



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

October 2018

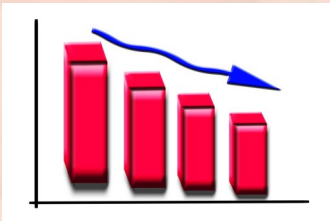
Rockwall Adds a New K-9 Unit... to the Fire Department



The Rockwall Fire Department has welcomed two new important additions to the firefighting team. Marcus "Sam" Stephenson and his partner, Kenna, have joined the Fire Marshal's office as the City's first accelerant detection K-9 unit. The pair will help with scenes and specifically arson investigations in Rockwall and neighboring cities. The Rockwall Fire Department is now one of only 10 agencies in Texas with a K-9 team.

Prior to his current role, Sam was with the Dallas Fire Department for more than 26 years. He and Kenna teamed up five years ago, right after she completed training. She's a 6 year old Belgian Malinois that can detect 16 different types of accelerants. Kenna is certified through the State Fire Marshal's

Office and North American Police Work Dog Association to sniff out ignitable liquids, such as gasoline, used especially in arson fires. When not on duty, Kenna lives with Sam at his home in the Rockwall area.



City Council Lowers Tax Rate Fifth Year in a Row

At the regular meeting on September 17, the Rockwall City Council adopted the effective tax rate, resulting in the lowest rate in more than a decade. The approved tax rate of 40.21 cents is 2.15 cents less than the rate last year.

The effective tax rate allows the City to collect the same amount in taxes as the year before, as calculated by formulas prescribed by the state. The actual change in ad valorem tax for any individual property is also a function of its assessed value.

Some of the highlights of the 2018-2019 budget include:

- Six new full-time firefighters, one training officer, and new fire truck in the Fire Department
- Three new school resource officers (75% funded by RISD), and one Police sergeant
- Two new positions in the public works department
- \$2.5 million for street maintenance and repairs

Several factors enabled the City to utilize the effective tax rate without making substantial cuts to the budget, including a robust sales tax revenue coupled with significant increases in growth related new value.

Happening Around Town

Thursday-Saturday, May 3-October 26

San Jacinto Plaza Music Series, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

Scare on the Square, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 4-9 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

Halloween Extravaganza, The Harbor, 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, November 3

Fishing Derby, Harry Myers Park West, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday, November 10-11

Outdoor Family Campout, Harry Myers Park, Sat. 1 p.m.-Sun. 10 a.m.

Sunday, November 11

100th Anniversary of World War I, Rockwall County Courthouse (1111 East Yellowjacket Lane), 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, November 24

Shop Small Saturday, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 5-9 p.m.

For more information:

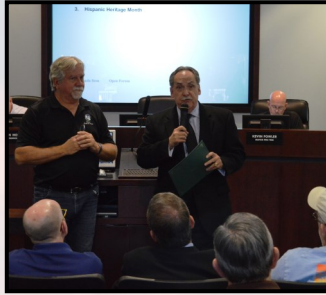
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com

Out and About in Rockwall



American Legion Recognition

The American Legion is a veterans community service organization committed to supporting veterans' causes and promoting the ideals of freedom and democracy. The Rockwall City Council recently recognized the Terry Fisher Post #117 for making a difference throughout the area.



Hispanic Heritage

The City Council recognized Hispanic Heritage month to honor the importance of the contributions of the Latino culture and people to the robust history and economic prosperity of our community.



Constitution Week

This year marks the 230th anniversary of the framing of our nation's Constitution. Every year the City Council recognizes Constitution Week to mark the occasion and celebrate this historic landmark document.



Dobbs Dedication

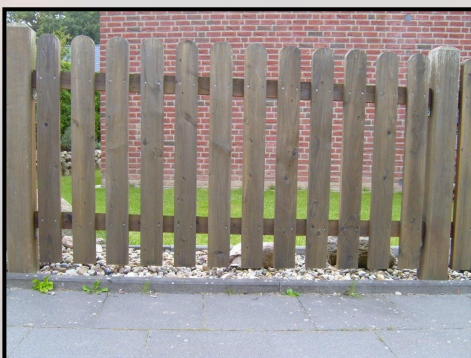
The Rockwall Independent School District has officially opened their newest building. Howard Dobbs Elementary was the first primary school in Rockwall, and at the dedication of the new facility, officials recognized Mayor Jim Pruitt for the City's assistance during the building process.



Students Selected for Leadership Organization

Six new members have been selected for the City of Rockwall's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the new school year. In addition, six members will return to the leadership organization. YAC helps teach high school-aged students about local government, while providing them with opportunities to hone their leadership skills.

The new students for the 2018-2019 year include Nicholas Alverson, Kendall Braddock, Mazie Johnson, Peyton Nielsen, Kavya Venugopalan, and Susie Wilson. Returning students include Caleb Davis, Brenden Ivey, Addison Schale, Mary Claire Weible, Emily Williams, and Parker Yarbrough.



Maintaining Fences in the City

In an effort to keep the area beautiful and maintain a high quality of life for Rockwall residents, the City Council amended the ordinance last year to help clarify minimum maintenance standards for fences. Some of the highlights of the ordinance include:

- All structures must be maintained in good condition.
- Structure and materials must be uniform.

To learn more, please contact the Building Inspections Department at 972-771-7709 or permits@rockwall.com.



Be in the Know Among Rockwall Residents

Did you know? There are many ways to stay connected with all that is happening in the City of Rockwall. In addition to our website, or following us on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor, you can also sign up to receive emails about important news and events happening in the area.

Here are the simple steps:

- Visit rockwall.com, click the news icon in the bottom left
- Top right of the news page, click sign up for enews
- Follow steps to sign up
- Start receiving City of Rockwall communications