



City of Rockwall
The New Horizon

PRESS RELEASE

One Hundred Years of History Travels through Rockwall Next Week

Antique car group tour marks centennial anniversary of Historic Bankhead Highway.

ROCKWALL, TEXAS – April 15, 2016 – The City of Rockwall welcomes antique car and history enthusiasts who plan to gather next Friday, April 22, at about 10:20 a.m., in the hopes of catching a glimpse into the past. About 50 antique cars, some dating back to the early 1900s, will roll through Rockwall next week and make a brief 30-minute stop around the Historic Downtown Courthouse, as part of an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Historic Bankhead Highway.

The highway, which is SH 66 through Rockwall, was the first to connect the nation from coast to coast. In 1916, U.S. Senator, John H. Bankhead, spearheaded the project for the road that would bear his name. This was a monumental undertaking for the time, because the Bankhead Highway was the first federally subsidized all-weather roadway that connected Washington, D.C. to San Diego. Interestingly, almost one third of the road ran through Texas, from Texarkana to El Paso, as Texas Highway 1.

The Antique American Independent Automobile Association (AAIAA) is hosting the Bankhead Highway Centennial Celebration, featuring a vintage car tour across Texas. The tour starts in Texarkana on April 20, and ends in Odessa on April 24. The American made cars range from the 1920s to the 1960s, and they are scheduled to make a very brief stop in Rockwall next Friday morning. The City of Rockwall will host a small reception for the drivers on their tour, and be forewarned, they will only be here for 30 minutes before they head back on the road. The public is invited to attend the abbreviated tour stop, to view the cars, visit with the owners, and share in a little piece of history.

About The City of Rockwall:

The City of Rockwall, Texas is located 22 miles east of downtown Dallas, on the eastern shore of Lake Ray Hubbard. With a population of more than 41,000, Rockwall is a growing community that offers an extraordinary quality of life for its residents, as well as dynamic business opportunities.

As the county seat of Rockwall County, which is the wealthiest in Texas, Rockwall has received several accolades in recent years, including being named one of the top ten "Best Towns for Families" by *Family Circle* magazine, and "Number 1 for Job Creation in the United States," by *CNN Money* magazine. For more information about Rockwall, please visit www.rockwall.com.

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For additional information, please contact:

Lauri Dodd
Public Information Officer / Marketing
City of Rockwall
P) 972-772-6559
ldodd@rockwall.com