



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

October 2019

Rockwall City Council Adopts Balanced Budget, Lowers Tax Rate for Sixth Straight Year

The Rockwall City Council adopted a rate below the effective tax rate, which continues a six-year trend to decrease taxes for Rockwall residents. The approved tax rate of 38.79 cents is 1.42 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 2019-2020 budget include:

- Three new full-time positions in the Fire Department
- Four Parks maintenance workers
- A mental health officer in the Police Department
- Increased funding for street maintenance projects

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



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 2019-2020 year include Katharine Castro, Chloe Davis, Matt Kianpour, Madison Melcher, Jaxson Stuart, and Marvin Villalobos. Returning students include Mazie Johnson, Peyton Nielsen, Kavya Venugopalan, Mary Claire Weible, Susie Wilson, and Parker Yarbrough.



Happening Around Town

Friday, November 1

Daddy Daughter Dance tickets go on sale, The Center, playrockwall.com.

Saturday, November 2

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

Saturday-Sunday, November 9-10

Outdoor Family Campout, Harry Myers Park

Saturday, November 30

Shop Small Donut Stroll, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, December 7

Rockwall Christmas Events, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, December 13-14

Holiday Home Tour, Historic Downtown Rockwall, Sat. 10 a.m.-Sun. 3 p.m.

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

Out and About in Rockwall



Constitution Week

This year marks the 231st 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.



Mayor Elected to TML Role

Mayor Jim Pruitt has been elected as President of Texas Municipal League Region 13, North Central Texas Region - Dallas Area. TML works to provide legal, legislative, and training services to city governments in Texas. Mayor Pruitt has served the last year as Vice President for Region 13, and will serve as the President of the region for 2019-2020.



Thanking Our Volunteers

The City of Rockwall held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception to thank the dedicated people who do so much to keep the city running smoothly. Volunteers donate thousands of hours every year helping with a wide array of projects and organizations, such as Volunteers in Parks (VIPs), Hometown Christmas, Farmers Market, Citizens on Patrol (COPs), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) just to name a few.



Rockwall Residents Love to Shop Small

Did you know? Coming up on Saturday, November 30, local retailers throughout all of Rockwall will participate in Small Business Saturday. The annual event helps raise awareness and boost patronage for small businesses in our community. Be sure to visit Downtown Rockwall starting at 8 a.m. that day for a Donut Stroll.



Mother Son Date Knight Success

Nearly 200 turned out for the inaugural Mother Son Date Knight at the SpringHill Suites at The Harbor. There were balloon artists on hand making swords and shields for the young knights to battle. DJs played while families danced the night away, and professional photographers captured the memories.

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.

