

**Fire Grant Enables Rockwall Fire Department to Hire New Firefighters** 

The Rockwall Fire Department has hired 12 new firefighters courtesy of a new grant. FEMA has awarded the City of Rockwall a second Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Resources (SAFER) grant. The grant provides funding for 12 new firefighters, including their salary and most of their benefits for three years.

The grant will reimburse expenses up to \$3,747,847 for 36 months with no local match for the grant. The Fire Department received the same grant in 2020. Fire Department personnel have been recruiting and conducting interviews for a few months, and the new recruits will start in March.

This grant enables the Fire Department to better meet their long term goals for the future in continuing to keep our city safe.





## Vote Early to Avoid Longer Lines Later

Last year, it seemed voters stood in longer lines if they waited to vote on Election Day. In one regard, that is good because it shows Rockwall voters are responsible and engaged. However, the Rockwall County Elections Department is encouraging voters to head to the polls early to get a jump start and avoid the longer lines.

City of Rockwall voters can head to the Rockwall County Library (1215 E. Yellowjacket Ln.) for early voting, which runs from Tuesday, February 20 through Friday, March 1. The Rockwall County Primary Election will take place on Saturday, March 5. You can find voting times and more polling locations at rockwallvotes.com.



# Happening Around Town

#### Monday, February 19-Friday, March 1

Early Voting, Rockwall County Library (1215 E. Yellowjacket Ln.) Check rockwallvotes.com for times and additional locations

# Saturday, March 23

Spring Eggstravaganza, The Harbor (2059 Summer Lee Dr.) 1-4 p.m.

## Fridays and Saturdays, May-October

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

#### Saturday, May 18

Founders Day Festival, Harry Myers Park, 1-10 p.m.

For more information: Rockwall.com, PlayRockwall.com

# **Out and About in Rockwall**



**Recognizing COP Volunteers** 

At a recent City Council meeting, the Mayor and Councilmembers presented a proclamation to honor the service of the Rockwall Police Department's Citizens on Patrol (COP) volunteers. In 2023 Rockwall COP volunteers went above and beyond, collectively giving just shy of 7,000 volunteer hours, resulting in an estimated cost savings to the city of \$314,685!

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#### Second Liquor Petition Fails in Rockwall

For the second time in the past several months, a petitioner's attempt to get on the ballot to legalize liquor sales in Rockwall has failed. Specific purpose committee, Friends of Total Wine in Rockwall, was out in the community last fall, and failed to get the necessary number of valid signatures to bring the issue before voters. The first attempt failed last summer.



#### Citizen's Fire Academy Teaches Valuable Lessons

The Rockwall Fire Department will soon host their Citizen's Fire Academy. This is an intensive program held twice a year to teach participants what it's like to be a firefighter on a daily basis.

While students learn to climb 100' ladders, don firefighter gear, operate extrication equipment used to cut someone out of a car, and so much more... they're also gaining a better awareness of safety, and how crucial the fire service is in Rockwall.

If you're interested in reserving a seat in the class, please visit the Fire Department's website at rockwall.com/fire\_CFA.asp

## Love Your Landscape... Prepare Now for Spring Ahead

Believe it or not, February and March are actually busy months for your landscape. Here are some of the things you need to do now to prepare for a greener yard this spring.

- Cut back perennials
- Cut back ornamental grasses
- Cut back most roses depending on variety
- Apply pre-emergent the first half of February, following label directions
- Add mulch to beds as needed, but no more than a 2" layer
- This is your last opportunity to prune any trees in the landscape
- Get your mower ready, change oil, add new blades
- Toward the end of February, drop your mower 1" lower than you had it last fall to get ready for your spring scalp

