



City's Comprehensive Master Plan Ready for Update

The City's 2014 Comprehensive Master Plan is Richmond's guidebook to specify policy, program and project initiatives for the City and surrounding planning areas. It reflects Richmond's values and traditions while exploring opportunities and best practices for growth, redevelopment and enhancement for the next 20 years. At the beginning of this plan you will also find the City's Vision Statement:

Great opportunities and significant challenges are ahead. The goals of the City Commission are to:

- Encourage, promote, and welcome expanding residential and business growth and development;
- Provide safe, secure, family-oriented communities;
- Influence, foster, and maintain the interest of safety;
- Protect and preserve well-known historic sites and memorabilia; and
- Provide a healthy business and economic atmosphere.

It is our belief that each resident and business is of the utmost importance and deserves the very best that taxpayer dollars can provide in order to develop and maintain a city that is financially secure and one in which we can all be proud.

Citizens can find the 2014 Plan on the City's website under Government tab - City Manager's page <https://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/administration>.

(cont'd on pg 3)

Message from the Mayor

Mayor Evalyn Moore



2020 is a significant year for Richmond for several reasons. While we have experienced the turn of another decade, it is also the Year of the Census. I trust that every citizen in our community will make sure they are counted by filling out the census card when you receive it in the mail, or going online to fill out the survey, phoning the Census Bureau (the contact information is in this newsletter), or responding to a census taker should the prior 3 options not be performed.

This is a critical time for all communities to be represented in this 2020 count to insure we get the federal funding for necessary programs and services for all Richmond citizens.

As well, 2020 is the year we are updating the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, our community guidebook which specifies policy, programs and project initiatives for the city and the surrounding planning area. The cover story of this newsletter references this update and guides you where to find the Plan. The City Commission will provide leadership during this update process but we need citizen's involvement and input to insure it remains relevant for the next five years.

We ask our citizens to support this process by going online to take the survey as referenced in cover story, by going to City website to give input to the Master Plan Update at top of Homepage by clicking to join the conversation <https://www.richmondtx.gov/home>. The clarity of this update process is only as strong as the input from Richmond citizens. Let us all work together to make sure Richmond continues to be a great place to live, work and contribute.



City of Richmond Saves Money After Bond Refunding

The City of Richmond was able to save taxpayers \$266,929 when the city recently underwent a refunding of its \$2,550,000 series 2009 General Obligation Bonds. As part of the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility, staff annually reviews opportunities to reduce the interest paid on debt with its financial advisor, Hilltop Securities.

In its most current financial review, the series 2009 bonds were found to be eligible for refunding under the existing bond terms. In reviewing the market conditions, it was found to be an opportune time to begin the refunding process.

As part of the process to refund the bonds, the City sought a rating from S&P Global. In the rating letter received by the City, S&P reaffirmed the AA- long term rating, and noted a stable outlook. S&P also highlighted the following: The City's strong management and good financial policies and practices, it's very strong budgetary performance and flexibility, it's very strong liquidity and strong institutional framework.

Justin Alderete, the City's Finance Director noted that as a result of the City's strong performance, and it's timing in the market, the City had exceeded its expectations with the refunding. Mr. Alderete shared "I am very pleased that the City's taxpayers will benefit in saving \$266,929, or 9.74% with the refinancing of these bonds".

City Government

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 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

City's Comprehensive Master Plan Ready for Update

(cont'd from cover)

The 2014 Plan is a flexible document reflecting change within our community and surrounding planning areas, so it is to be reviewed and updated every 5 years to remain relevant. The 2014 Plan has therefore been under evaluations by the Planning department whose staff will be presenting recommendations to the City Commission by June 2020.

The update process is intended to be a collaborative process, involving citizens, business owners, and other key stakeholders, to capture the aspirations and vision of the Richmond community. Inputs from citizens and other stakeholders are essential for this process to be successful; therefore, public engagement will be a prime focus. The update process will include public engagement opportunities such as public survey, focus-group listening sessions, public hearings, and other discussion based avenues to share ideas and provide inputs. The City of Richmond Planning and Zoning Commission will serve as an advisory committee and the City Commission will provide overall leadership during this update process.



We request your support and welcome your participation and inputs throughout this process. Please take a moment and go to the city website to give input to the Master Plan Update at top of Homepage by clicking to join the conversation <https://www.richmondtx.gov/home>. You can also sign up for E-notifications via city website- About Richmond tab- News <https://www.richmondtx.gov/about-richmond/news/enotification> for more information in the coming weeks.



FREE SHREDDING

Document Shred Event

Sponsored by Keep Richmond Beautiful and City of Richmond

POSTPONED

NEW DATE!

Saturday, October 24, 2020

City Hall Plaza • 402 Morton Street

9 AM - 12 Noon



Mayor Evalyn Moore's Message



Hello Richmond - I am Mayor Evalyn Moore and I want to update you on the Coronavirus 19 (COVID 19). I know we are in uncertain times and are faced with new challenges ahead; however, know that we are working with our neighboring

cities, as well as county, state, and federal officials. Together, we are putting our residents' safety first.

Richmond is a strong, compassionate community, so let us all stay focused on what is necessary to get through this situation.

We have issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency in order to take the necessary action during this unprecedented time. This gives us the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and compel people to take additional health measures like being aware of social distancing. Here in Richmond, restaurants must limit service to delivery, take-out and pick-up options instead of dining in, and guidelines suggest no gathering of more than 10 people.

We ask everyone to heed Fort Bend County Health & Human Services guidelines found on their website <https://www.fbchealth.org/updated-fort-bend-county-community-guidelines-for-covid-19/>

The City of Richmond will continue to operate and continue to support our citizens. Please stay connected to our Facebook page for updates @City of Richmond, Texas.

2020 Census

Census Day is April 1, 2020 and is identified as the key date to count every member of your household for the 2020 Census. The United States Constitution mandates every ten (10) years that every person living in the United States be counted, which begins with the mailing of census cards to every American household around the middle of March. It is essential these cards be filled out and mailed back, which is called the self-count. The City of Richmond's count for the last 10 years has been 11,679 people within the city limits of Richmond and, as we all know, has grown over the last 10 years. Let us make sure everyone is counted by mailing back your census card as soon as you are able, to insure Richmond TX gets federal funding for our community's programs.

The Census count serves to appropriate more than \$675 billion in federal funding annually for states, counties, and local communities for vital programs impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. As well, it determines how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives (a process called apportionment).

Responding to the Census is...

Safe.

Your personal information is confidential, even from other government agencies

Easy.

You can complete the Census online, by phone, or by mail

Fast.

Most households can complete the Census in only 6 minutes

Fort Bend County has initiated a Complete Count to insure all people across all communities are counted. It is estimated just under 149,000 people (19%) will likely not be counted if we do nothing to increase the response rate in Ft. Bend County, which is why various agencies are working together to educate all communities. Increasing early self-response is the first phase of a successful census, so every household needs to make it a priority to mail back their census cards or go online to fill out the census at <https://2020census.gov/en.html> or phone 800-923-8282 to get help.

Richmond Fire Station 2 Opening Soon

Richmond Fire Station 2 is nearing completion with hopes to see the station positioned to serve citizens by the end of first Quarter 2020. Fire Station 2, located at the corner of Richmond Parkway and Ransom Road, is strategically positioned to serve one of the fastest and more densely populated districts of Richmond Fire Department's response area. Like Central Fire station, this station has many elements of safety and technology built into the design of the station to ensure the firefighters have a safe and secure environment. Fire Chief Mike Youngblood shared "We have entered final stages of construction with construction team finishing internal & external details so we can move to accepting and opening the station."



No formal Grand Opening is scheduled for Station 2 at this time; however, if you want to take a look at how the station is coming along, take a few minutes to ride by and see how nicely the site fits the surrounding community.

Richmond Police Department Again Recognized for Conforming To The State of The Art in Law Enforcement

The Richmond Police Department has received the award of Recognized Law Enforcement Agency from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program for the third time since originally being recognized in 2011.

The Texas Police Chief Association (TPCA) created this voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 168 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement by conducting a critical on-site review every 4 years. These Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individual's rights. These Best Practices cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

The program was begun in 2006 by a committee of Chiefs of Police and Command level officers from across Texas who reviewed Texas law and other State Accreditation Program standards to aid Texas agencies in meeting demands and providing the best quality of service to the people of Texas. This process provides for an independent review of the department's operations and should assure the citizens of the City of Richmond that its' Police Department is conforming to the current state of the art in law enforcement.

Richmond Police Department has now attained their 3rd recognition of meeting the Best Practices of the State organization, joining 82 Departments across the State who have been Re-Recognized.



Rosenberg Police Chief Jonathan White, Lt. Lowell Neinast, Lt. Jesse Martin, Officer Stephen Polinski, Lt. Diana Butinski, Lt. Donnie Kovar, Assistant Police Chief Dixie Brzozowski, Mayor Evalyn Moore

City Manager's Message

City Manager - Terri Vela



Terri Vela

The City of Richmond continues to closely monitor COVID-19. In order to comply with current concerns of social distancing to break the cycle of the corona virus (Covid-19), the City of Richmond has adjusted staffing according to accepted guidelines. The City Hall and City Hall Annex Lobbies are closed effective March 20, 2020. Richmond Police and Fire Departments remain accessible.

Representatives from the City are available to assist you by telephone. If you need to make a payment for Utility Bills or for the Municipal Court you are encouraged to use our online payment system. The City has removed the fee charged by our third party to help make this process easy for you. Please visit our website at www.richmondtx.gov to setup your online payments. If you prefer to pay by phone, please call our automated system at 866-219-5799.

If you need help getting setup with online payments or have questions about how you can pay your bill please call Customer Service at 281-342-5456, option 2. In addition to online payments the City will continue to offer payments made via the drop box located outside of the facilities and through the mail. Should you need assistance regarding permits or building, please contact the Building Department at 281-232-6871.

We want to encourage you to remain diligent in continuing to practice healthy hygiene habits.

Washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching any part of face with unwashed hands; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; avoid close contact with people, sick or otherwise; stay home if possible.

Warning signs of COVID 19 are fever, dry cough and shortness of breath (labored). If you develop signs or think you have COVID 19, we encourage you to call Fort Bend County Health & Human Services phone bank at 281-633-7795, staffed Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can find more information at their website <https://www.fbchhs.org/>.

Mayor Moore has issued 'Third Amended and Restated Orders of Declaration to comply with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order signed March 19, 2020 expanding further closures, and now orders Richmond residents to Stay at home, and work safe at their place of residence along with other measures effective March 25, 2020. These orders are posted on our website for your reference.' Stay up to date with current City of Richmond conditions by visiting our website www.richmondtx.gov and/or the City's Facebook page @City of Richmond, Texas. You can also find information about COVID 19 at <https://covidactnow.org/state/TX>.

Clean Up Days Cancelled

CANCELLED

Safety remains Republic's number one priority as we continue evaluating the essential services provided by the women and men who work with us, while continuing to provide reliable service and support to our customers.

During this time we cannot add the Spring Clean Up weekends to our schedules for April 2020, so Spring Clean Up campaign has been cancelled.



RICHMOND
EST. **TEXAS** 1837



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

Shop Local

We are making it easier to locate Richmond restaurants by providing a list of all restaurants, in the City limits and ETJ, on the City website at <https://richmondtx.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6342/17>



Collins Road Sidewalk and Drainage Project

The City of Richmond regularly applies for grants to leverage its investment in the community and provide for infrastructure improvements for its citizens. These grants come from a variety of sources including Private Foundations, the State of Texas and the Federal Government. Richmond applied for and was awarded a grant last year to improve sidewalks and drainage along Collins Road from Preston Street to George Park.

This grant is tied to the City's Trail Master Plan, and aligns with several of the priorities of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. Another assessment indicated the City should expand on the few existing trail locations in the community, such as the north- south segment along Collins Road.

Citizens traveling along Collins Road over the last several months have seen the progress along the west side of Collins Road. The Collins Road Sidewalk/Drainage project will be completed by May 2020 and will have added over 6600 feet of improved sidewalk for the community.



City Now Owns High Water Vehicle

In October 2019, the Office of Emergency Management was able to acquire a High-Water Vehicle from the Federal Surplus Program in San Antonio for \$7,500. After 3 years of floods, this purchase will be a great asset for the city during local weather events by allowing responders to get in flooded areas faster without having to wait for other resources from neighboring jurisdictions.



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.

March 6th Hook
 April 3rd Willy Wonka
 May 1st Singin' in the Rain
 June 5th Footloose
 July 3rd Jurassic Park
 August 7th Wizard of Oz
 September 4th Field of Dreams
 October 30th The Addams Family
 November 6th Moana
 December 4th Home Alone

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



FREE POPCORN AND DRINKS*



*While supplies last.



Search 'City of Richmond, Texas' on Facebook to like our page for future Movies on Morton updates.

LCG Global Relocating Headquarters to Richmond



LCG Global announced its decision to locate its corporate headquarters in Richmond, TX. The company has purchased the historic Exchange Hotel building located at 300 Morton Street, which was constructed in 1885, and has submitted plans to renovate the building with care to preserve its historic assets.

Ken Tisdell, who serves as the owner and CEO of LCG, expressed his excitement about locating in Richmond. “When we saw the downtown area and how all of the businesses were thriving, we just really liked the atmosphere.” LCG will be occupying the entire second floor of the building, which has been unoccupied for more than 50 years. While the project will include major upgrades to the building, LCG has committed to maintaining the building’s history. “We are keeping the historical nuances to it. We are refurbishing everything and trying to get the building back to its original state as much as we can” stated Ken Tisdell.



This project achieves more than the preservation of one of Richmond's most prominent historic buildings in its downtown. The location of LCG's headquarters in Richmond brings with it 23 full-time employees and a sales tax generating business which help to fund key city services while helping to reduce taxes for city residents.



Wipes Clog Pipes

We appreciate that citizens are following guidelines with use of wipes and disinfecting surfaces with paper towels; however, we need to remind everyone wipes and paper towels cannot be flushed down toilets because they clog the sewage system. Even flushable wipes are not flushable- they do not break down in the pipes like they are advertised to do.

Let us all do our part and keep our pipes unclogged and our sewage system working properly for everyone. Wastewater treatment professionals are reminding us all by using the hashtag #WipesClogPipes,

City of Richmond Trash and Recycling Holiday Schedule

HOLIDAY	DATE	SCHEDULE
Good Friday	Friday, April 10	Regular collection
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	Regular collection
Independence Day	Friday, July 3 (Holiday observed)	Regular collection
Labor Day	Monday, September 7	Regular collection
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11	Regular Collection
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26	Thursday's collection will occur on Friday. Friday's collection for trash and recycling will occur on Saturday.
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25	Friday's collection for trash and recycling will occur on Saturday.
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2021	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>.*