



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

May 2020

Rockwall Residents Find a Silver Lining

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, residents in Rockwall have been determined to find a silver lining. Even with a majority of homes on quarantine, students homeschooling and employees working remotely as much as possible, families have still found ways to spend quality time together. The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department released a series of videos to guide residents on their quest to stay entertained inside, or to get outdoors while remaining socially distant. People everywhere are making the most of a challenging situation.

In addition, wherever you look you can find people reaching out to one another with messages and actions of hope and support. For instance, residents have been turning out in droves to patronize local restaurants in their curbside and delivery business during the shutdown and transition to reopening. It's an innovative way that has helped keep our economy afloat in the past few months. Also, motivational signs began appearing all over town, like the one here at the post office in support of essential postal employees who helped keep our country running during an unprecedented time of uncertainty.



Republic's Commitment to Serve the Community

To do their part to support the community while supporting their own employees, Republic Services launched a new program. It's called their "commitment to serve" initiative. The company has been giving meals and gift cards to their employees to show appreciation for their hard work.

Republic is buying those gift cards from local establishments to continue to bolster their business during this trying time. The effort has resulted in thousands of dollars being spent at local restaurants and businesses over the past few weeks.

Reaching Out—Calling All Area Seniors

A lot has been changing rapidly in the last few months, and Rockwall residents are doing their best to keep up. One of the ways City of Rockwall employees have reached out to help others is by calling all the area seniors, aged 65 and up. The goal was to check on a potentially vulnerable population during the COVID-19 pandemic—seniors sheltered at home who may need help with a variety of issues.

More than 3,200 calls were made from several departments, including the Rockwall Fire Department, Rockwall Police Department, Citizens on Patrol, Parks and Recreation Department, and Administration. Questions covered access to resources and information, loved ones who could deliver groceries and medications, and available transportation to stores, doctors' offices, etc. for vital needs. The calls were well received and appreciated.



Out and About in Rockwall



Shape Your Future: Census 2020

Just like everything else this year, the 2020 Census has been delayed because of the coronavirus. Census Day took place without fanfare on April 1. The good news is for the first time, people can complete the survey online. Residents can also respond by phone and by mail. It only takes a few minutes, and it helps determine how more than \$675 billion dollars of federal funding is allocated. For more information, please visit Rockwall.com or 2020census.gov.



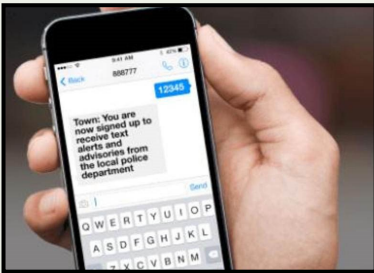
Bulk Trash Pickup Returns to Normal Allowances

With residents sheltering at home over the past few months, Republic Services reported an average of 30% greater volume of trash to be picked up from homes. This includes both regular garbage and bulk trash. To accommodate the increase, Republic temporarily shifted duties of some of their drivers' routes and limited the amount of bulk trash per household for a short time.

Now, Rockwall residents will be happy to note, that Republic Services is back on their regular schedule for bulk trash pickup. That means the temporary restrictions on the number of cubic feet of bulk waste allowed per household has been lifted. They do ask that people still bag leaves and grass clippings and continue to put them out front with bulk trash. Republic has been working hard to meet the needs of the increased demand, which is expected to even out again in the coming months.

Stay Informed on Important Issues with Nixle

Right now, more than ever, there are important issues happening in Rockwall County, and residents need to stay informed. There's an emergency alert and preparedness app that can help. It's called Nixle, and when something happens and the public needs to know, including severe weather, the latest COVID-19 information, criminal activity or more, the Rockwall County Office of Emergency Management sends a text and/or email to alert subscribers. To register, text your zip code to 888777, or find the link at Rockwall.com.



Love Your Landscape: Is it Time to Start Watering?

At this point, you should only have watered about one or two times since February, because the rainy weather so far this year has provided ample water for your lawn and landscapes. Generally around mid-May we start watering our landscapes and lawns, and it's important to water properly, not only to make our landscapes happy, but to conserve water as well. Whether you water with an automatic sprinkler system or with a water hose, the goal is to apply 1" of water per week. This is the perfect amount to keep your lawn and landscape plants happy and growing. Here are some tips to help with smarter watering:



- Turn off water if it's forecasted to rain; if it does not rain then you can water the next day
- Sprinkler systems generally use 2" of water per hour with spray heads and 1/2" of water per hour with large rotors
- Watering programs: 2 days per week, zone run times - 15 minutes on sprays and 30 minutes on rotors
- Sunny areas may require more water and shaded areas may require less
- Inspect your system at least monthly to ensure proper operation
- **One sprinkler head typically puts out 4 gallons of water per minute— a broken sprinkler head can put out 20 gallons of water each minute!**

- With a 15-minute run time, normal head = 60 gallons vs. broken head = 300 gallons
- Make sure sprinkler heads water lawn and landscape plants, not concrete, buildings and fences
- **Most lawn and plant loss is caused by over-watering and not a lack of water**