



Wayfinding Signs Assist Richmond Visitors

The City of Richmond now welcomes visitors to our city with 13 Wayfinding signs helping to orient them to the area and toward their destination. You may have seen some of these signs on Jackson Street, Williams Way, or Thompsons Highway. They reflect the Richmond brand and incorporate eleven different locations including Historic Downtown, Morton Cemetery, George Park, Freeman Town Park, Fort Bend Museum, Justice Center, Hospital (Oak Bend), Long Acres Ranch, County Courthouse and Wharton County Junior College.

The need for Wayfinding signs was recognized several years ago after the adoption of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. Wayfinding is the practice of orienting people within their environment.....guiding them where to go in communities through signage. The need may be driven by tourism, history or economic development. Whatever the reason, wayfinding programs have become necessary in this very mobile society today. Richmond recognized the need to easily guide citizens to the Historic District and other points of interest as well as institutions like Oak Bend Medical Center. The planning and development of a branded wayfinding system included citizens of the City of Richmond as well as the Commission.

Richmond's City Commission approved a wayfinding signs contract with National Sign Plazas after a request for proposal was issued earlier this year.

(cont'd on pg 8)

CITY GOVERNMENT



Commissioners Terry Gaul, Barry Beard, Carl Drozd and Josh Lockhart

The City of Richmond operates under the commission-manager form of government, per the city charter. The voters elect the City Commission which hires a city manager to administer the city's day to day affairs. The commission serves as the legislative body and is final authority on all policy decisions which determine the scope and functions of the city government. The City Manager is responsible for directing workforce and programs of the city and is accountable to the commission for the proper conduct of all municipal operations.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Evalyn Moore- Mayor of Richmond
emoore@richmondtx.gov

Commissioner Terry Gaul, Position 1
tgaul@richmondtx.gov

Commissioner Barry Beard, Position 2
bbeard@richmondtx.gov

Commissioner Carl Drozd, Position 3
cdrozd@richmondtx.gov

Commissioner Josh Lockhart, Position 4
jlockhart@richmondtx.gov

City Administration:

City Manager- Ms. Terri Vela
tvela@richmondtx.gov

ON THE AGENDA:

- City Commission meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:30 pm
- Development Corporation of Richmond (DCR) meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm
- Building and Standards Commission meets 4th Monday of the month, every other month, at 5:30 pm.
- Parks and Recreation Board meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm
- Planning & Zoning Commission meets the 1st Monday of the month at 5:00pm, and as it is an application driven commission, may not meet monthly.
- Richmond Historical Commission Meeting is 3rd Tuesday of month at 8:00 am.
- Zoning Board of Adjustments meets the 1st Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm, and is also an application driven board.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Evalyn Moore

2018 was a year of recovery for many and also a year of new beginnings. We saw the beginning of increased use of our Wessendorff Park trail system since the trails were completed. The city's Trails Master Plan guided us toward completion of the water fountain at the eastern edge of Wessendorff Park (pictured above). We are glad so many families have enjoyed this water feature.

We hope you have seen some of the Wayfinding signs in the market since that project completed in November 2018, and is the feature story for this newsletter. The need for wayfinding signs was identified in Richmond's Comprehensive Master Plan as an important tool for creating sense of place and directing visitors to our city.

We will continue to look to the future with partnerships for development opportunities appropriate for central Fort Bend County. House Bill 533 will be introduced this upcoming legislative session which would allow the City of Richmond to capture sales and hotel tax revenue to fund a hotel/ convention center. This legislation would allow Richmond to receive the same benefits afforded 37 other Texas cities, as well as some in the Houston area, through prior legislation. This has the potential for positive economic impact on Richmond, necessary since we sit in the center of increased population growth in this county.

As we move into 2019 our focus will continue toward improved services with Fire Station 2 completion at end of 2019. The area's population growth encourages us to continue to update our various master plans anticipating the increased demand on services, such as our utilities. Know that your city is in good position and prepared for this growth, while making sure we retain our unique historic charm which draws people to Richmond. Richmond continues to be a great place to live, work and play!



photo by Laura Scarlato



photo by Dave Foster



photo by Michelle Moore

RICHMOND PARKWAY SOON TO BE REALITY

PROPOSED STREET RENAMING - RICHMOND PARKWAY



The City of Richmond has moved closer to achieving a key goal of its Comprehensive Master Plan. The Master Plan recognizes the importance of increasing awareness of our dynamic city in the region, and creating a signature gateway into Richmond is a priority to accomplishing this goal. As a result, the City Commission of Richmond has voted in favor of renaming the portion of Second Street, from US Hwy. 90-A to Austin Street, and Austin to Front Street, and Front Street, which becomes Williams Way south to the city limits, to Richmond Parkway in the future.

This name change is part of a coordinated effort between the City of Richmond and Fort Bend County. On November 27th, 2018, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court approved renaming the County's portion of Williams Way extending south from Richmond's city limits to US 59, as Richmond Parkway. Upon completion, this renaming will consolidate segments of Front Street, Austin Street, Second Street and Williams Way between U.S. 90A and U.S. 59 to create a unified entrance corridor to the City of Richmond. Utilizing a single name for the entire roadway will strengthen awareness and bolster the City's image by providing important way-finding and community branding.

This name change will be an involved process as it includes communicating with residents and businesses along this roadway. The City of Richmond will lead all coordination efforts for 911 services, US Postal Services and utility and transportation related services. The City has also planned future mobility improvements for the corridor that will enhance the connectivity of the Judicial Center to Richmond's historic district and downtown area.

DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Public Works Department Promotions

Howard Christian
Public Works Director
has been promoted
to Assistant City
Manager while
continuing as Public
Works Director



Christine Cappel
has been promoted
to Public Works
Administrative
Manager

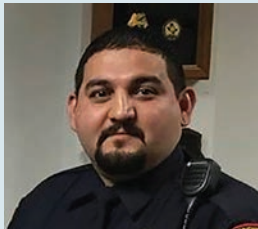
Planning Department Promotion



Mr. Jose Abraham
has been promoted to
Planning Director

Richmond Police Department Promotions

Mr. James T. Williams
promoted to Corporal



Mr. Rueben Robles Jr.
promoted to Corporal

Richmond Fire Department Promotion

Bryan Lewis
promoted to
Battalion Chief



Richmond's Fire Station #2 Begun Construction

As with Richmond's Central Fire Station on Houston Street and Fire Station 3 on Mason Road, the City's streets teams have begun the clearing and leveling of the land, prior to construction of Fire Station 2, to adhere to allocated budget. The Commission has approved the plan for driveway locations which calls for entry from Ransom Road and exit when they leave onto Williams Way Boulevard. City Attorney, Gary Smith, explained the goal is to have a 'drive-through' fire station to allow the property to work most efficiently. Efficiency is important since Chief Mike Youngblood believes Fire Station 2 will probably be the department's busiest due to the density of the population surrounding this location.

The projected cost of construction for Fire Station 2 is \$1.9 million and is targeted for completion late 2019.



City Streets Department Repairing Sidewalks



You may have seen city personnel repairing your sidewalk recently. This is due in part to the City's Public Works department completing a sidewalk assessment in August followed by an amendment to the City's driveway, sidewalk, culvert repair policy, which in some cases held residents responsible for sidewalk repair. The City is now responsible for any ongoing maintenance and repairs to sidewalks and curbs, as well as any driveways damaged by elevation changes from street repairs. There are 114,076 feet of sidewalk in the City of Richmond, some of which is cracked due to age or tree roots which have caused some sidewalks to rise in certain areas. Under the old regulations, repair to the sidewalks fell to the homeowner. This has changed for Richmond residents.

Under the new ordinance, changed by the amendment approved at the September commission meeting, sidewalk repairs are broken into three categories based on priority. Sidewalks with 'trip hazard' of two inches or more are first priority for repair, followed by sidewalks with trip hazard between one and two inches and third priority with trip hazard between a half-inch and one inch. The goal within this next year is to address and repair as many priority one trip hazards as possible beginning on the North side of the City and moving south.

The Street Department began replacing defective sidewalks in late August and have replaced 383.5 ft. of sidewalk by early December in addition to their other responsibilities. The City of Richmond has 36,192 total feet of sidewalks needing repair and residents should be seeing the benefit of this ordinance change soon.

RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SANTA BEHIND THE BADGE CONTINUES TO BRING CHEER



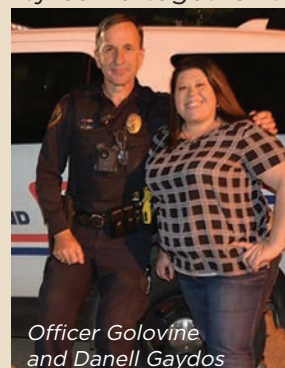
December 19th, 2018 marked the 24th year Richmond Police Department have hosted Santa Behind the Badge to bring cheer to children in our community who may not have a visit from Santa. The officers help to identify those families who may need more support to keep the spirit alive in their children's hearts.

This becomes a community effort as many contributed....

Santa Claus, Walmart Richmond on FM 1640, Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Richmond, who provided use of their gym in the Family Life center, Calvary Episcopal Church and the students at their school who helped Santa's elves by

wrapping the gifts, and the Richmond Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

A special thank you went to Officer Vladimir Golovine and Telecommunicator Danell Gaydos who made all of the arrangements to help make this a successful event. The photos show what can happen when the police and community come together to change lives..... "Together we can make a difference"!



Officer Golovine and Danell Gaydos



RICHMOND CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ACCEPTING CLASS #26 APPLICATIONS

The Richmond Police Department offers an education of its operations through the Richmond Citizen's Police Academy (RCPA) classes, next one beginning Thursday, February 7, 2019. These classes are held at the Richmond Police Department, located at 600 Preston Street from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m., every Thursday for ten (10) sessions. The only cost for this opportunity is your time and dedication.

We will make the classes both informative and entertaining, and you will be exposed to ride along with officers, tour police station and Ft. Bend County jail, and optional 'TASER training', and 'Shoot, Don't shoot' firearms training scenarios, among other areas of law enforcement.



Join the more than 600 involved citizens who have graduated from our Citizen's Police Academy by completing an online application at the Richmond Police Department website - [Richmondtx.gov/police-department/Citizens Police Academy](http://Richmondtx.gov/police-department/Citizens-Police-Academy).

Handwritten applications can be mailed to Richmond Police Dept., 600 Preston Street, Richmond TX 77469, Attn: Lt. Lowell Neinast.

AGENCIES PARTNER TO HELP RICHMOND CITIZENS



The City of Richmond launched the 4th Annual Share the Warmth program in October to assist those in the community needing blankets,



coats, jackets and other warm clothing. The donation period of the program ran from mid-October to mid-November and involved three drop locations in the City as well as support from four City of Richmond churches- First Baptist Church, St. Johns United Methodist Church, Calvary Episcopal Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. This year's

Share the Warmth event pulled in a couple of hundred warm items including blankets and

coats to go to assist those in need in the City of Richmond.



Richmond Commissioners Terry Gaul and Barry Beard, Mayor Evalyn Moore, Fort Bend Seniors' CEO Manuela Arroyos, Development Director Leah Ghobrial and Outreach Manager Rick Branek

While the City began this program based on a community conversation had by Mayor Evalyn Moore four years ago, getting donations into the hands of those in need within the city required agency partnerships. The City partnered with Fort Bend Women's Center Pennywise ReSale Center on Hwy 90 for distribution preparation and merchandise cards which are then given to Richmond seniors so they are able to redeem them to get blankets, coats or any item of their choice! Fort Bend Seniors assists to get the merchandise cards along with a note to the approx. 60+ City of Richmond seniors who are their clients through their Meals on Wheels Program.

This Share the Warmth Program has grown to a valuable partnership between these 3 agencies to serve our Richmond citizens.

CITY DRAINAGE UPDATES ARE PLANNED



Richmond's Public Works Department is in the final stages of completing a Drainage Master Plan that covers the entire City. The plan is basically broken into two pieces - the north and the south drainage basins with HWY 90 being the dividing line. Hydraulic analyses were completed focusing on the 10, 25, and 100 year storm events. The City is awaiting word on several prospective projects that have been submitted to FEMA for funding consideration.



MOVIES ON MORTON

Free Outdoor Films

Held the first Friday of every month
In historic Downtown Richmond

March 1 st	The Sandlot
April 5 th	Selena
May 3 rd	Apollo 13
June 7 th	The Princess Bride
July 5 th	Independence Day
August 2 nd	The Goonies
September 6 th	Singin' in the Rain
October 4 th	Hocus Pocus
November 1 st	Coco
December 6 th	The Grinch

*Films start at Dark. Dates are subject to change due to weather.

Scan the QR code to like us on Facebook for future updates, or search for 'City of Richmond, Texas' on Facebook.



RICHMOND FIRE STATION MASCOT A TRADITION

The tradition of the dalmatian as the firehouse dog began in early days when fire vehicles were horse-drawn carriages. It was discovered the dalmatian had three useful qualities- speed, endurance and an affinity for horses. For these reasons the dogs were easily trained to run in front of the engines to help clear a path and guide the horses to the fire quickly. As well, they helped calm the horses at the fire. Today they serve purpose more as a mascot.

Ever the fire department to keep true to tradition, the Richmond Fire Department added their fourth female dalmatian this year, thanks to the sponsorship of Dr. Michael Moore of Foster Creek Veterinary Hospital in Richmond, Texas. Lady IV joined the team in the spring, and none too early, so she could be mentored by Lady III preparing her for her duties carrying on the tradition of the dalmatian firehouse dog.

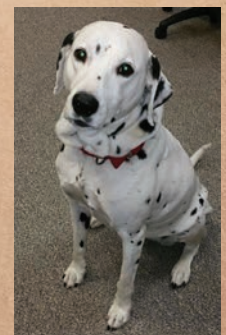
The Department mourned the passing of Lady III just before Christmas as she served 14 years for the department. As she was only the third dalmation mascot, since tradition began in 1981, it was a difficult time to say goodbye. Her longevity had her serving 4 years longer than Ladys I and II, and she was loved by many in the community.



Lady IV growing up



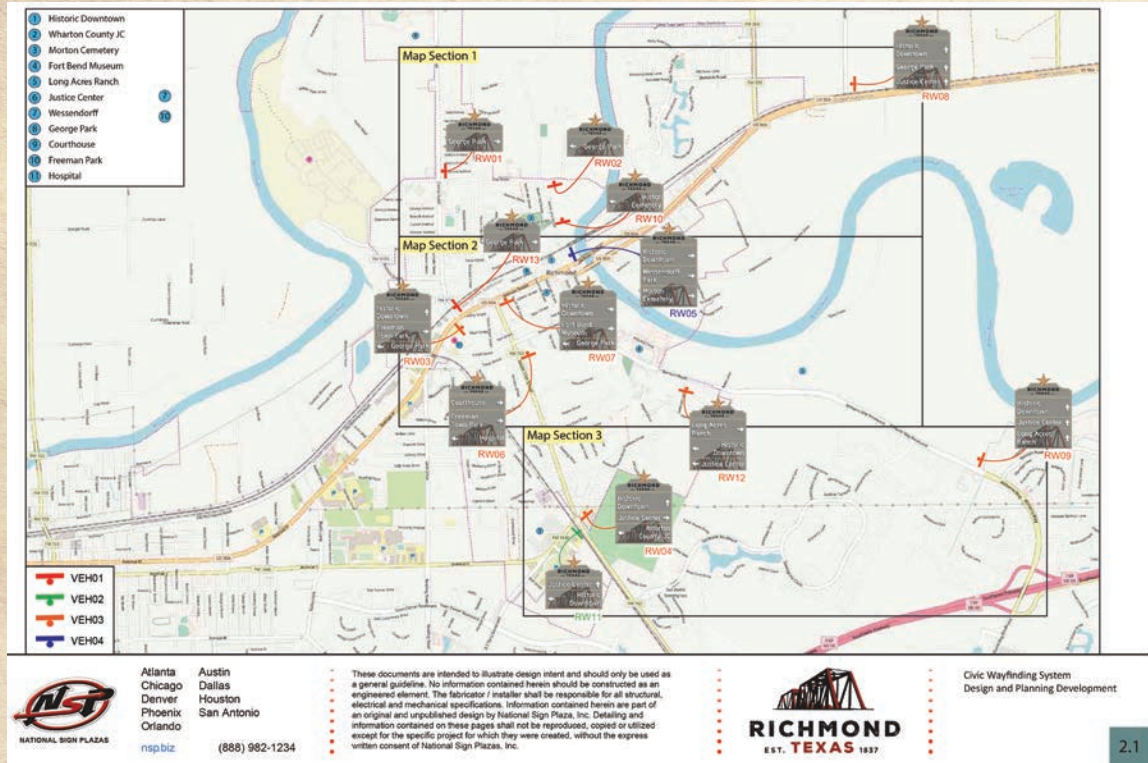
Dr. Michael Moore



Lady III Celebrates 14 Years

Wayfinding Signs (cont'd from cover)

Wayfinding systems operate at three different levels....directional, informative and interactive. Creating a sense of place is a core component of Richmond's development plans, so moving forward with this wayfinding system project addresses that component. Installation of 11 of the 13 signs has been completed, with the final two signs on Hwy. 90 by Oak Bend Medical Center waiting until TxDOT's underpass project is complete. All signs will have backs placed on the signs with the city logo to complete a finished look. See attached map for guidance on Wayfinding system sign locations, or go to Development Corporation of Richmond website to view map and download a pdf at <http://www.richmondcodev.com/page/WayfindingSigns>.



CITY HOLIDAYS

- Martin Luther King Day- Monday January 21, 2019
- Good Friday- Friday, April 19
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 27
- Independence Day - Thursday July 4
- Labor Day - Monday, September 2
- *911 Day (Firefighter) Wednesday September 11th
- Fair Day - Friday, September 27th
- Veterans Day - Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving Nov. 29th
- Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th
- Christmas Day Wednesday December 25th



Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) will be hosting the **Spring Shred Event on April 6th**....check website and city Facebook page for updates.

CITY OF RICHMOND AND REPUBLIC SERVICES **SPRING CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN**

will be April 13th, 20th and 27th.

SEE CITY WEBSITE

<http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/sanitation>
for updates on which date
applies to your neighborhood!

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF RICHMOND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018 was an active year for the DCR that ended with the organization being named the Economic Development Organization of the Year by the Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce. Several important achievements occurred including creating a new website, implementing a downtown area improvement program, completing a target industry study, installing wayfinding signage throughout Richmond, hosting a second chance job fair, and developing an updated marketing strategy.



DCR Website

The DCR's new website was completed in February 2018. The website is a key marketing tool that contains important information for both existing business owners and businesses that are interested in opening a location in Richmond. The website has been visited by 12 countries and has helped to increase awareness of Richmond, Texas as a prime destination for commercial development.

The DCR's new website can be found at: www.RichmondEcoDev.com

Richmond's five target industries are:

- Oil & Gas
- Business Services
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Healthcare and Social Services
- Real Estate, Finance, and Insurance

Target Industry Study

A target industry study was completed June 2018 to help identify which industries are most suitable for Richmond's geographic area and build upon its area's strengths. A major benefit of the study is that it allowed the DCR to focus its business recruitment strategies specifically on the industries identified by the study. The study was conducted by Economic Modeling Specialist Inc. (EMSI) over a five month period that included multiple site visits to Richmond, community meetings, focus groups with key stakeholders, and the analysis of demographic and employment data.

Opportunity Zone Program

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 created a new community development program in rural and urban communities intended to increase private investment. The program provides a tax incentive for investors to reinvest their unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Zones. The selection process for which areas to include in the program was competitive with only a quarter of eligible tracts being selected by Governor Greg Abbott. The City of Richmond and DCR were successful in receiving 2 of the 5 opportunity zone area designations in Fort Bend County.

For more information on the Opportunity Zone Program, please visit www.richmondcodev.com/page/OpportunityZoneProgram.



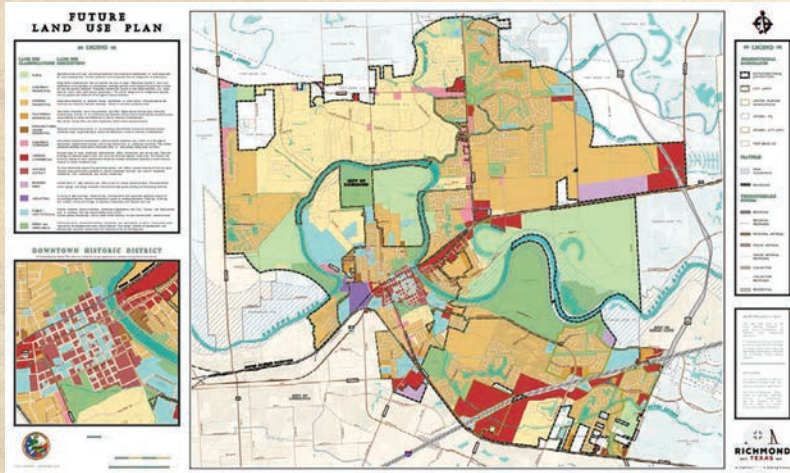
CITY RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM ACCESS HEALTH

The City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Board recognized Palak Jalan, Senior Director of Population Health for AccessHealth, at their January board meeting. With a grant from The Episcopal Health Foundation, AccessHealth was able to allocate \$20,000 to the City of Richmond with intent it be used for park enhancements recommended by the City's Parks and Recreation Board. AccessHealth has been serving the Richmond community for more than 40 years as a community health center. In 2017, they began working with community partners to address conditions within the community with purpose to prevent common health problems such as diabetes, hypertension and depression.

AccessHealth advocates for residents to be active and a city park system with trails provides the conditions to encourage residents to become more active. By contributing toward the City's parks and trails system, AccessHealth felt this provided the most potential to impact the health of their patients and the Richmond community at large.



Standing - AccessHealth CEO Mike Dodson, Sr. Director of Population Health Palak Jalan, Fund Development Manager Diana Turner with Parks & Recreation Board members (left to right) Pat Pittman, Veronica Torres, Tim Walker, Chairman Robert Haas, Rob Hodges, and Barbara Johnson.



CITY'S UTILITY MASTER PLAN

We have all noticed the growth in the area and realize our idyllic little City is growing. While the city has no intention of yielding to pressure of growth for the sake of growth, it is inevitable. Your City Government and Staff are therefore staying 'out in front' of the growth with a City sponsored Utility Master Plan to enable us to accommodate quality growth, consistent with

our heritage and values. The good news is we are a very old city with charm, history and heritage that goes with that distinction, though the age of our city also carries the accompanying problems presented with an aging infrastructure of such a historical city.

In our Utility Master Plan we will be looking at the most efficient ways to upgrade our existing facilities, and develop new infrastructure to facilitate our planned quality growth. Further, we are mandated by the Fort Bend Subsidence District to achieve 60% surface water usage by 2025, which will require us to build more facilities to treat the surface water.

This will be a 5 year plan based on present projections, but as needs "on the ground" change, we will be continually monitoring implementation to make sure we are the best stewards of the taxpayer's money, while at the same time providing excellence in our service to our Community.

CITY OF RICHMOND PARKS

Wessendorff Park

The Wessendorff Park fountain has been completed at east side of park



500 Preston Street

City Hall Park Plaza

400 Morton Street - Downtown Richmond



Freeman Town Park

601 Burnet Street



George Park

2155 Collins Road - Richmond

Home of Lamar Little League Baseball Association, Rose-Rich Softball Association, Lamar Soccer Club and Ft. Bend Youth Football Little League's Richmond Oilers teams.



Crawford Park

100 Liberty Street



Clay Park

400 Riveredge Drive • Pink Elementary School Mural Project



Residents can expect online reservation of parks to be available by end of March 2019.

Republic Services Trash Holidays for 2019

HOLIDAY	DATE	SCHEDULE
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 21	Regular collection
Good Friday	Friday, April 19	Regular collection
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27	Regular collection
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4	Regular collection
Labor Day	Monday, September 2	Regular collection
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28	Thursday's collection will occur on Friday. Friday's collection for trash and recycling will occur on Saturday.



**Schedule has not been set for end of year. Continue to visit the City's website - Sanitation drop down under Public Works Department at <http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/sanitation>.*

TXDOT UPDATES FOR RICHMOND AREA ROADWAYS

FM 359 at Highway 90A	Overpass completed. Hwy 90A westbound feeder road under construction	Estimated completion Spring 2019*
US 59/ IH 69 (at Williams Way)	Feeder Road construction	Estimated completion May 2019*
Highway 90A Overpass at Lane Drive	Construction on hold due to multiple Railroad permits	Projected to begin construction again February 2019. No estimate of completion at this time*
Crabb River Road and FM 762	Road widening construction	Projected completion August 2021.*

*Estimated/ projected dates may change as everything is guided by weather conditions.



Rain has slowed completion of the City Seals being painted on US 90 A overpass wall