

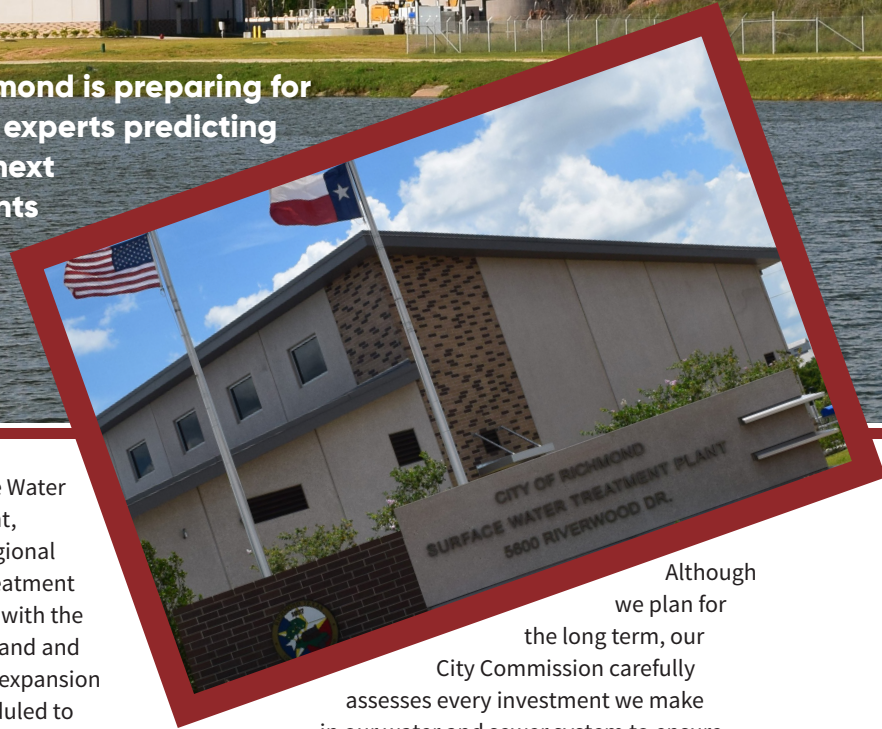


RICHMOND
EST. **TEXAS** 1837

A Charming Past. A Soaring Future.

Richmond plans ahead for a sustainable water future

Like many cities surrounding Houston, Richmond is preparing for significant growth in the coming years with experts predicting our population to more than double in the next decade. In 2014, we worked with our residents and businesses to develop a vision for how our city should grow and the result of that effort was our award-winning Comprehensive Master Plan.



A critical component of implementing our vision is to make sure we have the water and sewer infrastructure in place to support the addition of new residents without impacting the quality of life our current residents enjoy. To that end, Richmond's City Commission adopted a Utility Master Plan that integrates with the City's Comprehensive Master Plan to help guide our investment in infrastructure as our City continues to grow over the next 10 years.

Last year we celebrated the opening of our brand-new Surface Water Treatment Plant. The new treatment plant can treat up to 2 million gallons of water per day and as our demand for water increases, will help reduce our reliance on our finite groundwater resources. We built the new treatment plant to provide the drinking water we need today, but designed it with the capacity to expand as we grow.

Looking forward, the Utility Master Plan identifies a critical need to expand wastewater treatment infrastructure. Demand for sewer services is expected to increase to more than three times current service levels over the next 10 years. Much

like our Surface Water Treatment Plant, the existing Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant was built with the capacity to expand and design for that expansion project is scheduled to begin in 2024. However, to accommodate the scale of predicted demand, we are also planning to construct a new wastewater treatment plant within the next decade to help us maintain dependable service levels and preserve our healthy, clean environment.

Monthly water bill payments ensure our ability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to deliver high quality, water and sewer services in a manner that values our environment, community and economic interests, and sustains the resources entrusted to our care. Our utility rates are based on the cost to deliver drinking water and take wastewater away to be treated. No tax revenue is used to provide utility services.

Although we plan for the long term, our City Commission carefully assesses every investment we make in our water and sewer system to ensure that growth pays its way and meets our community's vision. In April, the Commission adopted the 2019 rate changes necessary to maintain existing operations and begin funding the repairs and upgrades recommended in the master plan. Changes include a 3 percent increase for water services, a 10 percent increase for wastewater and a 10 percent increase to the surface water charge. A bill increase of approximately \$4.70 is expected for the average residential customer using 5000 gallons of water per month.

For more about Richmond's Integrated Utility Master Plan, see city website <http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works> to view plan located on Public Works homepage.

In 2019, we are investing \$3.7 million in upgrades to our water and sewer systems, replacing aging pump stations, water storage tanks and pipelines and expanding our capacity to produce reclaimed water to supplement our surface water supply and support ongoing efforts to reduce reliance on our finite ground water resources.



Mayor Moore's Message



Recently, I had the honor of presenting the State of the City address at a chamber event and sharing why Richmond is not just a place to live, but is a State of Mind. I was excited to speak about my vision for the city- a vision that maintains our pioneering spirit, small- town personality and close knit community as we welcome new residents and neighbors to the City we love.

That presentation began with a beautiful video featuring all areas of the city and also spotlighted our four commissioners, each of whom has an advisory role in some aspect of city management such as financial topics or storm water management. I would like all residents to be able to view this video, so I invite you to take a look at it yourself on the city's website www.Richmondtx.gov under About Richmond tab- Video.

Experts have shared that our population is expected to double in the next decade. We have been planning for this growth with the creation and adoption of our Comprehensive Master Plan in 2014. Our goal is to plan for quality, sustainable growth which we will achieve by investing in necessary infrastructure and city services to support our growing community while also maintaining



the historic charm and eclectic character that has come to define Richmond.

In this newsletter we talk about recent legislation which will facilitate new investment in our growing economy. We continue to recognize the importance of local businesses which provide community gathering places to anchor us in our past while guiding us toward our future.

With our infrastructure investments, strong community, economic growth opportunities and small- town heart Richmond will continue to be a great place to live, work and play. Richmond is not just a place to live...it is a State of Mind!

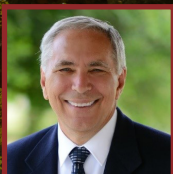
City Attorney Receives Outstanding Mentor Award

City Attorney Gary Smith was presented the Outstanding Mentor Award by the TCAA- Texas City Attorneys Association- June 20th in San Antonio at the TCAA Conference. The TCAA Board of Directors recently created this award to recognize and honor a municipal attorney for his or her significant and distinguished mentoring achievements related to young attorneys and their practice in the field of municipal law. The nominee must have demonstrated the qualities of a mentor to one or more young municipal attorneys by serving as a role model and significantly contributing to the profession and/ or community.

Mr. Smith was nominated by a fellow city attorney in the Houston area. This nomination came as no surprise since Gary Smith is always willing to lend a hand, support or guide anyone he comes to know, as his knowledge and life experiences are vast. The City of Richmond is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, kind, respected person as our City Attorney.

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 serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the City and is responsible to the City Commission for the execution of the laws and the administration of all the affairs of the city.

COMMISSIONERS:



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 Alex BeMent,
Position 4
abement@richmondtx.gov

CITY ADMINISTRATION:



Ms. Terri Vela,
City Manager
TVela@richmondtx.gov



MOVIES ON MORTON

Free Outdoor Films

Held the first Friday of every month
 In historic Downtown Richmond
 In front of City Hall - 402 Morton St.

July 5th Independence Day
 August 2nd The Goonies
 September 6th The Princess Bride
 October 4th Hocus Pocus
 November 1st CoCo
 December 6th The Grinch

*Films start at Dark. Dates are subject to change due to weather. Bring your own chairs.



FREE POPCORN AND DRINKS*



Commercial Growth and Tourism Bring Hotels to Richmond

Visitors from around the region have discovered the unique cultural amenities and historic charm that make Richmond a prime destination for tourism.

Nearby destinations, such as Brazos Bend State Park, George Ranch Historical Park and the Fort Bend Museum, as well as an abundance of unique restaurants and shops in Richmond's historic downtown have created a location where visitors are able to have a full-day experience. Historically, visitors to Richmond were unable to spend the night in our community and patronized hotels in nearby communities.

Visitors are now able to include an overnight stay in Richmond to their itinerary. In January, Richmond welcomed its first hotel when the 83 room and 51,000 square foot La Quinta Inn & Suites opened its doors to the public. The property offers modern amenities and a convenient location for both visitors seeking to explore our community and visiting family members of existing residents seeking a convenient location nearby.

Two additional hotels are in development with plans to open in 2019. Hilton's Home2 Suites is planned for a summer opening at Pointe West Circle along IH 69, and a Marriott Fairfield Inn is slated for a fall 2019 opening at the intersection of Richmond Parkway and IH 69.

This recent hotel development provides a direct benefit to Richmond residents as well as visitors to our city. Cities around Texas levy a hotel occupancy tax on overnight stays that take place in hotels within their jurisdiction. The City of Richmond's hotel occupancy tax rate of 7% is directly in-line with the majority of communities around the state and helps to provide funding for several key purposes. These uses include promoting activities that bring new visitors to Richmond, promoting the

arts, funding historical preservation efforts, creating transportation systems for tourists, the creation of wayfinding signage, and funding convention center activities.

A key benefit of the construction of these hotel facilities is the large positive economic impact created by capturing the hotel night stays of these visitors. Visitors who stay in Richmond are more likely to bring in dollars from outside of our community to spend at local restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues. This activity helps to bolster our local economy and create economic opportunity for local residents.





402 Morton Street
Richmond, TX 77469

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Richmond TX
Permit No 33

Recent Legislative Session Passes Bill to Benefit Richmond

With direction from the city’s Comprehensive Master Plan, the City of Richmond pursued the passage of special legislation that will help to facilitate the development of a mixed use center comprised of retail shopping, restaurants, hotel space, and entertainment space.

House Bill 4347 was successfully passed and signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 14th, 2019. The bill provides the City of Richmond with a new economic development tool. The legislation specifically allows for a 10 year rebate of the state’s share of hotel taxes, sales taxes, and mixed-beverage taxes generated within a 1,000 foot radius of a newly constructed hotel and convention center project. This performance based tool provides an outside funding source that will help to pay for key infrastructure improvements, such as drainage and roadways, as well as other amenities tied to a future hotel and convention center anchored development. The legislation will become effective on September 1st, 2019 and the City of Richmond will have until September 1st, 2022 to enter into a development agreement that utilizes this economic development tool. The legislation is not tied to a specific location and the City of Richmond will work diligently to select a developer and project location that best meets the needs of our community.



Fire Station 2 Ready Toward End of 2019

Fire Station 2 on Richmond Parkway and Ransom Road is really forming an identity!

The new fire station is designed to support our existing fire stations which cover more than 50 square miles. Our stations provide service agreements to many growing communities outside our City limits that depend on the City of Richmond for emergency services. Richmond’s fire services cover from Regal Cinema on the Grand Parkway in Long Meadow Farms to Grand Parkway @ Hwy 90; to area around George Ranch High School on FM 2759 and northwest to FM 359 and FM 723. For visual of coverage, see map on city’s website under Departments tab- Fire Department- Service area.