



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

September 2021

Rockwall City Council Officially Names Mary Smith as City Manager

The Rockwall City Council has named Mary Smith as the new City Manager. Mrs. Smith has been serving as the Interim City Manager since January when Rick Crowley retired from the position. Mary Smith, who has been with the City of Rockwall for 23 years, has served in the dual role of Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance since 2012. Upon the announcement, Mayor Kevin Fowler said, "Mary is a natural fit for the job."

Shortly after being appointed as the Interim City Manager earlier this year, Mary Smith led the City through the winter storms that rocked North Texas. When temperatures dropped to deadly levels and residents lost power in their homes, she and then Mayor Jim Pruitt made the call to open a warming center to keep people safe. Mrs. Smith and a small crew of city employees and volunteers manned The Center until power was restored and residents could safely return home.

Mrs. Smith, a CPA, has served the City of Rockwall as the Finance Director since 1998 and has overseen a lot of growth and change in more than 20 years here. "We've made great strides over the years, working with City leaders to keep the tax rate low and help keep business vibrant in our community," Smith said. "Our goal is to focus on our customers, the residents, and their needs. We do our best to help people and businesses become successful."

Several City Council seats were up for reelection this year, and the previous Council chose to have Mrs. Smith serve as Interim City Manager until the new Council was installed. "Mary has demonstrated stellar leadership when we've needed it," said Mayor Fowler. "She has the experience and wisdom we need in a City Manager."

Mary Smith is an active volunteer in the community with Rockwall County Kiwanis and the Rockwall Farmers Market. She and her husband Keith have been married 25 years and are parents to four adult children and four grandchildren. "Our long-term goals are to manage the growth, while retaining the hometown charm that we all love, and striking a balance between the two," Mrs. Smith said. "I'm looking forward to this new chapter with the City."



Rib Rub Run and Roll is On The Way

Once again, the best of the best are firing up their grills and getting ready for the hottest BBQ competition around. The highly anticipated results determine who gets to claim the title of the Best in BBQ. The 13th Annual Rib Rub Run and Roll is coming up on Saturday, October 2.

This year's event will be jam-packed with food and fun. The day starts with a 5K, 10K and 1-mile fun run. After that, there is live music all day, a car show and a Taste of Rib Rub (tickets required), featuring BBQ from Sideways, Smoke Sessions, and more.

For complete details on Rib Rub Run & Roll 2021, please visit playrockwall.com.

Happening Around Town

Saturdays, May 1-September 25

Rockwall Farmers Market, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fridays-Saturdays, May 7-October 30

San Jacinto Plaza Music Series, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 7-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 2

Rib Rub Run and Roll, Harry Myers Park, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

Scare on the Square, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, November 6

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

Thursday, November 11

Holiday Open House, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 5-9 p.m.

For more information:
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com

Out and About in Rockwall



Pettinger Preserve Classrooms

The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department is educating residents about the great outdoors. They have created three outdoor “hands-on learning” classrooms, aimed at educating the public about the flora and fauna of the Pettinger Nature Preserve, including beneficial insects, wildlife, prairie plants, and the riparian area.



Engineers Day Recognized

The Rockwall City Council recognized Professional Engineers Day, as named by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Mayor Kevin Fowler said, “Professional engineers with the City of Rockwall develop solutions for technical, societal and commercial problems, while working to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of its residents.”



Eagle Scout Shout Out

Rockwall relies on volunteers! The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has a whole crew of VIPs (Volunteers in Parks) who work to help keep our parks running smoothly. Eagle Scout candidate, Mason Trammell, and his Troop 989 tackled a new Eagle Scout Project recently, installing bridges in Squabble Creek to help make the trails safer.



First Responders Receive Lifesaving Awards

The Rockwall City Council recognized the swift action of a team of first responders with Lifesaving Awards – for saving the life of a local resident. Both police officers and firefighters worked quickly to save a man who was unconscious when they arrived. The lifesaving team consisted of: Police Officers Aaron Raymond and David Taylor, and Firefighters Greg Givens, Andrew Burton and Zach Yates. The man, who has made a full recovery, was on hand at the Council meeting to extend a personal “thank you” to the first responders who saved his life.

Officers Raymond and Taylor arrived on scene to the man who was in cardiac arrest, and they began to perform CPR. When Firefighters Givens, Burton and Yates arrived, they began resuscitation efforts with a bag valve mask and an automatic external defibrillator (AED), which soon revived the man. Rockwall County EMS transported the patient to an area hospital and he was released a few days later. He personally

spoke at the Council meeting to thank the team for their efforts, saying, “because of you, our family is still together and I’m standing here today.”

Love Your Landscape: Fall is Around the Corner

Believe it or not, fall is right around the corner. There are some important steps we can take now to get our lawns and landscapes ready for the changing weather:

1. Early September: Replenish mulch in landscape bed
2. Mid September: Put out pre-emergent application for winter weed control
3. Late September: Last application of fertilizer on turfgrass and landscape for winter. A 3-1-2 ratio is recommended for last application, such as a 15-5-10 fertilizer
4. Late September: Fall application of red imported fire ant bait

