

# ROCKWALL CITY NOTES



a monthly city publication  
July 2025



## JUNIOR FIRE ACADEMY SPARKS SKILLS AND SMILES

The Rockwall Junior Fire Academy was an unforgettable experience for our cadets ages 10-12! In June, these 40 young future firefighters had the chance to climb aboard a real ladder truck, witness a car extrication, explore the smokehouse, and get an up-close look at a medevac helicopter. They practiced knot-tying skills, learned the ins and outs of firefighting, and discovered what it truly means to serve their community with courage and teamwork. The week wrapped up with a well-earned celebration, a graduation day featuring a giant water slide and a foam party pit!



## CITY OF ROCKWALL PURCHASES HISTORIC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The City of Rockwall is proud to announce the purchase of the historic First United Methodist Church building, originally constructed in 1913, located near Downtown Rockwall. This landmark acquisition reflects the City's commitment to preserving Rockwall's rich history while enhancing its cultural and community offerings. In the early 1910s, Reverend Wheeler began efforts to construct a new church through a community-led subscription campaign. While initial pledges of \$8,000 fell short of the goal, a renewed effort in 1912 successfully brought the vision to life. The completed structure featured beautiful stained-glass windows donated as memorials by devoted church members. When completed, the building was valued at \$19,000, a substantial investment for its time.



The church remained an active place of worship until 1981, when the congregation relocated and the property became privately owned. Since then, the building has had a variety of tenants and additions, but much of its original character remains. The City intends to restore and preserve the historic integrity of the building and host focus sessions with both historic and cultural arts groups to help shape the vision of a community centered space. This exciting new chapter will honor the building's past and ensure it remains a vibrant part of Rockwall's future. Importantly, this purchase will be funded through Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenues, not through residential property taxes. These dedicated funds are specifically allocated to support tourism-related projects and cultural assets that enhance Rockwall's appeal as a destination. More details about the future renovation and use of the property will be shared as plans progress.



Get the latest updates, events, and news delivered straight to your email inbox.  
Don't miss out—sign up for our E-news updates today!  
<https://gqr.sh/8N4c>





# HEAVY RAINFALL MEANS MOSQUITO SAFETY MEASURES

The City of Rockwall encourages residents to take proactive steps to protect against mosquito population and mosquito-borne illnesses during the hot summer months. The recent storms and significant rainfall have created ideal conditions for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn and can spread diseases such as the West Nile virus and Zika virus. Recommendations to reduce help exposure:

- Use Insect Repellent: Apply an approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus every time you go outside. Follow the instructions on the label for safe use.
- Drain Standing Water: Regularly remove water from empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters, and saucers under potted plants. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Please note that the City can only treat stagnant water on public property.
- Wear Protective Clothing: Wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

As of June 1, there have been no confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus within the City of Rockwall. The City traps mosquitoes weekly in north, central, and south Rockwall from May through September. The mosquitoes are sent to Austin for testing for pathogens such as West Nile Virus. Reports are typically received within 48 hours. If a mosquito tests positive for a pathogen, a fogging operation is scheduled within a 1/2 mile radius around the positive trap. For further information, visit <https://www.rockwall.com/mosquito.asp>

## INTERSTATE 30 UPDATES

TxDOT's ongoing construction projects in Rockwall continue to bring major roadway improvements, including the widening of the I-30 bridges over John King Blvd. and FM 3549/Stodghill Rd. As part of this work, on-ramp closures and lane shifts are expected through the end of the year.

Speed limits have been reduced on frontage roads in City limits to 35mph. Residents and drivers should use extra caution when navigating these lanes and temporary business driveways in the area.

Progress continues on the I-30 eastbound frontage road over the lake, with drilling underway on the westbound side.

For up-to-date information on daily lane closures, please visit [drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org)

Sign up for text alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDOT/signup/35720>



## PET OF THE MONTH: DUTCH

I'm Dutch, a 1-year-old Mastiff/Lab mix tipping the scales at a solid 88 lbs of goofy, lovable energy. I was recently surrendered because my previous owner's health declined and they could no longer care for me. I'm playful, silly, and always ready for a walk. I walk well on a leash and enjoy canine companionship, but I do best with confident dogs who can handle my exuberance. No cats for me, please! I'd thrive with someone who can give me structure, love, and a little training to help me be my best self. I've been looking for my forever home for over 140 days, so I'm now a proud Diamond Dog – which means my adoption fee is only \$75! I am neutered, microchipped, current on my basic boosters and rabies vaccine and am heartworm negative! Fill out an application to schedule a time to come meet me!

Rockwall Animal Adoption Center  
825 Airport Road [RockwallAdoptions.com](http://RockwallAdoptions.com)

## TRAVIS' TOOLBOX

TIPS FROM TRAVIS SALES,  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND REC

With spring rains behind us and warmer weather ahead, now is the time to check in on your automatic irrigation system. Your landscape only needs 1 inch of water per week, whether from rainfall, sprinklers, or a hose. Broken sprinkler heads or leaks can waste up to 25,000 gallons of water in 6-months if not repaired, leading to costly water bills.

Quick tips to save water and protect your landscape:

- Run your system weekly to check for leaks and misdirected nozzles.
- Have a licensed (required by Texas law) irrigator inspect your system annually.
- Know your nozzle's precipitation rate to avoid overwatering. Nozzles vary from 0.25" to 2" per hour.
- Water between 3 a.m. and 10 a.m. for best results and reduced evaporation.
- Adjust watering for shade vs. sun, many plants need less than you think.
- Don't assume yellowing leaves mean it's dry, overwatering is a top cause of plant decline. Also rule out insects or disease before increasing water.
- Remember to replace your rain gauge battery annually to keep your automatic sprinkler system functioning properly.



Visit  
[WaterMyYard.org](http://WaterMyYard.org)  
for more info

## Mark your Calendar

### Concert by the Lake Series

The Harbor  
Thursday nights through July

### San Jacinto Music Series

San Jacinto Plaza Downtown  
Friday and Saturday nights through Oct

### Rockwall Farmers Market

Downtown Rockwall  
Saturday mornings through Sept

### Independence Day Celebrations - July 4

Downtown Parade at 11am  
Celebrations at Harry Myers Park 5pm  
Fireworks at dusk

### S.N.A.P. Swim Party - July 18

Harry Myers Pool 11am

### Family Fun Friday - July 25

Harry Myers Park 5pm



Check out more events online  
<https://www.rockwall.com/EventCalendar.asp>