



# ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

January 2024

## Rockwall To Call General Election

On Monday, February 5, the City of Rockwall will call an election to be held on May 4, 2024 for the purpose of electing three City Councilmembers – one each for Places 2, 4 and 6. Terms for all elected Rockwall City Councilmembers are for a period of two years. All three incumbents - Mark Moeller, Place 2, Sedric Thomas, Place 4, and Anna Campbell, Place 6 - are eligible to run for reelection.

An informational candidate packet for residents who may be interested in learning more about running for Rockwall City Council is available both at City Hall (385 S. Goliad on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Secretary's Office) and online for download via the City Secretary's webpage at <http://www.rockwall.com/citysec.asp>. The period for submitting an application for a place on the May 4 election ballot runs from Wednesday, January 17 through Friday, February 16.



It is anticipated that the City of Rockwall's municipal election will again be administered by the Rockwall County Elections Department, as has been done in past years. Early voting will run from Monday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 30 (excluding Sunday). Election Day voting will be held Saturday, May 4. More information concerning specific polling locations and voting dates and times will be made available on both our city website and on the Rockwall County Elections Department website as soon as those details become available.

Please direct questions regarding ballots by mail, voter registration, designated voting locations, etc. to the Rockwall County Elections Department at [rockwallvotes.com](http://rockwallvotes.com). Information concerning the Rockwall City Council municipal election may be directed to the City Secretary, Kristy Teague, at [kteague@rockwall.com](mailto:kteague@rockwall.com).



### City Manager Celebrates Milestone Anniversary

The Rockwall City Council honored City Manager Mary Smith for 25 years of service with the City of Rockwall. Mrs. Smith, a CPA, came here in 1998 as the Director of Finance, and was named City Manager in 2021. At a recent Council meeting, Mayor Trace Johannesen presented Mrs. Smith with a proclamation and plaque for her classic anniversary.

Mary Smith was promoted to the dual role of Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance in 2012, and after serving briefly as Interim City Manager starting in January of 2021, was named City Manager in August of the same year.

Mrs. Smith has overseen a lot of growth in her nearly three decades in Rockwall. Since 1998, the population has grown from about 15,300, to more than 51,000 today. The city budget was about \$7 million and now is close to \$50 million. Rockwall PD has grown from 33 officers to 97, and the Fire Department has grown from all volunteers to 66 full-time personnel.

*Happy New Year*

### Happening Around Town

#### Saturday, January 20

*Daddy-Daughter Dance, Hilton at The Harbor, 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (pre-registration required)*

#### Saturday, February 3

*Discounted Pet Shot Clinic, Harry Myers Community Center (807 East Washington St.) 10 a.m.-12 noon*

#### Saturday, March 23

*Spring Eggstravaganza, The Harbor (2059 Summer Lee Dr.) 1-4 p.m.*

*For more information:  
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com*



## Out and About in Rockwall

### Christmas Events in Rockwall Huge Success

Crowds turned out once again to help ring in the holidays in Historic Downtown Rockwall. This year the celebration seemed to be even bigger and better than ever before.

The day started early with the 54th Annual Rockwall Kiwanis Christmas Parade. Onlookers thoroughly enjoyed the fun family tradition.

Next, everyone headed over to Downtown Rockwall for the Hometown Christmas Celebration, including personalities from WFAA-TV. It was a great turnout and plenty of festivities on the square made for a jolly day.

The events ended late in the evening with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at City Hall, complete with cookies from Rockwall Women's League, hot chocolate and loads of family fun to start the season right.



### Change in Garbage Rates for New Year

According to the solid waste contract with longtime partner, Republic Services, the rates for garbage and recycling will increase 3% for residents. This translates to an increase of \$.65 per month. Under the agreement, Rockwall residents will continue to enjoy unlimited bulk trash pickup, twice per week garbage services, and weekly recycling.

Residents will see no increase in the cost for household hazardous waste collection. With this service, residents have access to convenient scheduled porch pickup of approved hazardous waste items. The Rockwall City Council granted a five year contract extension to HHW Solutions, LLC, which has been the city's hazardous waste provider for several years.

Commercial garbage rates will also see an increase of 3%. The new garbage rates apply to service starting in January and will appear on February bills.

### Have You Seen This?

The Rockwall Art Commission took advantage of a pretty day recently for a group picture. The board spearheaded the #PictureThisRockwall project and the first installation is at The Harbor.

The new art venture provides the perfect setting and backdrop to your picturesque outings at The Harbor. It's literally a larger-than-life picture frame, strategically placed for you to encapsulate all your lakeside fun! The frame took more than six months to create and the beautiful piece was skillfully handcrafted by a handful of Rockwall Parks staff members. Look for more details and future rollouts coming soon. In the meantime... post your best pics, and be sure to tag [#PictureThisRockwall](#)



### City's Water Rates Changing

The City Council periodically sets water and sewer rates to collect sufficient funds to run the city's water and wastewater operations, to pay debt service on large utility projects, and to maintain a minimum 60-day reserve in the event of a downturn in revenues.

Additionally, the city's provider, North Texas Municipal Water District sets water rates to meet their expenses, debt service, and reserve needs. The rate adjustment this year was \$.30 cents per thousand gallons of water. Wastewater treatment cost has increased an overall 19.7% year over year.

The new base rate will increase \$.76 cents per month for water and \$1.75 per month for wastewater. The volumetric rate will increase approximately \$.30 cents per thousand gallons across all rate tiers for water and \$.70 cents per thousand gallons for wastewater. Wastewater will continue to be billed based on a winter averaging to best reflect the domestic water usage metered at each home compared with the much higher summer months consumption.

