



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

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Rockwall City Council Marks a Decade of Lower Property Taxes, Adopts Lowest Rate... Again!

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 decade-long trend to decrease the tax rate for Rockwall residents. The approved tax rate is once again the lowest rate ever adopted in Rockwall's recorded history—and is 2.22 cents less than the rate last year. Also at the meeting, the Council adopted the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.



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 27.0245 cents per \$100 of valuation is down from the 29.25 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 is nearly \$3.4 million allocated to vehicles, personnel, and training for public safety departments. Parks continue to be a draw for residents, and the budget provides for safety and aesthetic upgrades and enhancements in Rockwall parks amenities. The budget calls for additions to the city's Animal Adoption Center, to provide a continued high quality of life for our furry friends as well. The city is investing in a new sound system to play music throughout Downtown Rockwall to further enhance the experience in the historic district. This budget addresses retention and inflationary concerns for City employees, including those in the Police and Fire Departments. Additionally, there is an increase of 7.7% for street maintenance, as well as existing big street projects.

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 the aforementioned significant increases in sales tax revenue, coupled with the increase in growth-related new value. The City of Rockwall's new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2023.



Happening Around Town



H-E-B Announces New Store for Rockwall

The Texas-based H-E-B grocery store chain has announced a large new store coming to Rockwall. Building will begin in 2024, and the store is expected to open its doors in 2025.

The new store will be located at the southwest corner of John King Blvd. and I-30. The facility is planned to be 130,000 SF, making it one of the largest for H-E-B in all of North Texas.

H-E-B prides itself on being a good partner to the communities it serves. The grocery chain will need local employees to staff the store, and the addition is expected to bring between 700-850 new jobs to Rockwall.

Fridays-Saturdays, May-October

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

Saturday, October 28

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

Thursday, November 9

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

Saturday, November 25

Shop Small Saturday, Downtown Rockwall, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, December 2

*Kiwanis Christmas Parade, Downtown Rockwall, 9 a.m.
Hometown Christmas, Downtown Rockwall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Christmas Tree Lighting, City Hall, 6 p.m.*

For more information:
Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com

Out and About in Rockwall



Halloween Events in Downtown Rockwall

Get ready for Scare on the Square to delight and excite your kiddos! Every year a group of volunteers from the Downtown Rockwall Association and the Friends of Downtown Rockwall sponsors the family-focused event in Historic Downtown. On Saturday, October 28, the festivities start early with the Not So Scary Market at 10 a.m., then the children's activities run from 2-5 p.m., which include trick or treating around the square, trunk or treating on streets, hay maze, games, inflatables, fortune tellers, popcorn, pet parade, and so much more!



Rockwall Celebrates Constitution Week

This year marks the 236th 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 volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution Rock Wall Chapter works to raise awareness to mark the occasion and celebrate the historic document.



City of Rockwall Welcomes Student Leaders

Four new members have been selected for the City of Rockwall's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the new school year. In addition, eight 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 2023-2024 year include Evan Haack, Ryker Hayes, Allison Nielsen, and Vincent Vento. Returning students include Contessa Barron, Miriam Gamez, Maddoc Johnson, Ellie McReynolds, James Martinez, Emily Nielsen, Kaylen Pruitt, and Keaton Steen.

Love Your Landscape - Fall is Here

After the long hot summer we've had, fall is finally here... and it will hopefully bring with it a welcome change. Here are some pointers to get your lawn in tip top shape for the coming months:

- Apply pre-emergents before mid-October
- Raise your mowing blades to cut 1/2" as you finish out mowing season. This adds a little protection for your grass root system during winter
- After leaves drop, it is a good time to prune your trees
- Perform a final inspection and repair on your irrigation system before shutting it off for the winter. This will help prepare for spring watering
- Apply final treatment of fertilizer by mid-October
- Plant, plant, plant. October to March is the best time, with the least amount of stress on the plants

