

## City Infrastructure Projects Funded Through Various Resources

Several of the City of Richmond's capital improvement projects for infrastructure upgrade are being funded because of various grant opportunities the city has applied for and been awarded. Many of the infrastructure rehabilitation projects citizens are and will be seeing are funded by grants from a variety of resources.

One of the recent grant projects was subsidized by a 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. The federally funded grant awarded to the city for

\$3.116 million goes to support the nation's public infrastructure, among other day-to-day operations and maintenance efforts. The Downtown Water Line rehabilitation project totaling \$1,349,816.00, replaced 7,000 linear feet of 6, 8, and 12-inch water lines, hydrants and valves this past summer and was completed in October.

The remainder of the ARPA grant is designated for the Winston Water Plant well rehabilitation, rehabilitation projects at the Regional Wastewater Plant, and the design for the Wessendorff Water Plant ground storage tank rehabilitation with construction to begin in Fall 2024.

Additional infrastructure projects will be supported by the state's General Land Office (GLO) Hazard Mitigation grant for \$7.6 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funding to state and local governments after presidentially declared disasters so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way to reduce, or mitigate, future disaster losses in their community. City projects to be included in this grant are lift station upgrades, Second Street elevation improvements to create a natural barrier for rising river events, and Upper Rabbs bayou and Newton Dip Improvements.

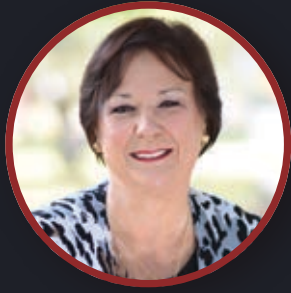
Fort Bend County Mobility projects are a source of funding for county-wide road projects to help accommodate growth and vehicular mobility. The county funded portion of these projects are approved by voters with intent to equally distribute value among the precincts. Funding for projects from these bonds are committed to assist in conducting project development through construction.



*(continued on pg 3)*

# Message from the Mayor

Mayor Becky Haas



Hello 2024! By the time you receive this we will have just begun the New Year- can you believe it?! I know I am not alone when I say it felt like I slept a few times, not 365 times, and the holidays were upon us.

The turning of the calendar to a new year, marks not only the passing of time, but an opportunity for fresh starts, new beginnings, and reflection of where we have been and what we have achieved. As we step into the new year, let us embrace the spirit of unity and collaboration to face the challenges that may come our way and build on those successes that shape Richmond.

2023 was a busy year with preparation for the growth Richmond is experiencing. We are mid-way through the update to the city's Comprehensive Master Plan. In the coming months the Master Plan update will be completed with input from you which helps define the next 5- 10 years of the city's plan . Whether it is improvements to infrastructure, as laid out in cover story about various funding sources the city uses for capital improvement projects, or community engagement programs, the city is dedicated to fostering positive change which benefits every member of our community.

I encourage you to participate in community events, volunteer for boards, commissions, and committees, and share your ideas with fellow residents and your elected officials to make Richmond an even better place to live, work and thrive. Our collective efforts can make a difference, and I am looking forward to a New Year which brings opportunities for growth, prosperity, and a strong sense of community.

May this year ahead be filled with joy, success and fulfillment as we embark on this journey to write the next chapter in the story of Richmond. I wish you all a Happy New Year!



## Mark Your Calendar for Keep Richmond Beautiful and the City's two Document Shred Events

**April 13, 2024** will be a document shred & electronic recycling event at City Hall Plaza from 9 am- 12 Noon.

**October 19, 2024** will be a document shred event at City Hall Plaza from 9 am- 12 Noon.



# 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:



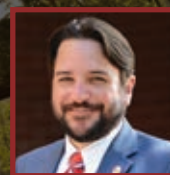
Commissioner Terry Gaul,  
Position 1  
tgaul@richmondtx.gov



Commissioner Barry Beard,  
Position 2  
bbeard@richmondtx.gov

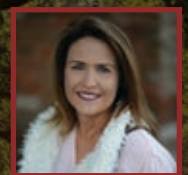


Commissioner Carl Drozd,  
Position 3  
cdrozd@richmondtx.gov



Commissioner Alex BeMent,  
Position 4  
abement@richmondtx.gov

### CITY ADMINISTRATION:



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

# City Infrastructure Projects Funded Through Various Resources *(continued from cover)*



**Clay St. at 2nd St. looking west**

The Clay/Second Street Drainage Improvement project in Richmond is a city project partially funded by the city, 2016 Fort Bend County Mobility bond and Private Foundation grants totaling \$13.1 million dollars. Design for this project has been completed and construction should begin in January 2024.

The Street Rehabilitation Phase I project is another city project partially funded by a county mobility bond. The 2020 County Mobility bond funds \$3.75 million designated to rehabilitate North Cedar, Mulberry, Teakwood, and Chestnut streets. The rehabilitation project includes sidewalks, concrete curb and gutters, and drainage improvements. This project is scheduled to begin in late 2024.

Fort Bend County 2013 and 2020 Mobility bonds are funding the Tenth Street Alignment project for \$9.9 million. This is a project managed by the county which will include re-routing 10th street with concrete streets, curb and gutters, sidewalks, and a roundabout at Clay St., as well as a new 10th Street realignment.



**Front St./ Richmond Pkwy. Mobility Project**

Williams Way Phase 2 project, also known as the Front Street/ Richmond Parkway project, is a \$7.7 million project, managed by Fort Bend County, connecting Richmond Parkway to Hwy 90- A and funded by the 2007 Fort Bend County Mobility bond.

Other city projects using grant funding include Richmond's largest city park, George Park, which received 41 decorative trash cans and 10 recycling cans, provided by a Houston/ Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Solid Waste grant for \$30,068. The city installed the concrete pads for these receptacles and the project was completed in Summer 2023.

Richmond Parks & Recreation Board recognized North Richmond's need for a community park in the area served by Juan Seguin Park on Collins Rd which is currently managed and owned by LCISD. Access Health provided a \$20,000 grant to fund the preliminary engineering of a city owned community park at Juan Seguin and are working on conceptual plans with LCISD. This project will be included in the city's 2024 budget while possible County grant funding is pursued. This project is included in the city's Park Master Plan.

City staff continually research grants available for all capital improvement and infrastructure projects to offset capital costs whenever possible. Currently, the city is pursuing a supplemental General Land Office (GLO) grant for \$1.5 million. This grant has been projected to include infrastructure improvements at 3 elevated water storage tanks, installation of emergency bypass generator at the Downtown Water plant, and further rehabilitation at the Regional Wastewater Plant.

Currently, two of every three dollars of capital cost spent in capital improvement projects are subsidized through grants. All projects are part of Richmond's Master Planning to help enhance Richmond's community and promote growth.



**George Park trash & recycle cans**

# Road Projects

## Hwy 90-A at Lane Drive Underpass Project

City and County leaders anticipate the reopening of the Hwy 90A and Lane Drive intersection in early 2024 following a construction delay in the planned expansion of Hwy 90A by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The decision to restore the intersection to its previous configuration has been made to ensure safe traffic flow while TxDOT addresses unforeseen challenges in the original design and construction process for the intersection.

According to TxDOT, the traffic signals at the intersection are being programmed for the anticipated reopening. Once the signals are in place, traffic barrels and construction barriers will be removed, and the road will be re-striped to allow usage of the intersection once again.

The Hwy. 90A intersection at Lane Drive is slated by TxDOT to be converted to an overpass over the Union Pacific railroad that currently crosses over 90A at the Oak Bend Medical Center's Jackson Street location. Unforeseen utility and design conflicts have caused significant delays, which has now required TxDOT to cancel the existing contract and rebid the contract for construction. Even under the most optimistic timeframe it is unlikely for construction to resume before early 2025.

## Front Street/Richmond Parkway Project

Fort Bend County, as lead spearheading the Richmond Parkway mobility project, is actively pursuing the Front Street/Richmond Parkway construction project's completion, aiming for a potential finish by mid-2024.

Fort Bend County Commissioner, Precinct 4, Dexter L. McCoy, announced detours for the Downtown Richmond area as the next phase of construction for the Front Street/ Richmond Parkway project are set to begin January 11, 2024.

During construction of Richmond Parkway, a one-way southbound direction only detour will be implemented. Traffic will flow from the City of Richmond downtown area towards the Justice Center in a Southbound direction through the construction zone. Northbound traffic on Richmond Parkway will detour west down Golfview Drive to FM 762/ Thompsons Road. From FM 762/ Thompsons Road, traffic will reach Austin St./FM 762 Loop where the detour ends. It is important to note that Northbound traffic on Richmond Pkwy. from SH-59/I-69 will still be able to get to the Justice Center as the detour is only intended for those attempting to get to the Richmond downtown area.

"We understand the impact this detour will have on residents in the area and the hundreds of folks who visit this area each day to engage with County services," said Commissioner McCoy. "But the long-term benefit of expanding this two-lane road to four lanes will be tremendous, so I urge folks to plan ahead as we move this mobility project toward completion."

The County and City of Richmond officials are monitoring the construction project closely to ensure construction in the area moves swiftly, safely, and with minimum impact to residents.

## North 2nd Street/Clay Street Drainage and Sidewalk Project

This North Richmond project, called N. 2nd Street/ Clay Street Drainage and Sidewalk project, utilizes the city's Master Trail Plan to include concrete curb and gutters, drainage improvements in North Richmond and continuation of a hike and bike trail from Collins Road at Clay Street to Wessendorff Park via Second Street. Following the city's Master Drainage Plan, this project will divert stormwater drainage from the Heights, Clay Street, and the new 10th Street re-alignment minimizing the flood potential for Wessendorff Park during high rain events by providing an alternate outfall to the Brazos River.

In addition to mitigating flood events, the project will address pedestrian safety for North side residents. The construction of an underground storm sewer will allow for filling in the ditches along Clay Street, providing for the hike and bike trail continuation from Collins Road/ George Park to Wessendorff Park. This project also includes decorative lighting on Clay Street, from Collins Road to Second Street, and south on Second Street to Wessendorff Park.



**Collins and Clay St. intersection  
looking east On Clay Street**



**N. 2nd St. at Clay St. looking west**

# Richmond's Comprehensive Master Plan Update

The City's Comprehensive Master Plan provides guidance on policies, programs, and project initiatives. Regular appraisal and evaluation of the Plan is necessary for successful implementation of the Plan. The city is involved in a periodic update of the Master Plan. The City Commission approved contracting Kendig Keast Collaborative to provide consulting services for the city's Comprehensive Master Plan update to include this scope of work:

- **Olde Town Area Plan:** To review and assess Downtown and portions of Olde Town in terms of redevelopment, revitalization, and economic development.
- **Mobility:** To review current mobility needs within the city and formulate action necessary to address future growth related to mobility needs and strategy to coordinate with other agencies.
- **Utility Master Plan:** Coordinate with current water and wastewater master planning.

- **Land-use and Zoning Considerations:** As part of re-assessing Richmond's growth and redevelopment outlook, the city will revisit zoning districts for possible framework adjustments; plan direction for potential zoning of future annexation areas; revisit development outlook for legacy properties in various locations; weigh extent of land ownership by Fort Bend County in the City of Richmond; and ways to incentivize low impact development.

The city has executed a workshop, small-group listening sessions, and a general public input meeting. The current step for update is engaging the community with a short survey asking for input. The survey will be open through January 31, 2024. We encourage our residents to scan QR Code herewith to give input through this survey, or go to city's website at [www.richmondtx.gov](http://www.richmondtx.gov) and click on banner at top of homepage to get to the survey.



## Downtown Richmond Parking Enhancement

Richmond's downtown area will soon have more parking available with the completion of the parking extension project on Morton Street where it crosses 2nd Street. Richmond City Commission awarded a construction services contract for \$240,000 to Elite Construction and Engineering for the Morton Street parking extension project in downtown Richmond. This phase I parking project will provide additional parking spaces and include an enclosure for a dumpster for some land locked merchants who would like to participate in the cost for the service. Additionally, the project will provide new concrete paving as well as brick pavers at the Second St. entrance and wheelchair ramps.

This project provides much needed downtown parking and is the first phase of a multi-phase approach for additional parking in downtown Richmond. Citizens will also see downtown parking signage, which is clear and concise, helping to direct citizens to parking opportunities. This project follows the Comprehensive Master Plan to enhance the existing community and promote growth.



# Richmond Police Department Invests in Police Cadets

Recruitment across all business and government categories has been challenging post covid including with policing agencies across this country. Agencies must get creative with recruitment processes. A tool used by policing agencies targets candidates with the interest and desire to begin a career in law enforcement, but who do not yet have the training. These candidates are called police cadets.

To begin a career in law enforcement in Texas, an individual must complete the Basic Peace Officer Certification Course, approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Most candidates trained in this geographic area complete that course through The Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, located at the Judicial Complex on Richmond Parkway here in Richmond.

Richmond's Police Department, like others in the area, have hired police cadets; however, the program hasn't been very successful in retaining those cadets. When a police cadet is hired, that agency is committing to put that cadet through the Law Enforcement training academy. In Richmond, that candidate then commits to a 3-year agreement.

Richmond Police Department recently had the opportunity to put 6 police cadets through the program simultaneously. All six cadets graduated from the Academy, were sworn in on July 26, 2023, and deployed to the Patrol Division July 31, 2023. This is a historic event for the City of Richmond and the Richmond Police Department since it was the first time to send and graduate six cadets. Police Chief Jeff Craig shared "It has been a pleasant surprise to see the result of sending six cadets through the program together. These six officers were a tight team before, during and after graduating the Academy. The bond between them is a testament to having each other's back". Chief Craig identifies with a shift in recruitment strategy he calls Grow Our Own, which begins by recruiting locally, hiring people who will fit and develop them the Richmond way.

The Department has followed up this initiative by sending a second team of four candidates through the Academy who should be certified as Police Officers at the beginning of 2024. The Richmond Police Department looks forward to the results of the second group of cadet officers upon completion of the Academy, and how they connect as a team, as well as how the first group continues to support their fellow officers one year later.



*The six Summer 2023 Cadets with fellow team members from Gus George Police Academy*

# Fort Bend Transit Services for Fort Bend County Residents



The City of Richmond would like to remind our citizens that Fort Bend County Transportation Services, known as Fort Bend Transit (FBT), offers passenger trips to destinations in Fort Bend and Harris Counties. Two types of services are provided by FBT, Demand Response and Commuter Park and Ride Services.

Demand Response Service is a curb-to-curb, shared-ride service that covers all of Fort Bend County. Customers must register for the service over the phone and may start making their reservations at least one (1) day in advance or up to thirty (30) days in advance. Demand Response Service operates Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, excluding County acknowledged holidays. To schedule or cancel a ride,

phone 866-751-TRIP (8747) between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and follow the prompt to speak to a reservationist.

Commuter Park and Ride Service provides weekday service to the Texas Medical Center, Greenway Plaza, and Galleria areas of Houston. Services operate from three (3) park and ride lot locations:

One location in Rosenberg at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, another in Sugar Land at the University of Houston - Sugar Land and the third location at the AMC Theatre at First Colony. Commuter service includes morning and evening schedules. Commuter Service operates during peak hours Monday through Friday, excluding County acknowledged holidays, with routes starting as early as 4:30 am and ending as late as 9:00 pm.

Fort Bend Transit now uses a Token Transit app for available 'Passes' as an alternative to purchasing tickets online or at FBT Rosenberg offices. This option gives riders a convenient way to purchase and use the passes instantly by downloading the app, at: <https://tokentransit.com/agency/fortbendcountytexas?s=34>.

For more information about Fort Bend Transit, visit their website: <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/public-transportation>.

## Citizen Reporting Water Issue

If you have a concern about your water, such as a water leak, discoloration, or low water pressure contact the City via the website to submit a citizen request form at [www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/water-department/report-a-water-issue](http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/water-department/report-a-water-issue) or phone the 24-hour emergency line at 281-342-0559. The city is here to assist you and available to answer your questions.



# Area Roadway Reforestation Projects

Citizens may have noticed installation of trees and landscaping along Richmond area roadways this year. This is the result of TxDOT's partnership with the City of Richmond and Fort Bend County to provide more ornamental landscaping than what the standard TxDOT reforestation provides. The reforestation partnership encompasses IH-69/US 59 at Grand Parkway, at Richmond Parkway, and at FM 762. FM 359 at Hwy 90-A received new landscaping as well due to TxDOT's Green Ribbon landscape funding.

As construction of the various mobility projects near completion, partnership steps are executed from design concepts, irrigation, construction, and installation to maintenance of these reforestation projects. All corridors now have trees and shrubbery planted to provide visual character and beautify these streetscapes.



## Welfare Request

The City of Richmond Police Department can perform a welfare check if you are concerned about a person and hadn't been able to get in contact with that person, which is unusual or out of character for that person. This is not an uncommon call, so do not hesitate to call the Police Department at 281-342-2849 should you be concerned.



# Fire Department Receives ISO Evaluation

Recently Richmond Fire Department used a consulting firm to prepare for an upcoming ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluation. The firm conducted a thorough assessment using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and determined Richmond classified as a solid 2 within city limits and a 2X for areas outside of city limits (which would be a 9 from the previous rating identifying grade number). These ratings affect residential and commercial insurance rates for the city.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is an organization that helps insurance companies craft policies, meet state regulatory requirements, as well as provide information based on data it has accumulated since its inception in 1971. Essentially, ISO is an extensive database that utilizes data to provide insight on best practices for businesses that handle risk.

ISO Ratings categorize communities from 1 (the best) to 10 (the worst), based on how they score on the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), which evaluates system features such as water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, and fire alarm facilities. This rating is known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program and is used by the Insurance Services Office in all 50 states.

Most home and business insurers use PPC scores to determine insurance premiums. Businesses and individuals in a community with a good PPC score typically pay less for fire insurance.

- 1 means the community has superior property fire protection.
- 10 means the community's fire protection efforts don't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

ISO field representatives use the FSRS when reviewing a community's fire protection capability. Water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, fire alarm facilities, and other factors are graded. This score is then converted into a Public Protection Classification (PPC). In Texas, a perfect score in the categories below is 109.76. (Most points available in each PPC category)

- 10 points – Emergency communications
- 50 points – Fire department review
- 40 points – Water supply review
- 5.5 points – Community risk reduction
- 4.26 points – Texas exceptions for training and technology



As noted above, classification descriptions range from 1-10. (Note descriptions below)

- **Class 1-8:** The fire suppression system includes an FSRS creditable dispatch center, fire department, and water supply.
- **Class 8B:** Is an exception for Class 9 areas that have a superior fire protection system but lack the FSRS minimum water criteria.
- **Class 9:** The fire suppression system includes a creditable dispatch center, fire department, but no FSRS minimum water supply.
- **Class 10:** Does not meet minimum FSRS criteria for recognition.

Richmond is classified with a Rating of O2/2X. What does this mean?

Many communities are affixed with a "Split" classification. Richmond has a rating of 2 for most areas (All areas inside the city limits receive a rating of 2). Areas outside of the city limits that fall in the classification of properties located beyond five road miles of a fire station have a rating of 2X. Therefore, Richmond is a O2/2X.

A good PPC score shows the community is working diligently to provide fire protection for property owners and citizens. The FSRS also helps to identify areas that need improvement and can help justify funding requests.

# City Launches Flock License Plate Recognition System

Richmond City Commission approved an interlocal agreement with Texas Department of Transportation for placement of license plate recognition (LPR) Cameras for public safety purposes within the State rights-of-way. The Flock LPR System has been in existence since 2017 serving law enforcement communities. The Flock system is utilized by most agencies and subdivisions for license plate recognition, gathering intelligence through LPR and real time TCIC (Texas Crime Information Center) alerts. The Richmond Police Department will have the ability to view the cameras for assistance in solving crimes within the city, receive instant alerts on stolen vehicles entering the city to prevent and mitigate crime, as well as a crime analysis tool.



## Residential Rental Property Registration

The City of Richmond requires all owner-occupied residences used as residential rental property and multi-family rental properties to be registered with the city. See city's website, under Building Department for further information: [www.richmondtx.gov/departments/building-department](http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/building-department).



## MOVIE NIGHT AT WESSENDORFF

Wessendorff Park  
500 Preston St.  
All Shows  
Begin at Dark



- March 1st - Brave (2012)
- March 29th - Peter Rabbit
- May 3rd - The Little Mermaid (2023)
- June 7th - The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023)
- July 5th - Elemental (2023)
- August 2nd - Mummies (2023)
- September 6th - Encanto (2021)
- October 25th - Trick or Treat Scooby-Doo! (2022)
- November 16th - Paddington 2
- December 6th - The Polar Express (2004)

# Keeping Fats, Oils and Grease out of the Sewer System

Fats, oils and grease, acronym FOG, comes from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream. FOG poured down kitchen drains accumulates inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses, resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration. Manholes can overflow into parks, yards, streets and storm drains.

## What can I do to keep fats, oils, and grease out of the sewer system?

Do not pour fats, oils, and grease down the drain. This is the most important thing you can do to prevent them from entering the sewer system, because the fats, oils, and grease poured down kitchen drains accumulate inside sewer pipes resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration.

- Never pour fats, oils, or grease down the sink, garbage disposal, or toilet.
- Pour fats, oils, and grease (after it has cooled) into a container. Once the container is full, secure with a lid and place it in the trash.
- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
- Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other food solids and empty contents into the trash.
- Minimize use of garbage disposals. By reducing FOG going down your sink, it prevents sewer problems. It is important to follow these tips in order to prevent expensive sewer backups, and plumbing emergencies, as well as to protect the quality of water in your neighborhood.



## Reporting Street Lights Outage

If you need to report a streetlight out in the City of Richmond, you can find the CenterPoint contact link on the City's website under Departments tab on homepage [www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/streets-drainage](http://www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/streets-drainage).

When you click the CenterPoint link, it asks for address or just street name and it will bring up a map with all the streetlights on that street/ in that area. You simply click on the streetlight location you are reporting to complete the process! This new system makes reporting outages very easy.





402 Morton Street  
Richmond, TX 77469

Prsrt Std  
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Richmond TX  
Permit No 33



## City of Richmond Trash and Recycling Holiday Schedule

HOLIDAY	COLLECTION DATE	TRASH COLLECTION	GFL OFFICE HOURS
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 15, 2024	Regular collection	Open
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2024	Regular collection	Closed
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27, 2024	Regular collection	Closed
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4, 2024	Regular collection	Closed
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2024	Regular collection	Closed
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11, 2024	Regular Collection	Open
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28, 2024	Thursday's collection for trash will occur on Friday. Friday's collection for trash will occur on Saturday.	Closed
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2024	Wednesday's collection for recycle/bulk/yard waste will occur on Thursday. All other trash services will run as normal.	Closed
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025	Wednesday's collection for recycle/bulk/yard waste will occur on Thursday. All other trash services will run as normal.	Closed



*\*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>.*