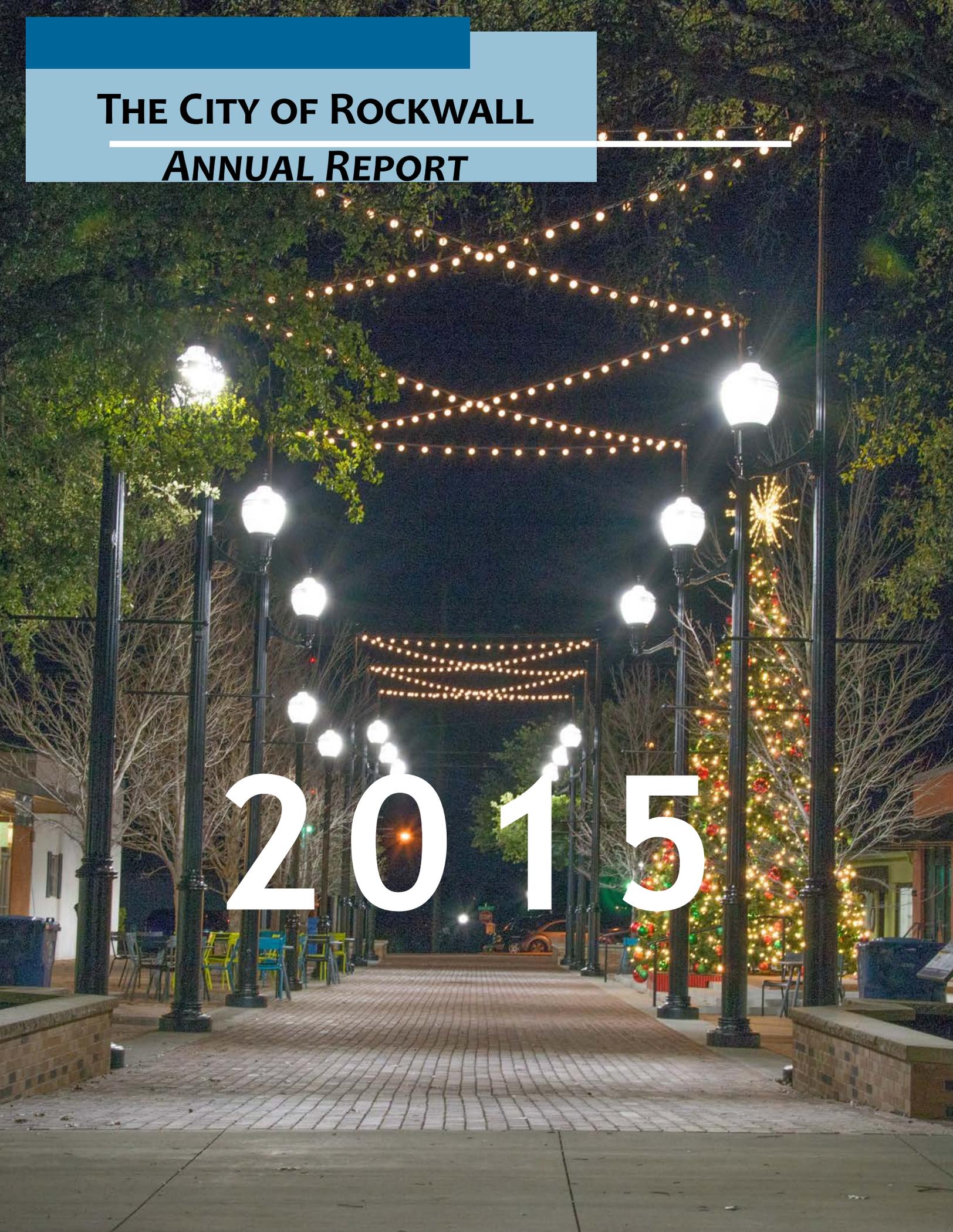


THE CITY OF ROCKWALL
ANNUAL REPORT

2015



ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL



The City of Rockwall celebrated its 161st birthday in 2015. Throughout the years, citizens have worked to preserve the City's rich history, while continuing to invest in the future of this dynamic, growing community.

The Rockwall City Council has maintained their commitment to improved roadways and public safety, and vows to continue their focus on fiscal responsibility. Even in the midst of phenomenal growth, Rockwall remains a safe place to live, work, and play.

Key elements of this year's budget:

- Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Property Tax Rate: 48.53, a decrease from 49.55 the previous year
- \$1.2 million for new Fire Department equipment
- \$260,000 for Police Department vehicles
- A new 911 Dispatcher for Police / Fire; Rockwall dispatches for the Cities of Rockwall, Heath and Fate
- Police Explorer Program—a mentoring program for youth and young adults interested in a career in law enforcement
- \$1.2 million for park and trail development, funded by grants and developer contributions
- \$1 million for street maintenance and repairs, and \$400,000 for street maintenance equipment

The City Council adopted a fiscal year 2015-2016 budget based on a tax rate of 48.53 cents per \$100 valuation, a decrease from the rate of 49.55 property owners paid the previous year. The City Council approved the budget based on the effective tax rate, which is the rate that allows the City to collect the same amount of property tax as it collected the prior year.



Jim Pruitt Mayor



Dennis Lewis Mayor Pro Tem



David White Place 1



John Hohenshelt Place 2



Kevin Fowler Place 3



Scott Milder Place 5



Mike Townsend Place 6

TEN YEARS OF GROWTH



FISCAL YEAR	2004-2005	2014-2015	% INCREASE
Population	25,599	40,929	60%
Residential Tax Base	\$1.63 Billion	\$2.56 Billion	57%
Non-Residential Tax Base	\$602 Million	\$1.49 Billion	147%
Total Assessed Value	\$2.23 Billion	\$4.05 Billion	76%
Sales Tax Collected / Projected	\$7,159,643	\$14,302,831	99%

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

General Operating Budget	\$31,589,800
Tax Rate	48.53 cents per \$100 valuation
Number of Employees	267

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Over the past several years, there has been a great demand for educational and community service programs for Rockwall's neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and volunteers. The Community Services Division has also seen tremendous growth in social media communication with citizens. In order to keep up with these community needs, the Police Department transferred a patrol officer into that division.
- In 2015, the Rockwall Police Department budgeted for a new Deployment Unit to combat property crimes in the business district and residential areas. It was implemented in January 2016, with a staff of three officers and one sergeant.
- On April 1, Rockwall P.D. received Re-Recognized status from the Texas Police Chiefs Association. Rockwall P.D. has been a Recognized agency since March 2011, making it the 42nd police agency out of over 2,800 in Texas to be awarded "Recognized" status. The Recognition Program was developed in 2007 to assist Texas police agencies in meeting their professional obligations to their citizens.
- In July, Assistant Chief Kirk Riggs was appointed Chief of Police upon the retirement of former Chief Mark Moeller. Lieutenant Kirk Aldridge was promoted to Assistant Chief of Police.



Involved in the Community...

- The Smart 911 Program launched in April, and had more than 2,000 registered members. This free service enhances communication and response when residents call 911.
- In the spring of 2015, the Citizens Police Academy recognized 18 new graduating members from the 10 week course, and 19 additional new members in the fall.
- The Park, Walk and Talk initiative continued in 2015. It allows officers time while patrolling their beats—to park in a neighborhood or near a business, walk the area, and talk to residents and business owners about any public safety issues.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Rockwall's Combination Department: Utilizing Volunteers and Full-Time Firefighters

Since its inception in 1903, the Rockwall Fire Department has depended on the dedication of volunteer firefighters. The City now operates a combined department, with 23 full-time paid firefighters that work with volunteers—which saves residents millions of dollars annually.

The budget in 2015 allowed for some essential upgrades in firefighting equipment:

- \$384,000 for new air packs and helmets
- \$688,000 for a new fire truck and equipment
- \$17,150 for new radio equipment for volunteer firefighters
- \$61,000 for field equipment
- \$18,000 for a consultant to assist with site selection, planning for replacement for Fire Station #1

Community Involvement:

- The Rockwall Fire Department partnered with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week in October to promote smoke alarm awareness. The 12th annual Open House had a record turnout with approximately 3,000 people attending.
- The Citizens Fire Academy had 16 graduates in 2015. The program provides an inside look at firefighter training involving structural firefighting, fire investigations and fire prevention.
- The Fire Department continues to partner with the Rockwall Independent School District. The Fire Marshal staff educated more than 7,000 students in 2015.
- In 2005, Rockwall established a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to be better prepared in a disaster. There are now 49 CERT members.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



- The City of Rockwall received \$800,000 in grant funds from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department that will contribute to the construction of The Park at Breezy Hill and The Park at Stone Creek.
- Fees and park land dedication from the developer of these two neighborhoods will fund the remaining portion of the construction.
- The City Council approved funding for a new healthy living initiative that aims to increase awareness of **Rockwall's abundance of parks and outdoor amenities**. The *Go Outside and Play* campaign was developed in 2015, and kicked off in February 2016.

Rockwall is the Live Music Capital of North Texas! The City hosted 112 live music events in 2015, all free to the public.

- The San Jacinto Plaza Music Series was new in 2015. The events were extremely successful with residents, and the project will continue to grow in 2016.
- The Concerts by the Lake Series is another successful program offered by the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department every year. These events draw thousands to The Harbor every week.



Registration for the Rockwall Baseball & Softball League (RBSL) was at an all-time high in 2015, with 2,066 participants in the City's youth baseball and softball program.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS



Historic Downtown Rockwall has become a destination for residents and visitors, even while renovations in the area continued.

The \$8.625 million bond project, approved by Rockwall voters, has made Downtown Rockwall more visitor and pedestrian friendly.

At the same time, the Capital Improvement Project has also helped existing businesses thrive and attract new investment in dining, shopping and professional service opportunities.



There were 80 separate events in Downtown Rockwall in 2015. Visit downtown to see what's happening.

- San Jacinto Plaza Music Series
- Farmers' Market
- Night Owls



ROADWAY CONSORTIUM PROJECTS

The Rockwall County Planning Consortium, also known as the Roadway Consortium, was formed as a way to collaborate and combine resources for upcoming roadway projects that impact multiple partners within the area. Consortium participants include elected officials and employees of Rockwall County and its respective cities (Rockwall, Heath, McClendon-Chisolm, Fate, Royse City, and Rowlett), as well as the Texas Department of Transportation, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. This initiative is fairly unique, as only a few other counties within Texas have such a system. Since its inception, the Consortium has helped increase communication and participation on transportation projects and various roadway concerns within the county. Here is a list of some of the major projects this group currently oversees:

IH 30 / FM 3549 Interchange

Project Limits: Intersection IH 30 & FM 3549
 Description: Reconstruct FM 3549 to 4 lane under IH 30
 Construction Cost: \$32.8 million
 Bid Date: February 2016
 Start Date: June 2016
 Completion Time: 2 Years
 Partners: City of Rockwall, Rockwall County, TxDOT

FM 3549 North

Project Limits: IH 30 to SH 66
 Description: Widen 2 lane asphalt to 4 lane divided concrete
 Estimated Construction Cost : \$9.2 million
 Bid Date: January 2017
 Partners: TxDOT, City of Rockwall, Rockwall County, City of Fate

SH 276

Project Limits: SH 205 to FM 549
 Description: Widen 2 lane asphalt to 6 lane divided concrete, (4 lanes initially)
 Estimated Construction Cost : \$36 million
 Bid Date: September 2017
 Partners: TxDOT, City of Rockwall, Rockwall County

IH 30 Ramp Reversal Project

Project Limits: Ramps east of SH 205 @ IH 30
 Description: Reversing ramps on IH 30 just east of SH 205
 Estimated Construction Cost : \$3.49 million
 Proposed Bid Date: April 2016
 Funded by City of Rockwall and Rockwall County
 Partners: City of Rockwall, Rockwall County, TxDOT

SH 66 Interim Project

Project Limits: John King Boulevard to County Line
 Description: Rehabilitate existing 2 lane asphalt roadway, widen shoulders, intersection improvements
 Estimated Construction Cost : \$15.8 million
 Proposed Bid Date: March 2016
 Partners: TxDOT, City of Rockwall, Rockwall County

SH 205 / John King Boulevard Bypass

To alleviate traffic through Downtown Rockwall, in 2015, City officials proposed what amounts to a “trade” with TxDOT: giving the state agency control of John King Boulevard, in return for the portion of SH 205 (Goliad Street) that runs through Rockwall. John King Blvd. currently serves as a bypass, but the exchange would designate it as a state road. At this time, TxDOT is considering a long-range planning project to improve SH 205 from SH 78 in Lavon to US 80 in Terrell, which would greatly impact the City of Rockwall.

In 2005, John King Blvd. was developed, and overwhelmingly approved by voters, with the swap in mind. The road would be ideal for the trade because it can better accommodate the through-traffic, and sufficient right-of-way already exists—so no permanent structures would be eliminated. Several other options under consideration would require an expansion of SH 205 through the City, which would negatively affect a significant number of homes and businesses. TxDOT has expressed a willingness to listen to all options and has no timeline established for the project.

Other Projects to be Scheduled:

Project	Location	Description	Estimated Cost	Partners
FM 549	SH 276 to SH 205	Widen 2 lane asphalt to 4 lane divided concrete	\$17.8 million	TxDOT
FM 552	SH 205 to SH 66	Widen 2 lane asphalt to 4 lane divided concrete	\$46 million	TxDOT
IH 30 Westbound Entrance Ramp	Between Horizon Road and FM 740	Add entrance ramp for westbound IH 30	\$1.5 million	City of Rockwall, TxDOT, Rockwall County

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

FM 3097

- Project Limits: FM 740 to Tubbs Road
- Description: Widen 2 lane asphalt to 4 lane divided concrete
- Construction Start Date: January 2016
- Completion Time: 2 years
- Partners: TxDOT, City of Rockwall

[Link to street map](#)

East Boydston Avenue

- Project Limits: SH 205 to Clark Street
- Reconstruct roadway from asphalt to concrete
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$2.5 million
- Bid date has not yet been established
- Engineering Design Firm: EJES, Inc.

[Link to street map](#)

County Line Road

- Project Limits: FM 3097 to Renee Street
- Rebuild roadway from 2 lane asphalt to 3 / 2 lane concrete roadway
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$5.2 million
- Bid date has not yet been established
- Engineering Design Firm: Freese & Nichols, Inc.

[Link to street map](#)

Throckmorton Drive

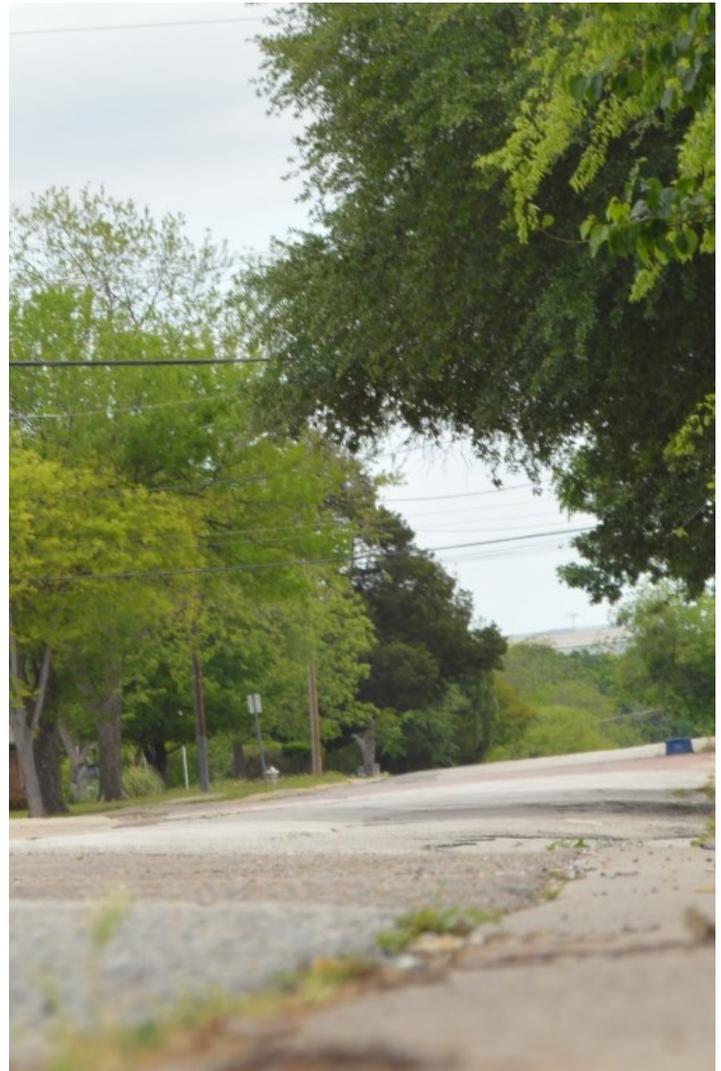
- Project Limits: East Boydston Avenue to Bourn Street
- Rebuild the existing asphalt to a curbed concrete roadway
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$1 million
- Bid date has not yet been established
- Engineering Design Firm: Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.

[Link to street map](#)

South Lakeshore Drive / Summit Ridge

- Project Limits: SH 66 to FM 740 (Ridge Road)
- Rebuild existing concrete roadway
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$6.2 million
- Bid date has not yet been established
- Engineering Design Firm: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

[Link to street map](#)



COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City continued to attract new residential and commercial growth in 2015. Thanks largely to the Rockwall Economic Development Corporation (REDC), big businesses are relocating and expanding in Rockwall.

- There were 388 single family home permits issued, for an estimated \$88 million in residential construction value.
- There were 18 commercial permits processed, for an estimated construction value of \$28 million.
- The City Council approved 25 site plans for new development projects, including medical, restaurant, retail, manufacturing and industrial use.
- Rockwall has approved 365 residential lots through the development process, and entitled another 801 lots.



New Channell Corporation building, set to open in 2016.

Significant Projects Approved or Released in 2015:

Non-Residential:

- Marriott Spring Hill Suites Hotel
- Kroger (SH 205 & Quail Run)
- HG Sply Co.
- Dairy Queen
- Platinum Storage
- Nissan of Rockwall
- Orthopaedic Specialists of Dallas
- Crush-It Sports
- Children's Lighthouse (Expansion)

Residential:

- Summer Lee Condominiums
- Rockwall Downes, Phases 1, 2 & 3
- Saddle Star Estates
- Discovery Lakes Subdivision
- Stone Creek, Phase 7
- Breezy Hill, Phase 5

ROCKWALL RESPONDS IN A CRISIS



Rockwall Responds to Deadly Tornado to Help Rowlett Neighbors Through Crisis

When the deadly EF4 tornado hit Rowlett the day after Christmas in 2015, Rockwall emergency teams kicked into immediate action to help their neighbors. The coordinated multi-agency response included crews from Rockwall Fire, Rockwall Police, Rockwall CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), as well as City engineers, and City staff from Building Inspection, the Street Department, and emergency management teams.



Within minutes of the tornado touching down, Rockwall crews were on the ground responding wherever needed, including shutting down Interstate 30 and State Highway 66, helping ensure residents were accounted for and safe, blocking access to downed power lines, tracking down and stopping gas leaks, and putting out electrical fires.

Among the most urgent needs for the first response were searching for people trapped in damaged and collapsed homes, providing medical assistance, shutting off gas valves, and clearing roadway debris to allow passage for emergency vehicles. Rockwall CERT also acted quickly to set up a Volunteer Reception Center to accommodate the large numbers of people wanting to help with the crisis.



City of Rowlett leadership responded quickly and efficiently in the face of the tragedy, and are to be commended for their exhaustive efforts that lasted well into 2016. For more than a week after the event, Rockwall teams helped with damage assessment and reporting, as well as debris removal and transport. While full recovery from the disaster will continue into 2016, the City of Rowlett was appreciative and complimentary of the emergency response they received from their Rockwall neighbors.



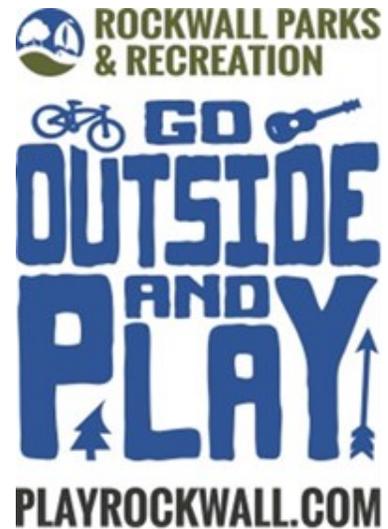
In the midst of the chaos and during the aftermath, the entire Rockwall community reached out to help in any way possible.

"The lake may divide us, but many of us go to church together, our kids play sports together, and the people of Rowlett are our friends. In times of natural disaster and crisis, we all take care of each other."

—Rockwall Mayor, Jim Pruitt

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2016

- The City of Rockwall launched, *Go Outside and Play*, in 2016. It's a healthy living initiative and awareness campaign to encourage residents to utilize Rockwall's abundance of outdoor amenities and programs.
- Roadway improvements will continue to be made throughout the City in 2016.
- The Rockwall Fire Department has a new program, called *16 in '16*, to recruit 16 new volunteers to join their ranks in 2016.



One of the things that gives the City of Rockwall its unique small town character, and makes the community extremely strong, is the willingness of residents to reach out and help others.

There is a great volunteer base in Rockwall, and yet there is always room for more: Find out about the many opportunities at rockwall.com/boards.

There are many new and exciting things ahead, as the City of Rockwall is positioned for continued growth and success.

Through its conservative fiscal policy, the City Council has provided the foundation for future growth and economic stability. At the same time, the primary goal is always to maintain a high level of service to citizens.

Rockwall residents enjoy an extraordinary quality of life, with everything needed to live, work and play here. Even though the City already offers a wide variety of entertainment, historical, cultural and social opportunities, there is definitely more to come.

