

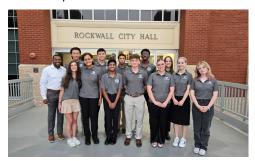
#### WELCOMING THE 2025–2026 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

We're excited to introduce the City of Rockwall Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the 2025–2026 school year! This energetic and passionate group of students represents the next generation of civic leaders in our community. The Youth Advisory Council gives local students the opportunity to learn about municipal government, develop leadership skills, and participate in community service projects.

This year, we're proud to welcome back returning students: Allison N., Ellie M., Vincent V., Luke L., Darby J., Ethan A., David A., Reagan R., and Vincent H. And we're excited to introduce our newest members: Ainsley S., London S., Eva K., and Sheldon B.

Welcome, VAC 2025, 2026, We are the result to see the content of the con

Welcome, YAC 2025–2026! We can't wait to see what you accomplish this year.







#### **CHANGES COMING TO TRASH** & RECYCLING IN 2026

Beginning January 2026, residents will see changes to the City of Rockwall's trash, recycling, and bulk collection services. The City has contracted with Republic Services to provide these services.

While more detailed information will be shared in December, here are a few key changes to expect:

- New trash and recycling carts will be delivered to each residence.
- Trash pickup day will change based on your
- Bulk collection guidelines will be updated, including limits on pile sizes.

To stay informed about these upcoming changes,

we encourage residents to sign up for email updates at https://gar.sh/8N4c or scan

the QR code and

select "News and Events."







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



### **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, lane shifts are expected through the end of the year. Progress continues on the Horizon Rd. Bridge expansion, with traffic now on the new, eastside lanes and construction on the west side.

Speed limits have been reduced to 35 MPH on all frontage roads within the City limits. 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 <u>drivetexas.org</u> Sign up for text alerts at <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDOT/signup/35720">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDOT/signup/35720</a>

## **CEASE THE GREASE**

As the holidays approach, it's important to remember to Cease the Grease and keep our drains clean! Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from cooking can build up in pipes, leading to costly clogs and overflows. When FOG goes down the drain, it hardens and can cause raw sewage to back up into homes, streets, and even nearby waterways, impacting our environment and drinking water. To avoid damage, never pour grease down the drain. Instead, soak up small amounts with paper towels and toss them in the trash. For larger amounts, cool the grease, then dispose of it in a sealed container. Keep your drains safe and clean this season!







Meet Champ – A big dog with an even bigger heart (and just the right amount of mischief). This 1-year-old, 71-lb Anatolian Shepherd mix was found near S. Goliad in Rockwall, but no one came to claim him. He's spent over 210 days waiting for his perfect match, making him a Diamond Dog with a lowered adoption fee only \$75! Champ is a clever and curious boy who loves to explore, so he'll need a secure wood privacy fence at least 8 feet tall to safely enjoy his backyard adventures. He lives for snuggles and being near his people, walks like a champ (pun intended) on leash, loves toys, zoomies, & comfy nap spots, greets everyone with a wag, and would thrive with a family who's home often! He may do well with another dog, but needs a meet & greet to be sure. He is neutered, microchipped, and up to date on vaccines. He is heartworm positive, but treatment is covered thanks to Rockwall PAWS! Please fill out an application to come meet him!

825 Airport Road

Rockwall Animal Adoption Center (972) 771-7750 <u>Rockv</u>

RockwallAdoptions.com

As the weather cools, it's time to give your trees some seasonal attention. November through February is the ideal window for pruning, as most trees go dormant during this time. It's also a great time to plant new trees, giving their roots time to establish before the spring growing season. When pruning, always prune with a purpose. Even well-intended cuts are still wounds. Focus on improving tree structure and safety by:

Raising the canopy for pedestrian or vehicle clearance

Removing dead, diseased, or damaged limbs

Controlling canopy width and removing crossing branches

Thinning the canopy to allow more light

Eliminating forks with included bark that can lead to breakage

Important Reminder: Never top a tree, including Crape Myrtles. Topping can result in weak limb attachments, increased limb failure, and may even lead to the tree's decline or death.

Fun Fact: Have you noticed greenish-gray growth on tree trunks or limbs, especially on the north or east side? That's lichen—a fascinating composite organism formed from a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and algae or cyanobacteria. It's harmless to your tree and part of a healthy ecosystem!

### TRAVIS' TOOLBOX

TIPS FROM TRAVIS SALES, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND REC



# Mark your Calendar

Hometown Christmas - Dec. 6 Downtown Rockwall, 9am-8pm

Holiday Home Tour - Dec. 12-13 Rockwall Homes, 10am-3pm Breakfast with Santa - Dec. 13 The Center, 8:30am-10am or 10:30am-12pm

**Daddy Daughter Dance - Jan. 24**The Hilton, 5pm-6:30pm or 7:30pm-9pm



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