

City Launches Phase IV of North Richmond Trail / Drainage Improvements

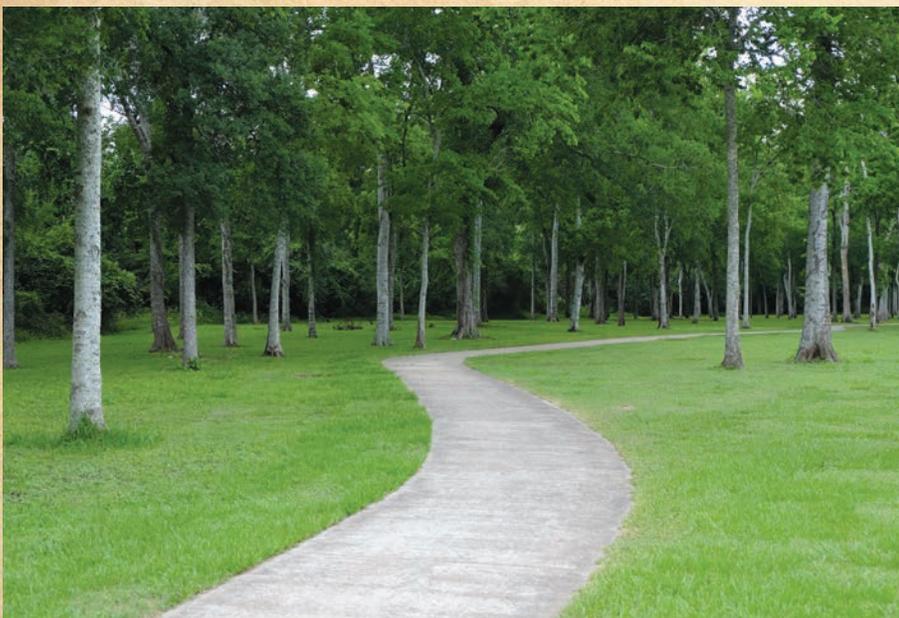
The City has been working on several North Richmond Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement projects over the last several years satisfying the City's Comprehensive Master Plan to rehabilitate and preserve Richmond's existing neighborhoods and community assets.

Before last year's completion of the Collins Road Sidewalk and Drainage project, steps had begun toward the Clay Street Drainage and Sidewalk project from Collins to Second Street. Grant funding must be secured prior to beginning design work on these residential public improvement projects. Clay Street Drainage and Sidewalk project is in design stage currently and will take approximately 6 months to complete. This portion of the North Richmond Improvement projects is Phase IV and will incorporate filling in the deep open drains on Clay Street with box culverts and creating a trail sidewalk system that will tie into the recently completed Collins Road Sidewalk and Drainage project (Phase

I and II of North Richmond Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement projects).

The City's goal with these improvement projects is to improve levels of service to North Richmond neighborhoods and provide safe and available access to Park facilities for area residents. The City's comprehensive approach to developing and expanding services with installation of a well-planned sidewalk/trail system will address the community's public safety concerns, bring progress and revitalization to these neighborhoods and satisfy a healthier quality of living for residents.

Once the future Phase III of the North Richmond Improvement project is completed, North Richmond residents will have safe, easy access from Wessendorff Park to George Park and the overall drainage for the area will be much improved.





Message from the Mayor

Mayor Becky Haas

Hello 2022!! I hope that everyone's year has started out, and continues, on a positive note. Your City Commission and Administration have been involved in a Strategic Planning workshop to enhance the City's Vision Statement for a preferred future for Richmond in 15 years. There will be lots of opportunity to hear from citizens and receive your input for the City's growth. I am looking forward to a great year!

I want to thank the City Commissioners and City administration for their hard work in establishing a new, more transparent way volunteers are selected to the numerous city boards, commissions, and committees. Citizens were invited to volunteer and apply for open positions, and the response was amazing with over 110 applications being received! The commissioners split into two interview teams, then made recommendations to the full Commission of the applicants who, in their opinion, were best qualified to serve our City. By December all volunteer positions to the city boards, commissions and committees were filled. I appreciate all the work that past volunteers gave to our city, and welcome current and new volunteers selected to serve. If you are interested in volunteering your time for the betterment of our city, please visit the City's website <https://www.richmondtx.gov/government/boards-and-commissions>.

I always look forward to the tradition of the Fort Bend County Fair's Kick off Parade. Last year, when the Parade was canceled, I was proud to team up with our City Manager, Terri Vela, and Rosenberg Mayor Kevin Raines, as we presented the "Tradition Returns" parade honoring the 85th Fort Bend County Fair. From the marching bands to the kids showing their animals, the Fair will always be part of our community.

We never know how tough we are as a community until weather forces our hand. Looking forward, should it happen again, I feel we are better prepared to deal with many different types of severe weather. Last year winter storm Uri was rough. We were fortunate not to have had a hurricane or

experience a drought. I am thankful that Richmond was one of the few cities whose water systems held up to the weather event and we didn't need to issue 'boil water' notices to our residents. We can do without a lot but can't do without water. Our City's Utilities team members are essential, dedicated individuals who work hard to keep our City's water and wastewater systems operational 24/7.

I am so proud of the City's Code Enforcement team, a priority of your City Commission. As you read this newsletter, please notice that Richmond has a new Emergency Notification system which everyone in our City needs to sign up for. It's time to get out your pencils and mark your 2022 calendars for the annual Spring Document Shred Event hosted by our Keep Richmond Beautiful volunteers. The movies featured each month for Movies At Wessendorff Park are listed in this newsletter. Both the movies and Richmond Farmer's Market, each the first Friday of the month, will return in full force. Shop local Richmond!

The next downtown event will be Art Walk and Motor Madness on April 2nd, brought by Historic Richmond Association (HRA). That volunteer group now hosts 3 free festivals a year in downtown- Art Walk & Motor Madness the first Saturday in April, Motown On Morton, a Saturday night in October and the 20th Annual Miracle On Morton Street (MOMS) the first Saturday of December! Put these dates on your calendar Richmond and know HRA can always use volunteers. It is rewarding to be involved in your community and this is another way to volunteer in the Richmond community. You can find them at <https://historicrichmond.org>.

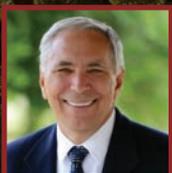
I look forward to the good things 2022 will bring. The City of Richmond, incorporated in May 1837, will celebrate its 185th anniversary. The Fort Bend Historical Commission is planning to celebrate the 200th year anniversary of Fort Bend County's settlement. Both celebrations will be outstanding so keep connected to what is happening in your community. Hang on tight, Richmond, 2022 is going to be a wonderful year for us!!

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:

CITY ADMINISTRATION:



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



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

Explore City Website Code Enforcement Page

The easiest place residents can connect with the City is through the city website! The City of Richmond website has a Code Enforcement page delivering information our residents should know about and which we encourage you to explore. The mission of the Code Enforcement Department is to enhance City of Richmond's livability by protecting the health, safety and welfare of the City's residents and visitors by assuring compliance with the Development Code and General Ordinances. You will find the Code Enforcement page on the city's website under the Departments tab with a listing of common Code violations, a portal to report a Code violation, and link to the City's Code of Ordinances for residents to view what qualifies as a nuisance or violation of city code.

We encourage you to visit www.richmondtx.gov/departments/code-compliance and explore your city's code enforcement page.

Code Enforcement Team:



Scott Fajkus
Assistant Building Official



Aileen Heard
Code Enforcement Officer



Courtenay O'Reilly
Code Enforcement Officer



City Launching New Emergency Notification System

The City of Richmond has contracted with an Emergency notification system via a website - www.InformRichmond.com. We are asking citizens to sign up to receive emergency alerts via text message, email, pager or voice mail, based on your preferences.

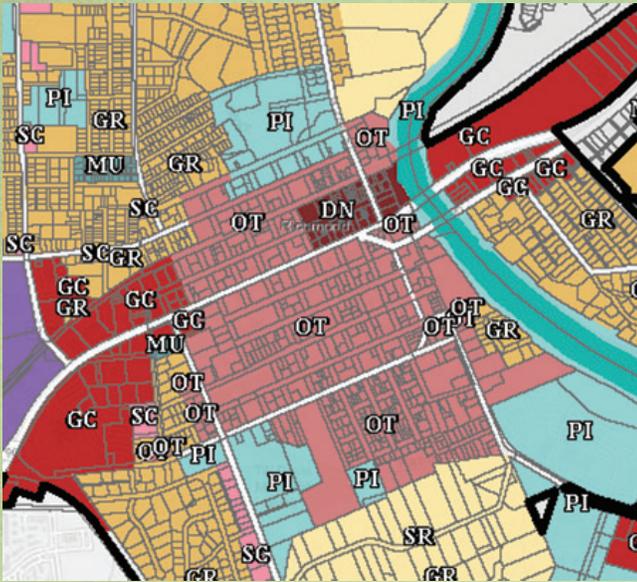
To access the site, citizens should type the web address, www.InformRichmond.com, into their web browser bar which will take you to a public alert system for Richmond Texas. Follow the step-by-step instructions to register your contact information into the database. It is important that we collect this contact information because many households no longer utilize traditional land-based telephone lines. Emergency Alerts could be related to specific hazards that require some type of action to be taken such as evacuation, shelter in place, boil water orders, etc.

Non-emergency alerts to residents could include significant transportation problems with prolonged impacts or significant ongoing police or fire activity. This system will also be used to let citizens know about upcoming events and activities occurring in Richmond such as "Movies at Wessendorff", Richmond Farmer's Markets and other special events.

The system also offers a free App called My Alerts to be downloaded on your mobile device to receive notifications wherever you are. Inform Richmond website is ready to launch, so the City has begun promoting this new notification system to area residents. **Sign up now by going to www.InformRichmond.com** and input requested information.



Richmond's Comprehensive Master Plan Update



The City's Comprehensive Master Plan guides Richmond's growth and development. Regular appraisal and evaluation of the Plan is necessary for successful implementation of the Plan. An amendment to the plan was initiated by staff in 2020, however, the process could not be completed due to restrictions imposed by Covid 19 pandemic. Based on insights from last year's review of the Comprehensive Master Plan and ongoing discussions with various stakeholders, it became apparent that an amendment must involve a thorough study and specific goals relating to various aspects of the Plan would be necessary.

At the October 2021 City Commission meeting the

update process for the Comprehensive Master Plan was discussed. City Commission and Staff discussed the need for a consolidated approach that involves the consideration of the following specific elements:

- **Downtown plan** that studies the Downtown and Olde Town zones to formulate specific strategies in terms of historic preservation, revitalization, and economic development.
- **Strategic Annexation Plan** which includes a Fiscal Impact Model to guide annexation decisions. A Strategic Annexation Plan will help the City ensure that annexation of properties into the City limits are financially prudent and in the best interest of the citizens.
- **Mobility Plan** to review current and future mobility related needs and to propose goals and strategies that would make any commute easy and safe for residents and visitors. A mobility plan is also intended to help better coordination between the City and other agencies such as Fort Bend County and Texas Department of Transportation.

Next step to the Plan Amendment process will be a City Commission workshop to discuss a general overview of the scope of work and for staff to seek input from the City Commission.



Wall Street Residential Project

The City Commission approved the rezoning of a 45.135 acres tract of land located on FM 2218 at Wall Street, south of Wal-Mart, from Business Park to General Residential at the December 2021 Commission meeting. The rezoning of the property completes the annexation process for the property which was initiated in October 2021. Meritage Homes has submitted land plans for a residential neighborhood of approximately 151 residential lots which meet the requirements of Richmond's Unified Development Code.



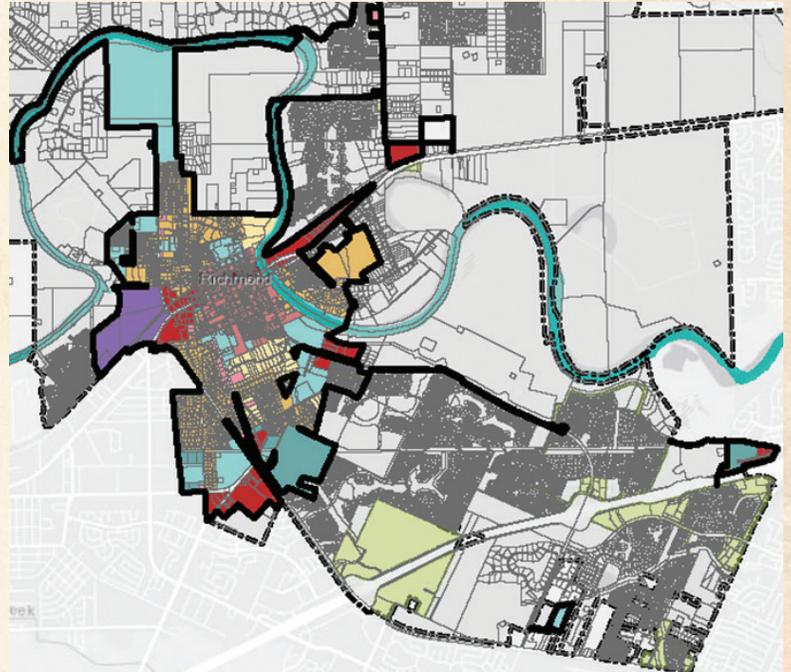
Richmond's Unified Development Code (UDC)

The City of Richmond's Unified Development Code began in 2014 as a two-pronged system comprised of two documents, a text document and map document, developed from the many ordinances which guided development for years, and which have been pulled together into more concise structured codes. This Unified Development Code (UDC) is a legal document that provides zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and other development standards and processes in a single document.

The UDC is one of the tools by which the Comprehensive Master Plan is implemented, so has purpose to protect the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the City's residents, business owners, employees, and visitors. Additionally, the UDC serves to protect and preserve places and areas of historical, cultural, or architectural importance or significance.

The Unified Development Code is often misunderstood as a mere regulation book and a way to impose restrictions on development; however, the UDC is realistically a document reflective of the community's vision for growth and allows for meaningful development by providing clear directions, regulations, and allowances. By establishing development standards, the UDC helps facilitate:

- **Economic Growth:** UDC encourages economic opportunities through efficient use of available land supply in the City. The UDC facilitates quality development through strategic placement of zoning districts, land use allowances and other development standards.
- **Public Health and Safety:** UDC requirements ensure greater public safety, convenience, and accessibility through the physical design and location of land use and activities. It also ensures adequate and safe provision of transportation, water, sewage, drainage, schools, parks, and other public facilities. Compliance to UDC standards also helps to minimize adverse environmental impact of development.
- **Quality of Life:** UDC serves to protect the quality of life for its residents, business owners, and visitors through encouraging development that features options for recreational facilities that can incorporate safe, sustainable, and affordable neighborhoods.
- **Fiscal and Functional Health:** Through zoning regulations the UDC provides for a balanced supply of compatible land uses and offering protection to ensure demands don't exceed existing public utilities, streets, and services. UDC standards also help in traffic management and overall functioning of the urban environment which in-turn maintains property values.



The Unified Development Code, being a living document, is continually reviewed and amended to ensure the development standards within Richmond reflect the Comprehensive Master Plan goals and current development trends. Citizens can view purpose of Unified Development Code by visiting the UDC portal on the city website <http://online.encodeplus.com/regs/richmond-tx/doc-viewer.aspx?secid=1#secid-1>.

Promotions at the City

Public Works Department Promotions:



Mr. Scott Fajkus
promoted to
Assistant Building
Official



Mr. Jason Bartos
promoted to
Streets Department
Superintendent



Mr. Monte Silhavy
promoted to
Streets Department
Foreman



Mr. Joe Medina Sr.
promoted to
Streets Department
Crew Chief

Emergency Management Promotion:



Mr. Robert Oliver
promoted to
Emergency Management
Coordinator



Richmond Police Department Promotions:



Ms. Kristie Pena
promoted to
Patrol Corporal



Mr. Chuck Okafor
promoted to
Patrol Corporal

Reporting Street Lights Outage

If you need to report a street light out in the City of Richmond, go to the City's website- Streets page under Public Works Department where you will find a Centerpoint link to directly report the light out- <https://www.richmondtx.gov/.../public-works/street-drainage>.

When reporting an outage to CenterPoint, you will need to have the 6- digit number found on the light pole, approximately 6- 8 ft up the pole, or the address where the light is located. This will expedite the maintenance process.



Richmond Police Department's Santa Behind the Badge

December 20, 2021 marked the 26th year Richmond Police Department has hosted Santa Behind the Badge to bring cheer to children in our community who may not have a visit from Santa. The officers help identify those families who may need more support to keep the spirit alive in their children's hearts.

Many contribute to this wonderful celebration- Santa Clause, Walmart Richmond on FM 1640, Sacred Heart Catholic Church- Richmond who provides use of their Family Life Center for the celebration as well as Calvary Episcopal Church and their school's students who help Santa's elves by wrapping the gifts. Richmond's Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association also help with the celebration where needed.

A special Thank You goes to Officer Vladimir Golovine and Telecommunicator Danell Gaydos who made all the arrangements again for a successful event. These images reflect what can happen when the police department and community come together to change lives- 'Together we can make a difference'!



Sergeant Steven Rychlik makes announcements



Santa surrounded by children at Santa Behind the Badge 2022



Little girl hugs Santa



(Left to right) LCISD Officer Phillip Jackson, Telecommunicator Danell Gaydos, Sergeant Steven Rychlik, Telecommunicator Ariel Tristan, Lieutenant Donald Kovar, Officer Vladimir Golovine surround Santa.



Santa gives group hug

Smoke Alarms at Home



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART

of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



Change smoke alarm batteries annually. An easy exercise to follow is to change batteries when you change clocks to 'spring forward' in the Spring and/or 'fall back' in the Fall!



If you need a Smoke Alarm, you may apply for a Free Smoke Alarm through the American Red Cross. Type this website page into your web browser:

Texas Gulf Coast Home Fire Safety | American Red Cross



Richmond's Spring & Fall Document Shred Events A Success

The City of Richmond and KRB, Keep Richmond Beautiful, a volunteer committee of the City's Parks Board, brought two Free Document Shred Events for City residents on Saturdays in April and October, 2021. The April event resulted in 18,920 pounds, or 9.46 tons of materials processed by Pro-Shred trucks.

The second event in October also proved successful since residents unloaded 23, 320 pounds, or 11.66 tons of documents to shred!



Mark Your Calendars Richmond for 2022 Shred Events

Saturdays: April 23rd and October 15th,
9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Updates to Old Fire Station & Myrtle Street Building

The City of Richmond owns two buildings in the downtown area which have recently received face lifts to lure commercial investors and get both buildings occupied.

The City owns a building at 1116 Myrtle Street that has its' new exterior completed with interior build out planned for future office space. The Development Corporation of Richmond is renting portions of this building for office space. Interested parties should contact Development Corporation Executive Director, Jerry W. Jones, Jr. at JJones@richmondtx.gov.

Richmond's old Fire Station on 2nd Street at Jackson has transformed with its' new exterior and updates for a restaurant or repurposed for a brewery. The Development Corporation of Richmond (DCR) is actively looking for the new tenant for this property. Please contact Jerry W. Jones, Executive Director of the Development Corporation with interest at JJones@richmondtx.gov.



October's Motown On Morton

Historic Richmond Association (HRA) hosted Motown On Morton on Saturday night October 29, 2021, a free community event, which brought 1500 residents and visitors to downtown Richmond, dancing in the streets to the sound of The After Party band! The evening's highlights featured a Motown costume contest and a 'Thriller' Flash mob dance which pulled in many attendees. You won't want to miss this year's Motown!



Holidays 2021 Kicked Off in Downtown Richmond

The City celebrated the annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony in tandem with the Movies At Wessendorff featuring ELF, on the same evening as December's Richmond Farmer's Market. These events traditionally occur on Friday night preceding Historic Richmond Association's annual Miracle On Morton Street (referred to as MOMS) the first Saturday of December.



Hundreds attended Movies At Wessendorff featuring ELF



City Manager Terri Vela, Commissioner Carl Drozd, Mayor Becky Haas and City Commissioners Terry Gaul and Alex BeMent with guest County Commissioner Ken DeMerchant were on-hand for the lighting of Richmond's holiday tree.



St. John's UMC Hand Bell Choir performing



Holiday Tree at night

Miracle On Morton Street, December 4, 2021

Festivities continued on Saturday for Miracle On Morton Street (MOMS) in downtown Richmond with letters to Santa at the downtown Post Office, which are all answered by Santa! Food trucks, Vendors and live entertainment completed the experience for attendees. Santa always appears for this annual event and recent years have brought the Grinch too!



Families enjoying performances at Miracle On Morton Street



Writing letter to Santa at Downtown Post Office

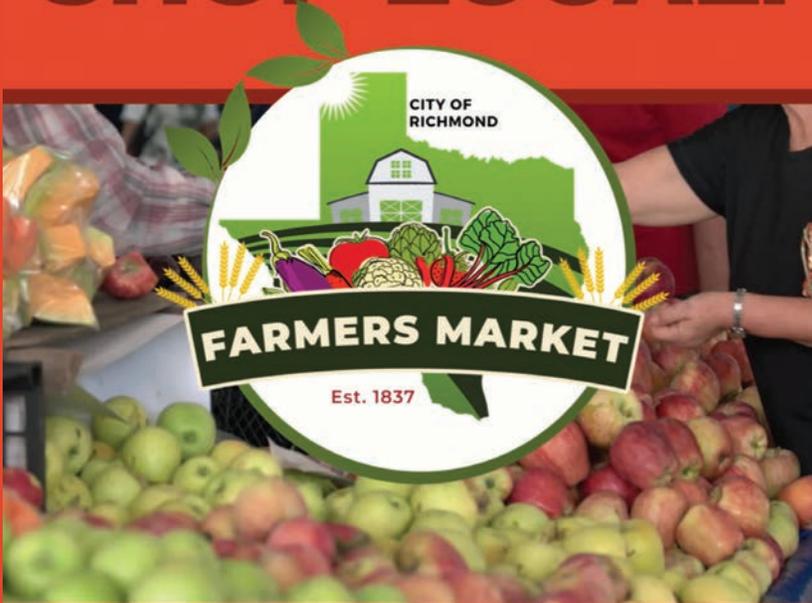


Grinch caught up with Santa



Lady Bug Twirlers of all ages performed

SHOP LOCAL!



Wessendorff Park 500 Preston St.
RICHMOND, TX 77469

**THE 1ST FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
3 pm to 7 pm**

City of Richmond

Movies at Wessendorff Park

Movie List 2022

March 4	The Croods 2
April 1	Peter Rabbit 2
May 6	Tom & Jerry
June 3	Soul
July 1	Space Jam A New Legacy
Aug. 5	The Princess and the Frog
Sept. 2	Scoob!
Oct. 28	Hocus Pocus
Nov. 18th	Free Birds
Dec. 2	Polar Express





City of Richmond Trash and Recycling Holiday Schedule

HOLIDAY	COLLECTION DATE	TRASH COLLECTION	GFL OFFICE HOURS
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 17, 2022	Regular collection	Open
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022	Regular collection	Open
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30, 2022	Regular collection	Closed
Independence Day	Monday, July 4, 2022	Regular collection	Closed
Labor Day	Monday, September 5, 2022	Regular collection	Closed
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11, 2022	Regular Collection	Open
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24, 2022	Thursday's collection will occur on Friday. Friday's collection for trash and recycling will occur on Saturday.	Closed
Christmas Day (12/25/2022)	Monday, December 26, 2022	Regular Collection	Open
New Year's Day (1/1/2023)	Monday, January 2, 2023	Regular Collection	Open



**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>.*