

# ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

a monthly city publication

December 2024



## Happy Holidays

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the holiday season fills our homes and hearts with warmth and joy, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each and every one of you. Rockwall thrives because of the kindness, generosity, and resilience of our community. This time of year reminds us to cherish the bonds we share, to lend a hand to those in need, and to celebrate the traditions that make our town so special. Whether you're gathering with loved ones, supporting local businesses (and I hope you do!), or volunteering your time, know that your contributions make Rockwall stronger. May your holidays be filled with peace, love, and happiness. Here's to a season of togetherness and a New Year full of promise and opportunity.

From my family to yours, Happy Holidays!

Trace Johannesen  
Mayor, City of Rockwall



## State of the City

On November 20th, Mayor Trace Johannesen and City Manager Mary Smith delivered the annual State of the City presentation at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The presentation highlighted the City of Rockwall's accomplishments over the past year, shared exciting updates, and provided insights into future plans for the community.

Watch the presentation here: <https://youtu.be/kEDw-FbqPFA>



## New Year, New Opportunities

As we welcome a new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the impact we can make in our community and set resolutions to give back in meaningful ways. In Rockwall, volunteers are the heart of our city, helping to enhance our parks, support community events, and contribute to vital programs that make Rockwall a better place to live.

If you've been looking for an opportunity to get more involved, now is the time! Whether you're passionate about beautifying our public spaces,

assisting with special events, or bringing fresh ideas to city boards and commissions, there's a place for you to shine. Volunteering is not just about giving - it's about connecting with neighbors, learning new skills, and being part of something bigger.

Make volunteering part of your New Year's resolutions and help us build an even stronger, more vibrant Rockwall in 2025.

Visit our website to find the perfect fit for you.

<https://www.rockwall.com/volunteer.asp>



Get the latest updates, events, and news delivered straight to your email inbox.

Don't miss out— sign up for our e-news updates today!

<https://gqr.sh/8N4c>







# INTERSTATE 30 UPDATES

TxDOT is launching significant projects in Rockwall, including the widening of Interstate bridges over John King Blvd and FM 3549/Stodghill Rd. These upgrades will involve adding lanes in the center of the existing bridges. Moreover, both eastbound and westbound frontage roads between Ridge Road and Hwy 205 will undergo transformations. TxDOT will lay down temporary pavement to facilitate traffic while the current roads are being revamped. The new frontage roads will feature enhanced drainage systems and sidewalks. The substructure for the I-30 eastbound frontage road is nearing completion, and construction over the lake will soon begin to shape the new lanes. Meanwhile, drilling has started on the westbound frontage road. Residents should expect various lane closures on I-30 and the adjoining frontage roads as these expansions and improvements take place. For up-to-date information on daily lane closures, please visit [drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org)

Sign up for text alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDOT/signup/35720>



**PET OF THE MONTH**  
**King Louie**

I'm King Louie but my friends call me KLou! I'm an approximately 4 year old, male, Pix mix that weighs about 76 lbs. I have great energy and love to play. I'm hoping to find a new family with a yard for me to run in and a soft, snuggly bed for me to snooze on. If you have another dog, we can set up a meet and greet. I have been waiting for my forever home for over 230 days. My adoption fee is \$75, and I'm neutered, microchipped, and up-to-date on vaccines. I tested positive for heartworms, but I'm getting better. My treatment is covered thanks to Rockwall PAWS. Come meet me today!  
1825 Airport Road, Rockwall, TX 75087 Tel: (972) 771-7750 ext. 2



## 12 Days of Safety

'Tis the season for joy, laughter, and festive cheer—but it's also the perfect time to prioritize safety.


1. Three Feet, Please! Keep decorations a safe distance from flames.
2. Safe Cords, Happy Floors! Avoid hiding cords under rugs or leaving them where they can trip someone.
3. Hydrate Your Tree! Water real trees daily and dispose of them promptly after Christmas to prevent them from drying out.
4. Lights Out for Bedtime! Turn off holiday lights before you hit the hay—most fires happen at night.
5. Avoid Outlet Overload. Don't overuse extension cords; install extra outlets if needed.
6. Smoke Alarms! Make sure every floor and bedroom has one, and don't forget to test them.
7. Space Heaters Need Space. Keep them at least three feet from anything flammable.
8. Inspect Decorations. Check for frayed wires or damaged items.
9. Batteries are not Snacks. Store them safely, as kids and pets might mistake them for toys or treats.
10. Pet Safety Alert! Keep holiday plants like poinsettias and mistletoe out of reach—they can be toxic to animals.
11. Stay Cool in the Kitchen. Never leave cooking unattended; distractions can quickly turn dangerous.
12. Logs Only! Only burn appropriate materials in the fireplace, and store ashes in a metal bin far from the house.

**Join the City Team**

**APPLY NOW**




As the holidays approach, it's important to remember to Cease the Grease and keep our drains clean! Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from cooking can build up in pipes, leading to costly clogs and overflows. When FOG goes down the drain, it hardens and can cause raw sewage to back up into homes, streets, and even nearby waterways, impacting our environment and drinking water. To avoid damage, never pour grease down the drain. Instead, soak up small amounts with paper towels and toss them in the trash. For larger amounts, cool the grease, then dispose of it in a sealed container. Keep your drains safe and clean this season!



## Winter is Coming... So Should Your Permit

With winter weather just around the corner, many homeowners may be considering HVAC installations or roofing repairs to prepare their homes for the colder months. Please remember that certain HVAC work and roofing projects require permits from the City of Rockwall. These permits help ensure that the work meets safety standards and complies with local codes,, protecting your home and family. Before starting any project, check with the City's Building Inspections Department to obtain the necessary permits and stay prepared for the season ahead. For more info, visit: [https://www.rockwall.com/buildinginspections\\_int.asp](https://www.rockwall.com/buildinginspections_int.asp)

**Residential Projects That Require a Permit**



Select an item from the list below to view the permit requirements for that item

## Mark your Calendar

**Hometown Christmas - December 7**  
Parade 9am  
Downtown Events 10am-5pm  
City Hall Tree Lighting 6pm-8pm

**Santa Cops 4 Kids - December 14**  
Fun Run, 5K, vendor booths, and games  
8am-11am at Harry Myers Park



**Offices Closed**  
City offices will be closed for Christmas, December 24 and 25  
Republic Services trash will be delayed 1 day

City offices will be closed for New Years Day, January 1  
Republic Services trash will be delayed 1-2 days  
Check your trash schedule: <https://www.republicservices.com/schedule>

<https://www.rockwall.com/EventCalendar.asp>