Youth & Teen Academy

Our extensive and diverse Faith Community is a great resource for our citizens throughout our community. Our pastors are in partnership to lead this community with passion and compassion in times of difficulty."

#MyRowlett #BetterTogether

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#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

Rowlett Community Centre has reopened! The RCC opened on Monday, June 1st with limited hours and open to members only – but it’s exciting to see our patrons again!

The rules are listed at the Parks and Recreation website: www.rowlett.com/parksandrec.

To make a quick reservation online through your computer, tablet or your phone, visit http://www.signupgenius.com/go/rccreopening #MyRowlett

The Summer Reading Program has BEGUN!

This year, the Library may be doing things a little differently, but there are still plenty of fun programs and prizes to foster and encourage a love of reading.

Instead of having storytimes and programs at the Library, Summer Reading participants will be entertained by magic, animals, music and amazing acts on the Library’s Facebook page.

Each week, readers complete the online reading challenge entry form to be entered into weekly prize drawings. For each challenge category, there will also be a grand prize drawing at the end of summer. The more weeks you enter your reading challenge goals, the greater your chance of winning the grand prize.

The Library does still have paper reading logs for young readers to chart their progress, and prize giveaways will continue throughout the summer - little ones love prizes!

Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency – 10th Amended Order

Important City Meetings

City Council –
Regular Meetings: June 2 & 16; 5:30 pm *check agenda on* Friday before mtg

Special Council Meetings:
Will be Scheduled on as Needed Basis

Virtual Planning & Zoning Meeting –
June 9 & 23 @ 6:45pm

Virtual Community Investment Advisory Board – June 8 @ 6pm

RCOAD – June 3 & 17 @ 5:30pm

*Check for Agendas Here*

**BOARDS WILL START MEETING IN JUNE – CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR VIRTUAL MEETING DATES & TIMES**

**NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

All meetings will be held virtually – until further notice.

Watch them on Rowlett's Cable Channel RTN16 or streaming online through our website.
WHAT’S NEW...

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 Meetings from Friday, May 22nd and 29th.

City Will Use Phased Approach to Reopen City Facilities –

Using a phased approach, the City of Rowlett reopened facilities beginning Tuesday, May 26th 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.

✔ 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.

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✔ NOW OPEN – 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 2-hour time slots, reservations required.
Pickleball courts will be available from 7am to 1pm in 2-hour time slots, reservations required.
Fitness Equipment available in 45-minute time slots, reservations required; face coverings and gloves required in Fitness area only.
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

✅ Playgrounds and Scentral Bark Dog Park
→ Restrooms and drinking fountains remain closed.
→ Kids Kingdom remains closed.

✅ 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, in 30-minute increments.

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 June 11th. 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).

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.
The Action Center is your one-stop-shop, offered by the City of Rowlett to assist citizens. Call 972.412.6100

Our Purpose Is To Serve! ~ The Friday @ 5 is published by the City Manager’s Office

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 DolISeeaCOVID19Test.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 Opened 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 Monday, June 1st. We are also sharing some hospitalization statistics for North Central Texas. We’ll continue to share these stats several times/week.

National – 1,809,109 cases (458,231 recovered), 105,099 deaths  
Texas – 64,880 cases (43,338 recovered), 1,678 deaths  
North Texas – 20,486 cases (11,479 recovered), 534 deaths  
Dallas County – 10,462 cases (recovered n/a), 192 deaths  
City of Garland – 843 cases (531 recovered), 19 deaths  
Rockwall County – 186 cases (recovered 154), 13 deaths  
City of Rowlett – 89 cases (57 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 52 women and 37 men (no gender data available for one Rowlett case). They range in age from late teens to 80’s. 30 are under 40, 37 are between 40 to 59, 12 are 60 to 69, 5 are 70-79 and 5 are 80+.
The Action Center is your one-stop-shop, offered by the City of Rowlett to assist citizens. Call 972.412.6100

Our Purpose Is To Serve! ~ The Friday @ 5 is published by the City Manager’s Office

**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!

**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**

**NTBHA 24-7 COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line - Spanish**  **Other Community Resources**

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**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.
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 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...

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

A second COVID-19 Business Impact Survey is available for businesses to participate in. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete and helps the City of Rowlett, Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, and other entities understand and capture the state of businesses as they begin reopening amongst social-distancing and while managing impacts on business operations. Please click here to begin.

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund program has launched a special COVID-19 initiative. There is a total of $10 million available in grant funds for eligible training provider applicants that can respond to training needs of Rowlett business partners. Rowlett businesses impacted by COVID-19 may receive training for existing employees and new hires through partnerships with training providers (Collin College, Eastfield College). Program staff would work with Rowlett businesses and training providers to support application development and submission. For more information, contact Susie Davisson, Program Manager of the Grants Management Office for Collin College at sdavisson@collin.edu or (972) 985-3745 or Janet Foreman, Eastfield College, at janetforeman@dcccd.edu.

Exciting to see our local businesses reopening! Remember they are making lots of tough decisions about how to operate safely and effectively. Remember... Be Patient – Be Positive – Work Together – Support Local Business!
New reopening resources are available at
https://rowlettonthemove.com/emergency/1/employer-resources.htm

Resources for Employers and Businesses:
COVID-19 Resources for Employers and Businesses has been updated including Financial Assistance
ReOpen Main Street’s Strategies & Ideas for Retail Establishments, Food Establishments, and Service-Based Businesses
Rowlett Chamber
Keep Your Clients and Staff Safe from the Virus – replay of video with RN Sonja Knappage
Business Retention & Expansion

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IMPORTANT WEBSITES, EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION:
Facts regarding COVID-19 and how to prevent it, what to do in the event you or a family member become ill, and many other resources including the latest news concerning our community.
www.rowlett.com/covid-19

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 itucker@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.
ROwlett BUstimulus Grant Program Information – www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST

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
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.
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.


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Food Give Away from 9am to 12pm – sponsored by the North Texas Food Bank and Mt. Hebron Church, 1233 Hwy 66, Garland. At least 1000 food boxes will be distributed to Garland and other area residents. Distribution will be first come, first served while supplies last.

#MyRowlett  #BetterTogether