

## Help in a storm

City of Rockwall police and firefighters remind residents that the warning sirens, which sounded during the damaging storms that passed through this area on April 3, are to advise people that are outside to **seek shelter**.

Local police and firefighters were quick to respond to the situation in the city, and they also offered their services to surrounding areas harder hit by the tornado-ridden storms - such as Royse City and Forney.

Rockwall Mayor David Sweet praised the work of the city's team.

"A job well done," the mayor said, citing police and firefighters, dispatchers and public works employees. "They were ready to provide aid here and elsewhere. I'm proud of them.

Fire Chief Mark Poindexter said his department sent an engine and brush truck to help Rockwall County in areas where tornados hit and assisted in the rescue of a trapped victim.

"We also sent the Mobile Command Post after we received requests to run the Fire Operations Division that consists of eight fire departments," Chief Poindexter explained.

The next day, his department helped city building officials with assessment of structures to determine if they were safe.

Police officers were strategically deployed throughout the city and schools to respond to weather related incidents and stayed in constant contact with school officials, said department spokesman Lt. Ed Fowler.

"The warning sirens were activated when conditions were likely to produce a tornado," he explained. "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service volunteers were deployed to obtain real time information on inclement weather conditions."

## Good month for Animals

Great news from the city's Animal Adoption Center - March was another successful month for the animals.

The center:

- Took in 175 animals
- Adopted 117 or delivered them to a rescue organization
- Returned 40 to their owner

One animal was euthanized. The city's efforts to save more animals from euthanasia have been successful thanks to programs such as foster pet care, said Brad Griggs, director of animal services.

"We thank all of our friends and volunteers for helping us have another successful month at the center. Their response to our new programs has been amazing," he said.

If you are interested in adopting an animal, you can "shop" from home by visiting [www.rockwall.com/animalservices](http://www.rockwall.com/animalservices) or visit the center at 1825 Airport Road.

## **City in 3<sup>rd</sup> healthiest county**

The City of Rockwall is located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Healthiest County in Texas, according to a recent survey that ranked Collin County as the healthiest.

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program was the work of the Robert Johnson Wood Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

As an example, Rockwall County's mortality rate showed 4,584 premature deaths compared to the National Benchmark of 5,466 and the Texas ranking at 7,186. Also considered were:

- Health Factors (such as smoking and obesity);
- Social and Economic Factors (education, unemployment and violent crime rate);
- Physical Environment (including air pollution, access to recreation facilities and number of fast food restaurants).

The study ranked nearly every county in the nation to show: much of what affects health happens outside a doctor's office; and what a critical role factors such as education, jobs, income and environment play in health and longevity.

## **New signal light installation**

Construction of a signal light at FM-3097 (Horizon Road) and Tubbs Road is expected to be completed by the end of April – unless weather delays the work.

A pedestrian crossing on Horizon Road is included in the project.