



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

October 2022

City Council Adopts Lowest Property Tax Rate Ever in City's Recorded History

The Rockwall City Council voted to adopt a rate below the no new revenue tax rate (formerly known as the effective rate), which continues a nine-year trend to decrease the tax rate for Rockwall residents. The approved tax rate is the lowest rate ever adopted in Rockwall's recorded history—and is 5.75 cents less than the rate last year. The Council also adopted the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.



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 29.25 cents per \$100 of valuation is down from the 35.00 cents adopted for the previous year. The actual change in ad valorem tax for any individual property is also a function of its assessed value.

In this budget, there are five new positions created in the Police Department, including two school resource officers (SROs) funded at the request of the Rockwall Independent School District (RISD), two patrol officers, and one management position in dispatch. Additionally, there are three new firefighter positions funded. Also, \$3 million is allocated for street maintenance, in addition to existing big street projects.

As always, the new budget continues to address important services such as public safety, parks and recreation, and street repair and maintenance. Items addressed in this budget do not pertain to the Street Repair Bond approved by voters in 2018. Several factors combined to enable the City to utilize a rate below the no new revenue rate without making substantial cuts to the budget, including significant increases in sales tax revenue, coupled with the increase in growth-related new value. The City's new fiscal year began on October 1, 2022.



Rockwall Installs Patriotic Welcome to Visitors

As visitors enter the City of Rockwall, they are now welcomed by a larger than life statement. The City of Rockwall has installed an impressive 190' flagpole to fly an American flag on a site at the northeast corner of the I-30 access road between Laguna Drive and Horizon Rd. / Village Dr. This project will serve as a patriotic entry feature to the City for many years to come.

It took about a week to assemble and get the flagpole vertical. Then contractors worked to install the electrical and lighting equipment before the actual flag could be flown. The flag itself measures 50x80' and weighs approximately 120lbs. A formal dedication ceremony will be held in the near future. Look for updates on the City's social media sites.



Happening Around Town

Fridays-Saturdays, May 6-October 29

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

Saturday, October 22

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

Saturday, October 29

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

Saturday, October 29

Date by the Lake Jazz Concert, The Harbor Amphitheater, 7-9 p.m.

Friday, November 4

Family Fun Friday, featuring Coco, The Park at Hickory Ridge, 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 10

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

Saturday-Sunday, November 12-13

Outdoor Family Campout, Pettinger Nature Preserve, 3 p.m. Saturday-10 a.m. Sunday

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

Out and About in Rockwall



Renovated KidZone Opens

Hundreds celebrated the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department's grand re-opening of their newly renovated KidZone at Harry Myers Park. The previous structures were all wood, and installed in 2004. New features include a ninja warrior warped climbing wall, zip lines, an 8' climbing sphere, and inclusive elements for children of all abilities.



Constitution Week

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member, Marilyn King, along with a couple of fellow members are working to share their love of the U.S. Constitution. They attended a recent Council meeting where the Mayor presented a proclamation recognizing Constitution Week. This year marks the 234th anniversary of the framing of our nation's Constitution.

Students Selected for City's Leadership Organization



Five new members have been selected for the City of Rockwall's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the new school year. In addition, seven 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 2022-2023 year include Contessa Barron, Payton Larson, Bethellen McReynolds, James Martinez, and Kaylen Pruitt. Returning students include Morgan Crosby, Karmen Fumey-Nassah, Miriam Gamez, Maddoc Johnson, Emily Nielsen, Keaton Steen, and Jaxson Stuart.

Love Your Landscape

Did you know that the best time to plant your new landscape is now? It's true. The prime time to plant is from October to March. Why is that?

Trees and shrubs are able to acclimate to their new home faster, which allows them to establish and start growing due to a number of reasons:

- They do well in the cooler temperatures
- Increased rainfall is beneficial to spur growth
- There is less risk of disease and there are fewer insects during the fall and winter months

Remember these important steps when planting your tree or shrub:

- Make sure it's one-two inches above grade
- Water really well to remove all the air pockets
- Do not stake the tree unless you use an in-ground staking system

