

ROCKWALL CITY NOTES



a monthly city publication
August 2025

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Rockwall's Independence Day Celebration was a night to remember! Despite a few raindrops, over 5,000 people joined us at Harry Myers Park to celebrate with live music by Big as Texas Band, mouthwatering food trucks, and a stunning fireworks finale that lit up the sky. The festivities kicked off earlier in the day with a patriotic parade. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and helped make this annual tradition so special!



GLORIA WILLIAMS PARK WELCOMES NEW COMEBAQ COURT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS SHAQUILLE O'NEAL AND ARIKE OGUNBOWALE

On July 14, the City of Rockwall proudly celebrated the grand opening of a new Comebaq Court at Gloria Williams Park with special guest Shaquille O'Neal in attendance. This exciting project was made possible through a partnership with Icy Hot®, The Shaquille O'Neal Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas. As the sixth Comebaq Court opened nationwide, this revitalized space provides local youth with a safe, vibrant environment to play, build confidence, and connect with others. The court adds to the ongoing transformation of Gloria Williams Park, named in honor of a Rockwall community trailblazer. Her legacy of perseverance and community spirit continues to inspire future generations. The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department will collaborate with the Boys & Girls Club to host programming and community events at the court.



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Don't miss out—sign up for our E-news updates today!
<https://gqr.sh/8N4c>



INTERSTATE 30 UPDATES

TxDOT's ongoing construction projects in Rockwall continue to bring major roadway improvements, including the widening of the I-30 bridges over John King Blvd. and FM 3549/Stodghill Rd. As part of this work, on-ramp closures and lane shifts are expected through the end of the year. Progress continues on the Horizon Bridge expansion, with traffic now shifting to the new lanes and demolition of the old bridge soon.

Speed limits have been reduced to **35 MPH** on all frontage roads in City limits. Residents and drivers should use extra caution when navigating these lanes and temporary business driveways in the area.

Progress continues on the I-30 eastbound frontage road over the lake, with drilling underway on the westbound side.

For up-to-date information on daily lane closures, please visit drivetexas.org

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

PET OF THE MONTH: NORTH



I'm North! An 18-month-old Pit mix with soft eyes, a gentle soul, and 67 pounds of pure love. Life took an unexpected turn when my previous family could no longer care for me, but I haven't lost hope. I'm leash trained, crate trained, and have done well with my littermate, but if you have another pup at home, a meet and greet is recommended just to make sure we're a good fit. Because of my size and strength, I'd thrive best in a home with older children who are familiar with big dogs and can help me feel secure. I'm sweet, eager to please, and ready to love with my whole heart. I'm spayed, microchipped, up to date on all my vaccines, and heartworm negative. I have been searching for my furever home for over 100 days. My adoption fee is \$75. Fill out an application to schedule a time to come meet me!

Rockwall Animal Adoption Center
825 Airport Road (972) 771-7750 RockwallAdoptions.com

The City of Rockwall has confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)—a highly destructive, invasive insect that targets ash trees. The pest was discovered in a natural greenbelt area near John King Blvd and SH 66, thanks to a resident who reported a group of dead trees on July 15, 2025. This small metallic-green beetle, originally from Asia, has spread across the U.S. since the 1990s, killing millions of ash trees. It was first detected in Michigan in 2002 and is now confirmed in Rockwall County by both City staff and the Texas A&M Forest Service. All types of ash trees are susceptible—including White Ash, Green Ash, and Black Ash, with Green Ash being the most common in our area.

What to Look For:

- "D"-shaped exit holes in the bark
- S-shaped tunnels under the bark
- Sudden dieback of ash tree branches or entire trees

What Should You Do?

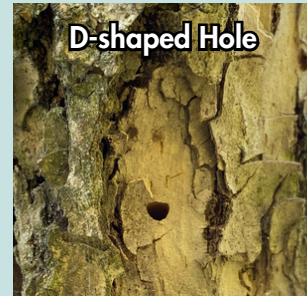
1. **Dead Trees in Natural Areas:** If an infected tree is in a greenbelt or natural area and does not pose a danger to people or property, it can be left in place.
2. **Valuable Landscape Trees:** Trees in yards, parks, or public areas may benefit from treatment if still healthy. The most effective method is injection with emamectin benzoate, which must be done by a Certified Arborist.
3. **Older Ash Trees:** Many Arizona Ash trees planted in the 1970s–80s are nearing the end of their lifespan. If impacted by EAB, removal is likely the best option.

If you suspect your tree is affected, contact an ISA Certified Arborist for inspection and treatment options.

Fun Fact: The Emerald Ash Borer is the only insect that leaves behind a D-shaped hole when it exits the tree!

TRAVIS' TOOLBOX

TIPS FROM TRAVIS SALES,
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND REC



D-shaped Hole

More info at:

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/trees/invasive-species/invasive-insects/emerald-ash-borer/>

Mark your Calendar

San Jacinto Music Series

San Jacinto Plaza Downtown
Friday and Saturday nights through Oct
7pm-9:30pm

Senior Resource Fair - Sept 5

The Center at 9am

Rockwall Farmers Market

Downtown Rockwall
Saturday mornings through Sept
8am-12pm

Scare on the Square - Oct 25

San Jacinto Plaza, 2pm-5pm



Check out more events online

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