



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

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Rockwall City Council Sets Lowest Tax Rate in 15 Years

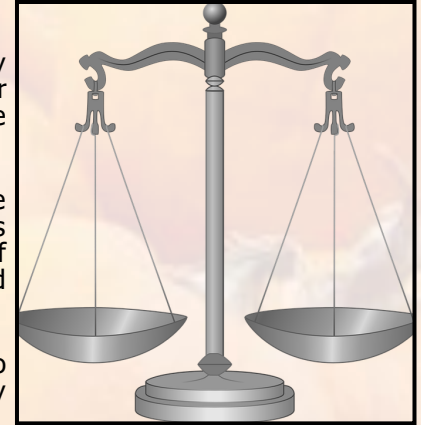
The Rockwall City Council voted to adopt a rate below the no new revenue rate (formerly known as the effective rate), which continues a seven-year trend to decrease the tax rate for Rockwall residents. The approved tax rate is 1.79 cents less than the rate last year. Also at the meeting, the Council adopted the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The City Council directed staff to prepare a balanced budget based on the no new revenue rate, which allows the City to collect the same amount in taxes as the year before, as calculated by formulas prescribed by the state. The new tax rate of 37.00 cents per \$100 of valuation is down from the 38.79 cents adopted for the previous year. The actual change in ad valorem tax for any individual property is also a function of its assessed value.

This year's COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic uncertainty have led City leaders to take a cautious approach to the budget. While the City of Rockwall continues to be financially healthy, in light of recent events, the budget will remain conservative.

"As a City Council, we have taken great strides to ensure we don't add to the financial load of our residents during these challenging times," said Rockwall Mayor, Jim Pruitt. "We are happy to adopt a balanced budget that continues to provide the high quality services our residents enjoy, without burdening our taxpayers in doing so."

The new budget continues to address important services such as public safety, parks and recreation, and street repair and maintenance. This budget does not pertain to the Street Repair Bond approved by voters in 2018. Several factors enabled the City to utilize a lower rate without making substantial cuts to the budget, including sales tax revenue coupled with significant increases in growth-related new value. The City's new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2020.



I-30 in Rockwall County Renamed for Congressman Ralph Hall



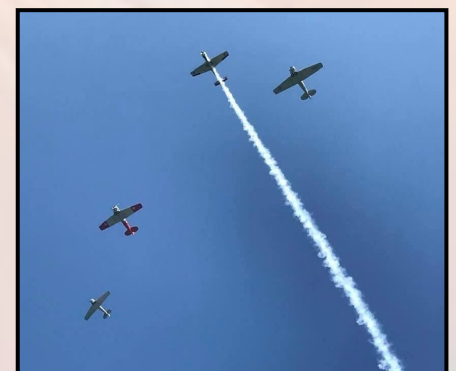
It's Official! The portion of Interstate 30 within Rockwall County will be renamed in honor of our very own Congressman Ralph Hall. The renaming ceremony took place at the Rockwall County Courthouse.

Now from Dallas County to the Hunt County line, I-30 will officially be known as Ralph M. Hall Highway. Congressman Hall was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980, and served until 2015.

Signage on the highway will begin going up soon, funded by private donations from Lakeside National Bank, Republic Waste Management, and The Band of Brothers, Sisters & Friends veterans' group.

Heroes Bridge Dedication and Flyover

It was a beautiful day for the official dedication of State Highway 66 as "Heroes Bridge" between Rockwall and Rowlett. The event raised awareness of the prevalence of veteran and first responder suicide. Statistics show that military veterans, police officers, and other public servants have a higher rate of suicide than the general population. After a Hands Across the Bridge Walk Ceremony, the crowds watched a unique flyover of vintage airplanes, by the Dallas-Fort Worth Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, which was sponsored by the City of Rockwall for the event. The Rockwall City Council voted to officially rename "Heroes Bridge" in July.



Out and About in Rockwall



Constitution Week

This year marks the 232nd anniversary of the framing of our nation's Constitution. Every year the City Council issues a proclamation to recognize Constitution Week and a group of dedicated residents works to raise awareness to mark the occasion and celebrate the historic document.



9/11 Remembrance Flags

In honor of Patriots' Day, the American Legion placed U.S. flags around the Historic Rockwall County Courthouse on the square. The patriotic display was a tribute to the fallen heroes in the attacks of September 11, 2001.



American Legion Day

The Rockwall City Council issued a proclamation honoring the Rockwall American Legion Terry Fisher Post 117 for all their work to support local veterans and promote patriotism throughout the community.



FD Promotion Ceremony

The Rockwall Fire Department recently completed a promotional process for the position of Captain. The selection process included a written test, 3-phase assessment center, and a Chief's interview. The Rockwall Fire Department is proud to announce the promotion of these officers. Please join us in congratulating Charles Smith, Michael Burden, and Todd Rowan, as pictured above with Fire Chief Kenneth Cullins. We are proud of all their hard work and dedication.



Rockwall Farmers Market Gives Back

As the 13th season closes on the popular Rockwall Farmers Market, there is one more thing to celebrate about the lauded event. Every year, the nonprofit founding group, Friends of Downtown Rockwall, donates the market's proceeds to a local organization. This year's recipients: the Rockwall Police Department and Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County, both received checks for \$5,000 each. The Rockwall Farmers Market runs every Saturday, from May through September.

Let Your Landscape Rest

For the next several months there is not much to do to your landscape, except let it rest. That's the best way to ensure it'll be ready for next spring. Here are some tips:

- Turn off your irrigation system before the first freeze to prevent accidental ice.
- After the first freeze, you may wonder, "What happened to my lawn"? Pictured right is typical freeze damage where ice turns the grass partially brown, causing a mosaic striping pattern.

