



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

October 2021

Rockwall City Council Adopts Lowest Tax Rate Since 1989

The Rockwall City Council voted to adopt a rate below the no new revenue tax rate (formerly known as the effective rate), which continues an eight-year trend to decrease the tax rate for Rockwall residents. The approved tax rate is the lowest rate in 32 years—and is a full 2.00 cents less than the rate last year. Also at the meeting, the Council adopted the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.

In a series of work sessions and public hearings, the City Council directed staff to prepare a balanced budget based on the no new revenue tax rate, which allows the City to collect the same amount in taxes as the year before, as calculated by formulas prescribed by the state. The new tax rate of 35.00 cents per \$100 of valuation is down from the 37.00 cents adopted for the previous year.

In this budget, there are 11 new positions funded, including seven officers and one civilian position in the Police Department. Additionally, there is some replacement equipment in the budget, as well as a reinstatement of the street maintenance funding, back to its pre-pandemic level, with nearly \$2.5 million to be used for repairs to extend the life of the City's streets.



"The City of Rockwall is in the fortunate position to be able to once again adopt a balanced budget, while lowering taxes—and still invest in public safety, critical infrastructure, and the high quality services our residents enjoy, without burdening our taxpayers in doing so," said Rockwall Mayor, Kevin Fowler. The City's new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2021.



Discovery Statue Project is Underway

The Rockwall City Council has approved an art project to honor the City's rich history. The Discovery Statue Project is named for the three pioneers who discovered the rock wall, for which our city was named. Council has approved funding of \$324,800 for a larger-than-life sculpture to be located on the grounds of the Historic Courthouse on the square. The local arts community has discussed this project for many years, and it is now becoming a reality.

Artist, Jim Bryant, is donating his time and talents, and won't make a profit from this project. He started with a small sculpture, which depicts Terry Utley Wade, Benjamin Boydston, and William Clay Stevenson, the three settlers who dug a well in 1852, and in doing so discovered one of a series of rock walls that run underground throughout the City.

Currently, a computer imaging company is scanning pictures to enable them to enlarge the sculpture to a larger-than-life size. Funding for this project comes through the Rockwall Alliance for the Arts and the City of Rockwall. The sculpture is expected to be installed by Founders Day in May of 2022. Check Rockwall.com for project updates.



Happening Around Town

Fridays-Saturdays, May 7-October 30

San Jacinto Plaza Music Series, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 7-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

City Shred Event, The Center (108 E. Washington St.) 8-12 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

Scare on the Square, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 2-5 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

Halloween Extravaganza at The Harbor, 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, November 6

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

Thursday, November 11

Holiday Open House, Historic Downtown Rockwall, 5-9 p.m.

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

Out and About in Rockwall



Outdoor Classrooms Update

The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has been busy developing the three outdoor classrooms at the Pettinger Nature Preserve. So far, at one classroom, bench seats and a granite trail have been installed. The classrooms offer a way for students of all ages to enhance their educational experience. The classrooms are expected to be complete by next March, however this project will be ever evolving.



Constitution Day

This year marks the 233rd 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.



City Shred Day Coming

City of Rockwall's FREE Shred Day is coming. Rockwall residents who have household papers that need to be shredded, can bring them to the Shred Day for Rockwall residents—on Saturday, October 23, from 8a-12n, located in the parking lot behind The Center at 108 E. Washington St.



City Employees Honor 9/11 Anniversary

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the staff of the Utility Billing and Payroll Departments at the City of Rockwall created a detailed and moving display. They spent many hours of their own time outside of work to make the display items by hand. The department hosted the City's first responders at a breakfast reception to recognize and show appreciation for their service.

Get Your Landscape Ready for Winter

It may seem too soon, but before we know it, winter will be here, and it's time to prepare our lawns and landscapes for what lies ahead. Here are some tips:

- Be ready to reduce water, and toward the end of month, turn off irrigation
- Leave your mowing height at 2" or greater to help block sunlight and control winter weeds
- Begin pruning trees as needed once leaves fall off your deciduous trees
- Pull summer annuals and plant winter annuals for color in your landscape

