



RICHMOND
EST. **TEXAS** 1837

A Charming Past. A Soaring Future.

INAUGURAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016



City of Richmond Awarded Community of the Year by the Texas Chapter APA

The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) spotlighted Richmond at its award banquet on November 4th during the annual conference in San Antonio by presenting the City the Community of the Year Award. The APA recognized “as community planning goes, there are few who have committed to and accomplished so much in such a short period of time. Faced with a likely six-fold increase in population by 2040, City leaders acted swiftly and decisively. With a 50-year old plan, no land use regulations, and unrelenting development pressure, the citizens adopted a City Charter in May



cont'd on pg. 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Scenic City 4 | Groundwater Reduction 6 | Parks 7-8

CITY GOVERNMENT



Commissioners Jesse Torres, Barry Beard, Mayor Evalyn Moore
Commissioners 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

Commissioner Jesse Torres, Position 1

jtorres@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

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 1st 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, and is also an application driven board.



INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER



Mayor Evalyn Moore

We are so glad to introduce the City's inaugural newsletter for the residents of Richmond, communicating what is going on in and around Richmond! 2016 has certainly been an exciting year, with

the opening of the new fire station this past spring, the Memorial Day flood event, and the numerous prestigious awards the City has received! The great flood was devastating for many residents, but it brought our community together in humanitarian efforts to aid our fellow residents. Community spirit demonstrated across the summer reminds us what a wonderful place Richmond is to live, as we saw citizens helping citizens. Richmond can take great pride in how we have come out on the other side, and see the best in our community.

We have been so pleased this year with how others have recognized the good things happening in Richmond as well! In these pages you will learn of the Community of the Year Award we received from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Bronze level Certification through Scenic Texas' Scenic City Program, and the Certificate of Recognition for our Trail Master Plan. And how these awards relate to the future changes our citizens can enjoy in our great City! So, thank you Richmond for coming together to create a community we all are proud to call our own-

- Mayor, Evalyn Moore

RICHMONDTX.GOV



2016-2017 Budget



Terri Vela

As the City enters a new fiscal year, the City of Richmond continues to maximize available resources, minimize costs and protect City assets for the City's future growth. Looking ahead into FY 2017, the City expects continued sales

tax growth and stable home values, however, the City's budget has remained flat. We have reduced the City's property tax rate by .02 cents to \$ 0.7350 per \$100 valuation, and we expect to see a slight increase in sales tax revenues and property tax revenues over last year. These are just a few highlights of our adopted FY 2016-2017 City of Richmond Budget.

"...Richmond continues to maximize available resources, minimize costs and protects City assets for the City's future growth."

The planned development of acreage along the City's I-69 corridor, held by two private foundations, will provide sustainable quality development which will create momentum for the benefit of Richmond's future generations. The City has negotiated partnership agreements with both foundations to share in the sales tax generated from what is planned as high-end mixed use commercial and residential development in these areas. For this current year, please know your City staff takes our fiduciary duties seriously as we strive to operate the City in a conservative manner, while continuing to deliver excellent levels of service to Richmond's citizens and create a wonderful place for you to call home.

- City Manager Terri Vela

Community of the Year

cont'd from cover



City Planner Jessica Duet, Mayor Evalyn Moore, Commissioner Barry Beard, City Manager Terri Vela, City Attny Gary Smith, President of TX Chapter APA- Kimberley Michelson

2013. In so doing, they established a Planning and Zoning Commission and, through public referendum, took a bold step to establish a first-ever zoning ordinance. Doing so in the shadows of the nation's largest city without zoning, this was a monumental task."

Richmond then adopted their Comprehensive Master Plan, which became the community guide book for the next 20 years for the City, followed by the Trails Master Plan, forming a broad based approach to answer the City's needs for trails for recreation and mobility. The most important key considerations for this Plan are the many opportunities Richmond has for developing access to and along the Brazos River, Rabbs Bayou and other linear waterways across the area; Long Acres Ranch; and philanthropic property owners interested in creating community destinations and recreational linkages. The final planning tool adopted in July 2015 was the Unified Development Code (UDC).

As stated at the APA Awards presentation "Not only has the City fortified themselves with a series of deliberate and bold plans, along with their implementing regulations, but they have made a significant contribution to planning as the keystone and seat of Fort Bend County, and as a leader in the metropolitan area."

Richmond has been actively pursuing its vision for growth for the City, and the APA recognized the City "for their emerging leadership in Texas communities, as Richmond led in raising the profile of planning and land use regulation in the Houston area".

RICHMOND CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ACCEPTING CLASS #24 APPLICATIONS

The Richmond Police Department offers an education of its operations through the Richmond Citizen's Police Academy (RCPA) classes. The next Academy begins Thursday, February 2, 2017. These classes are held at the Richmond Police Department, 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. You will be exposed to ride along with officers, mock searches and traffic stops, tour police station and Ft. Bend County jail, and optional 'TASER training', among other experiences.



Join the more than 550 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.

SCENIC CITY PROGRAM



Commissioner Beard, Kay Beard, City Manager Terri Vela, Mayor Evalyn Moore, Jessica Duet, Gary Smith

The City of Richmond applied for and received the Bronze level of certification through the Scenic City Certification Program, a project of Scenic Texas. The Scenic City program supports and recognizes cities for commitment to high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces. These standards evaluate streetscapes- the protection of trees and landscape as well as sidewalks; ordinances, design standards and new development; utilities and cable line programs; historic district preservation programs and beautification programs such as Keep Richmond Beautiful (an affiliate of

Keep Texas Beautiful) among other things.

This year Richmond was one of 9 cities new to the program of the 23 municipalities in Texas awarded certification. The Scenic program has five levels beginning with Recognized, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The City of Richmond is proud of their Bronze certification level for their first application, and intends to elevate levels through the Scenic City Certification Program.



2016 HISTORIC ELECTION

The City of Richmond has continued its path toward change as a historic election was held September 10, 2016 shifting from a governing body of three elected officials- a Mayor and two City Commissioners - to five elected officials with the addition of two new City Commissioners.

This came as a result of the voters approving new propositions on the May 7th general election ballot to add two at-large City Commissioner places. The voters also turned down a proposition for all City Commissioners to be elected from single member districts. Carl Drozd and Josh Lockhart were sworn in to their new positions Friday, September 16, 2016.



City Secretary Laura Scarlato swears in Carl Drozd at Position 3

City Secretary Laura Scarlato swears in Josh Lockhart at Position 4

RICHMOND FIRE STATION RECEIVES DESIGN AWARD FOR NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION



The Richmond Central Fire Station won the Silver award from Firehouse Magazine for their annual Station Design Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding architecture and designs for fire stations in the North Americas.

The historic exterior style of the station melds into the lobby of the administrative wing by means of brick clad walls, richly colored vinyl plank floors, and the custom alcove lobby housing the department's historic Model-T fire truck, as well as other areas where memorabilia is displayed. Richmond officials also took advantage of new technology and the fiber network going into the station and converted some of the extra storage space into a new IT hub for the entire City. The Richmond Fire Department offers tours to those who want to know more about the building and the Richmond Fire Department. Bass Construction and BRW Architects were responsible for the award winning work on this outstanding Fire Station.



City of Richmond's Water Reclamation System along with the new Surface Water Treatment Plant serve to fulfill the City's responsibility to meet the state mandates to reduce groundwater withdrawal. The Fort Bend Subsidence District (created by the Texas Legislature in 1989) had mandated in 2008-10 that permittees must reduce groundwater consumption 30% by 2016 and then 60% by 2025. While the plant is not projected to be completed until early 2018, the City has satisfied the 2016 groundwater reduction mandate through applicable credits achieved through the water reuse system and educational credits.

CITY'S NON POTABLE WATER RECLAMATION SYSTEM



The demand for fresh water in Texas is growing as the state's population increases.

This growth,

as well as droughts, have driven need for reclamation of water facilities be created to assist in protecting our potable water (water suitable for human consumption) while still allowing for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation. Water reuse will help in reducing the demand placed on traditional fresh water sources. Potable water reuse systems have existed in the United States for 50 years, though half the nation's potable reuse systems have come on line during the last 10 years.

The City of Richmond is committed to reducing the demand on our current groundwater system, with

our reclaimed water distribution system, as part of our overall water management strategy. The facility has been fully operational since July 2015. Richmond is fortunate to have two commercial users, Del Webb Subdivision and Ft. Bend Country Club, who have become partners in using the reclaimed water.

The water reuse plant has a capacity to treat 1.5 million gallons per day and is located off Golfview.

The City has approximately 4000 ft. of re-use distribution pipes, indicated by the purple color (designated by TCEQ for all reuse piping), to the point of delivery in the Fort Bend Country Club lake and the Del Webb amenity lakes.



SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Construction kicked off for Richmond's Surface Water Treatment Plant, located at 5600 Riverwood Drive, in spring 2016 and is on schedule to be completed early 2018. Once operational, the water will be pulled from the NRG canal next to the plant and run through a complex series of filtration and treatment systems. The ground storage tank, seen in picture, can hold 1 million gallons of water, and the treatment plant will be able to treat 2 million gallons of water a day with capacity to expand to 4 million as the City's needs increase.



FREEMAN TOWN PARK WILL BECOME REALITY IN YEAR 2017

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Board heard an encouraging update at the August meeting from the City's Public Works Director, Howard Christian, who shared that the plans for Freeman Town Park include a basketball court and a covered

pavilion similar to that at Clay Park. He also shared that the estimated cost of construction was \$140,000 and is scheduled to be completed by April of 2017. Freeman Town Park will be located to the east of the TW

Davis YMCA campus on Austin Street where 7th St. ends. Before year end, residents in this community will see changes happening to this park, as Mayor Moore continues to emphasize the priority of Freeman Town Park.



City of Richmond Grateful for Keep Richmond Beautiful - an Affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful!

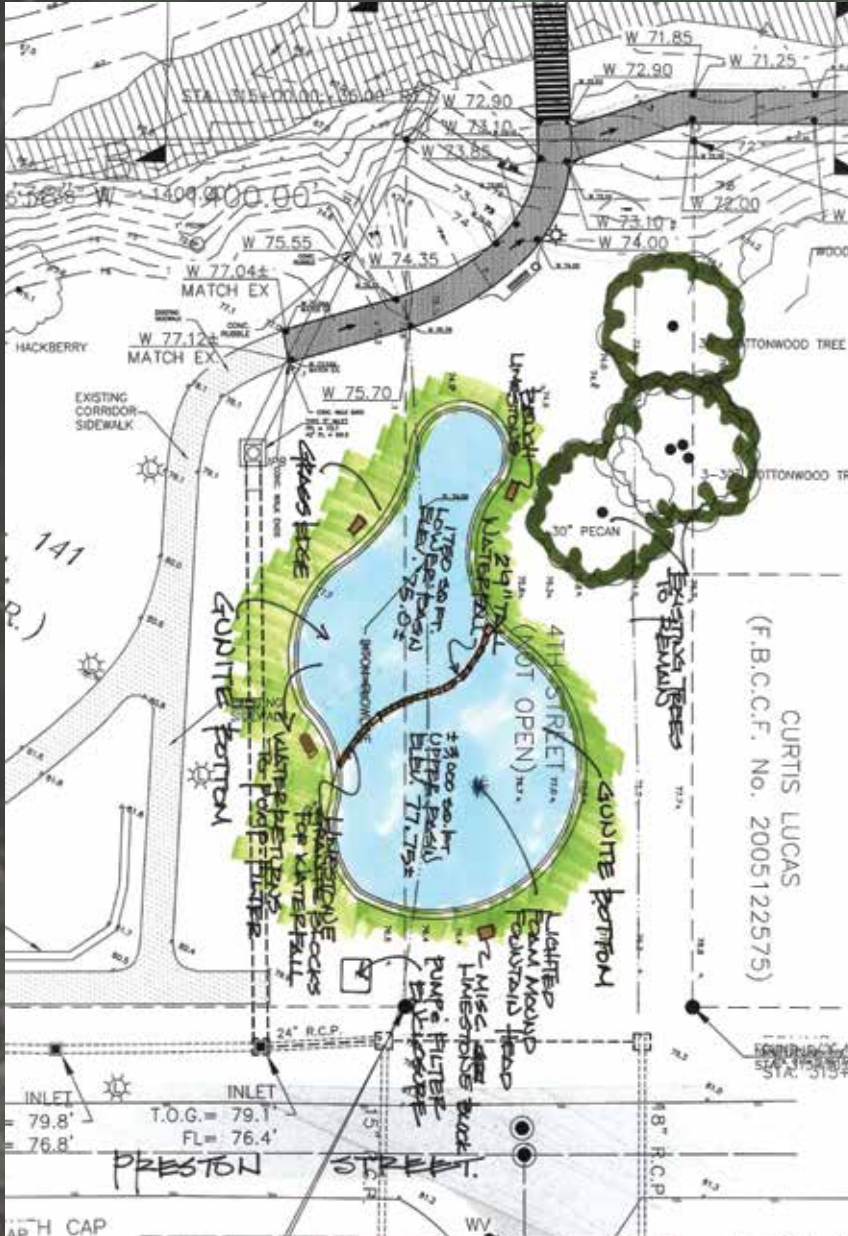


Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) was created in late 2014 as a vision of residents Pat Pittman and Barbara Johnson to beautify the downtown Richmond area. Since its inception, a number of projects have been completed both in the Historic District and the City's gateways, all of which are truly contributing to Keeping Richmond Beautiful.

Thank you Ladies and your team of volunteers!



WESSENDORFF PARK TRAILS PLAN



The City of Richmond has been focused on the outdoor environment in their attention to trails, parks and open spaces plans. Increasing a trail network through Richmond can improve citizens' quality of life as well as spur economic development. Last year the City received a Certificate of Recognition by the Houston- Galveston Area Council for the Trails Master Plan, which includes developing trails around Wessendorff Park. The City has contracted with Kelly Kaluza & Associates and MHS Planning & Design, the original architect for Wessendorff Park, to plan and implement this project. They have created a plan consisting primarily of an eight foot wide trail system around the Park, crossing the bayou in several areas. The plan includes benches and lighting similar to existing fixtures, along the trails. The attached diagram shows walking trails around Morton Cemetery, an eventual boardwalk crossing and pedestrian bridge, as well as a reflection pond in a future phase. The trail will connect to Jane Long Street and future phases to north Richmond streets. When this Wessendorff Trail System is complete, it will include a total of 3,724 linear feet of walking trails which will help to tie Morton Cemetery, and Wessendorff Park to the Historic District.

Once City Commission approves plans, construction may begin after January 2017.



RICHMOND USES RESPONSIBLE REVENUE SOURCES

In order to maximize resources allocated to various projects and public safety programs, the City of Richmond routinely applies for grants in order to leverage its investment in the community. Grants are regularly awarded to the City from a variety of sources including: private foundations, the State of Texas and the federal government. Once City staff recommends the application, the City Commission approves the application process and resulting grant award, if successful. The City had \$1,417,784 in active grant awards for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2016.

One of the most consistent grants awarded to the City for more than fifteen (15) consecutive years is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which is administered by Fort Bend County with funds passed-through from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and has provided over \$200,000 in infrastructure upgrades and repairs to the water and sanitary sewer system in the North Richmond area each year. The Total grant awards for this year from the CDBG program for North Richmond amounted to \$491,500 with the City matching \$75,000.



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUNDING

The police department currently has grant awards in the amount of \$153,844. The majority of the funds will be used to complete three years of grant funded equipment replacement for dispatch and radio communication devices funded through the Texas Department of Homeland Security. The City received \$306,785 towards their communication equipment upgrades in the previous two years, and is able to communicate with other agencies utilizing the new digital format, rather than the outdated analog system.



Quieting the Train Horns Is In The Works!

Preliminary engineering for quieter train traffic (wayside horn devices) throughout the City is being funded through grants from the George Foundation and the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation in the amounts of \$50,000 each. The project is being spear-headed by Fort Bend County, and once the engineering is complete, the City will seek additional grants for the construction phase of the project.





Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

A lot of us desire to leave as small a footprint as possible on Earth and recycling provides an opportunity to reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills, save energy and conserve natural resources. Richmond residents are fortunate to receive a blue recycle bin for recycling which can take: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs printed on glossy paper, junk mail, white paper, mixed paper and envelopes which can be placed in your blue recycle bin. Clear and cloudy plastic soft drink bottles and milk jugs and any plastic container with a #1 or #2 on it are acceptable as well as aluminum and tin cans. As well, most cartons are accepted in the recycling program including milk, juice, soy milk, broth, soup and other food and beverage cartons. This includes the familiar gable-top refrigerated cartons.



Please Be Reminded....



And Set Date on Calendar....

April 22nd, 2017 has been the date determined for the Keep Richmond Beautiful organization (KRB) to host the FREE Document Shredding Day at City Hall parking lot in collaboration with the Spring Clean Up Campaign! Please save this date...



The City and Republic Services have been partnering in the spring for the Annual Curbside Clean Up Campaign! This has been an opportunity to get rid of large waste items that are not typically picked up at the curbside, such as batteries, motor oil, mattresses, water heaters, and furniture for example. Last spring, the 3 Saturdays of Curbside Clean Up campaign resulted in Republic Services picking up almost 40 tons of large waste in the City of Richmond! So watch your utility bill and City website www.richmondtx.gov for April 2017 dates for Spring Curbside Clean Up campaign!

Holiday Schedule

Solid Waste & Recycling

Christmas Tree Pick Up - Will occur every Wednesday in January (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th). Please be reminded to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and tree skirt before placing to curb before 7 am.



Christmas Day Sunday, Dec 25

Regular collection on Monday, December 26.

New Year's Day Sunday, January 1

Regular collection on Monday, January 2.

Bulky Waste Collection runs as normal. One time per month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Each residence is allowed to place 4 bulky items curbside by 7 am. (Remember, no wet paint, oil, tires, construction debris or TVs allowed on this collection).

Note- Fort Bend County does have a Recycling Center at 1200 Blume Road in Rosenberg and phone # is 281-342-5226 or 281-633-7581 where they accept wet paint, tires, construction debris, etc.

Bulk Cardboard Recycling - Cardboard boxes can be recycled on Fridays, and if boxes are larger than can fit in the recycle bin, large boxes can be flattened, stacked, and bundled and Republic Services will pick up. If not able to bundle, please take them to the Recycle Center if they don't fit in recycle bin.

Green Waste Collection- lawn clippings and limbs- occurs every Wednesday, including over holiday weeks, and should be at the curb by 7 am. Please do not use Poly carts for green waste collection. Residents can visit www.Earth911.com for additional information.

FORT BEND COUNTY BUS SERVICES STILL SERVING COMMUNITIES

The City would like to remind our residents that the Fort Bend County Point Deviation Bus Services are available Monday through Friday 7:15 am to 5:15 pm depending upon route and locations. Riders have both the benefit of a dependable bus schedule Mondays through Fridays and the ability to have direct pickup or drop-off if needed. The Fort Bend County Point Deviation Bus Service will provide weekday service along major thoroughfares in the Richmond—Rosenberg area, with designated stops to municipal offices, shopping, medical and community service locations. The buses can deviate up to 3/4 mile from the routes to pick up or drop off riders who have made reservations. Fares are \$1.00 per person, with one free transfer ticket per fare. For reservations and more in-

formation, contact Fort Bend County Transit at 1-866-751-8747 or visit website at FBCTransit.org for routes and schedules.



VERANDA DEVELOPMENT HAS BROKEN GROUND

Johnson Development has broken ground on Veranda, their second Richmond area development, fronting Williams Way and backing up to Del Webb's Sweetgrass community and the Fort Bend Country Club. The official groundbreaking with City of Richmond officials, The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation representatives, and Johnson Development representatives was held September 29th.

Veranda was named after the historic Veranda Hotel in Richmond, from the 1800's, and will feature 2500 homes once completed.

Johnson Development is currently selecting homebuilders for this community who will offer options to add large verandas to their floor plans.



Trey Reichert- VP and General Mgr Veranda Development, Bruce Barclay- Sr VP Trustmark National Bank, Ben Jones-CFO, The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation, Terri Vela- Richmond City Manager, Commissioner Carl Drozd of Richmond, Mayor Evalyn Moore- Mayor of Richmond, Larry Johnson- President & CEO Johnson Development, Doug Goff-COO Johnson Development, Jack Moore- Board of The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation, Jim Whitehead- City of Richmond Asst. Public Works Director, Pat McDonald- President and CEO The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation.

Construction on the first homes are expected to begin in early 2017. Veranda is being developed on 590 acres acquired from The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation and will be adjacent to 800 acres owned by the foundation, currently being developed as a nature reserve, named Long Acres Ranch. Visit www.VerandaTexas.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY



Make a difference in your Community by volunteering to serve on a City board, committee, or commission. You can make an impact by providing insight and input for the improvement of the City's operations and the Richmond community. Serving is open to all City residents and without monetary compensation. City provides training if necessary. To fill out an application, for consideration on a board, committee or commission, contact the City Secretary at 281-342-5456, or download the application located on the city website at <http://richmondtx.gov/departments/city-secretary>.