



RICHMOND
EST. **TEXAS** 1837

A Charming Past. A Soaring Future.

SECOND EDITION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



Richmond's Trail Master Plan and Parks Master Plan Taking Effect

Changes taking place across Richmond are most visible throughout the City Parks with the addition of the Wessendorff Park Trails under construction around Morton Cemetery over to Jane Long Street, connecting north Richmond to Wessendorff Park and eventually, the rest of the historic district. These trails have been years in the making beginning in 2011 with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for Recreational Trail grant. The awarding of trail grant funds invite a Texas Historical Commission review which strengthens the purpose of connectivity to the historic district, for this Wessendorff Park Trail system.

(cont'd on pg. 5)



March 2017 trail along Morton Cemetery looking east toward 2nd Street



March 2017 trail headed north around Morton Cemetery toward Jane Long Street



June 2017 eastward toward 2nd Street



June 2017 trail headed north around cemetery

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CITY GOVERNMENT



Commissioners Jesse Torres, Barry Beard, 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
emoore@richmondtx.gov

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
tvela@richmondtx.gov

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 2nd 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Evalyn Moore

This year's State of the City address allowed us to share the accomplishments of the City and citizens who help to define our sense of 'community'. Richmond has finally entered our 'renaissance'- a period of vigorous activity, cultural revival, and bold ideas.

Like the European Renaissance when leaders charted a new course, Richmond has shaped a new course defining who we are today. We too had a leader, my late husband Hilmar Moore, who did not live to see this revival but knew it was coming. He had an able partner for the last 25 years, City Commissioner Glen Gilmore, who dedicated the remainder of his life, to the betterment of Richmond. Mayor Moore and Commissioner Gilmore initiated the Home Rule Charter, adopted in 2013, which was the first step toward our renaissance. You have seen the vigorous activity beginning with new developments, like Veranda and the new HEB grocery store on FM 762. We have new parks, trails and picnic areas in Freeman Town Park and Wessendorff Park, which are featured in these pages. These are all tangible improvements the City has worked on, and the citizens of the City represent the intangible- respect, trust and compassion, which help define a community.

While preparing for this year's State of the City, I was reminded of telling words shared by Dr. Gary D. McCaleb, with the Texas Municipal League- "It is easier to pass ordinances related to the 'city' than to instill a sense of 'community'- this comes from the charitable spirit of others. They give of their time, talent, and ideas to that very cause called 'community'". So we applaud all citizens, who through their volunteerism, work to build trust and compassion and a sense of community! The renaissance we are now witnessing will bring many benefits for years which must be shared by all- the community of Richmond!



RICHMOND'S CITY MANAGER AWARDED PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR



The University of Houston Master of Public Administration Program annually honors outstanding public officials, in the greater Houston Metropolitan area, who 'provide positive influence on the

ideals of public service in the greater Houston area'. Some of the criteria for these selections are outstanding performance in a challenging work situation, demonstrates commitment to ethics and ethical decision making, and someone who places welfare of citizenry above personal, professional and political motives.

The 2017 MPA Program recognized Richmond City Manager, Terri Vela, as the Public Official of the Year in March 2017, along with Ms. Tina Paez-Director Regulatory Affairs City of Houston. This year's MPA program also honored two elected officials- Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County and Tom Ramsey, Mayor- Spring Valley Village

Under Ms. Vela's guidance the citizens of Richmond approved a new Home Rule Charter in May 2013 to

manage changes and growth as Richmond moved into the 21st century. More than a year later she guided the elected officials through the process of adopting a new Comprehensive Master Plan followed by a Unified Development Code, and then directed the re-drawing of new zoning maps. In 2015 Ms. Vela implemented the strategic annexation strategy followed by development of Richmond's Parks and Trails Master Plan. The City also broke ground on their Surface Water Treatment Plant in 2014 to comply with the Fort Bend Subsidence District mandates.

As well, 2015 through 2016 brought three historic floods, each unprecedented, to the Richmond area. Ms. Vela supervised Richmond's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and monitored all rescue efforts in each flood event. Under her guidance, Richmond became a model of how to coordinate activities before, during and after an unprecedented natural disaster.

And through all these changes and challenges, Richmond continues to stay connected to its historic past and values, as Terri Vela exhibited outstanding performance, time and again, while remaining committed to ethical decision making for the citizens of Richmond.



CANVASSING OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

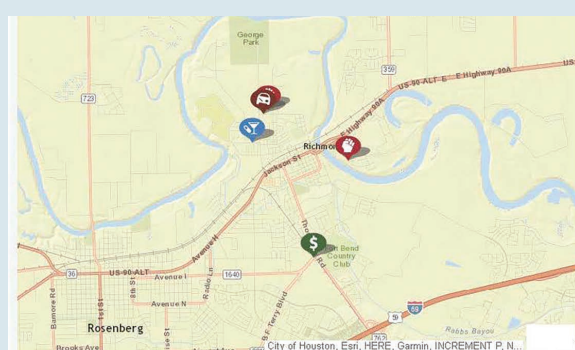
With access of information today, many voters believe the election results they see on television on election night are the final results. In fact, the outcome of the election is not official until the completion of the canvass of votes and certification of results, which can take days after Election Day.

The election process begins with a special commission meeting enabling all candidates to draw their position on the election ballot. Once votes are cast, the canvass process begins, which is the exercise of accounting for every ballot cast. The canvass enables an election official to resolve discrepancies, correct errors, or take any remedial actions necessary to ensure all votes valid before certifying the results of the election.

After the election is certified, such as the May 6, 2017 Mayoral election which saw Mayor Evalyn Moore again elected as Mayor of Richmond, a special commission meeting is scheduled whereby the Mayor takes the official oath of office. This year, Judge Phyllis Ross delivered the oath to Mayor Evalyn Moore.

RICHMOND POLICE TAKE PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO CRIME

The Richmond Police Department has taken a progressive approach to transparency by making their crime data available to the public through CrimeMapping.com which provides current incident data for the City of Richmond. Any resident with access to the internet can map out and analyze recent crime activity in their neighborhood.

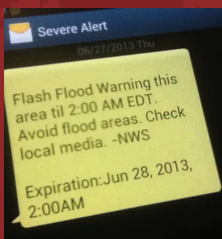


CrimeMapping.com also offers free Crime Alerts which help keep the community well informed by distributing incident reports via e-mail to anyone who subscribes to the system. The crime types displayed are those most often requested by the public and include such reported incidents as robbery, assault, burglary and theft. Citizens can turn crime types on and off depending on what they are interested in learning about and activity can also be queried by date as there is a rolling ninety days of information available at CrimeMapping.com .

Community Oriented Policing is a trend that is here to stay and the Richmond Police Department has set an example for other area agencies, in terms of transparency, as this level of data sharing is not common for all police departments; though, keeping the public well informed has been proven effective in reducing crime. Transparency helps build trust and the Richmond Police Department has taken the steps necessary in helping neighbors look out for each other.

Visit the Crime Mapping website at www.CrimeMapping.com, or contact Lieutenant Lowell Neinast at (281) 342-2849 for more information.

CITIZENS SHOULD SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS



It is important all citizens stay informed of emergency alerts through your phone system.

The 911 Emergency Notification System has been operating for some time for Harris and Fort Bend Counties, but with many households no longer using land lines, it becomes increasingly important for citizens to actively go online to sign up for emergency alerts on your cellular phone. This becomes one of the most effective ways to inform citizens of impending danger, especially due to weather conditions.

So in order to stay informed, go online to www.911.org/faqs.asp and sign your cell phone up to receive Emergency Alerts. It's very easy to do with instructions on the home page labeled Free SIGN UP! followed by buttons. Please take a moment to make sure your phone is connected to the Emergency Alert system.

Share The Warmth

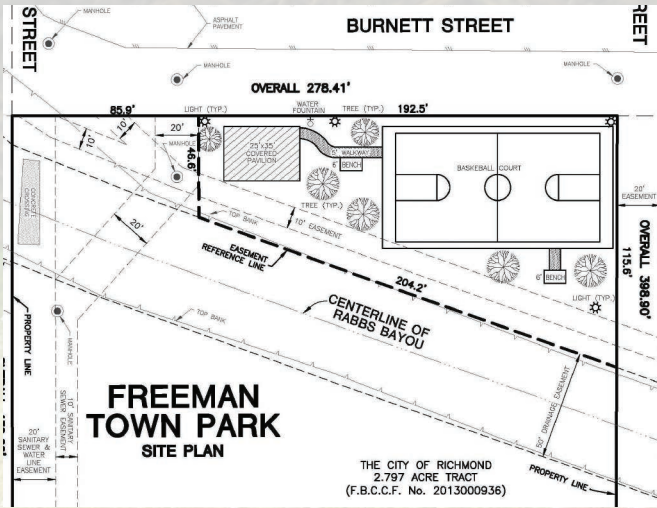


Community Program began in Richmond in December 2015 as a citywide program of neighbors helping neighbors, once the City learned from our residents in South Richmond that many of our senior citizens didn't have essentials such as warm socks, jackets and blankets to protect from the cold!

So Share the Warmth Program began with Request for Donations dropped at designated City locations, from early- December to mid-January. Richmond Fire Department then worked with area churches and service organizations to distribute to those in our community with needs. And the program has continued, with timing changes this year!

Look for this year's 3rd Annual Share the Warmth Community Program to begin Request for Donations period just after Labor Day 2017, with distribution occurring to our neighbors in need in late mid-October 2017. Go to the City's website www.richmondtx.gov/residents for more information later in the summer.

Freeman Town Park Progress



Besides the Wessendorff Park Trails system, the City's street teams and staff have been focused on the City's parks. Additional changes citizens can experience are with a new park- Freeman Town Park, at 7th St and Burnet, the City's sixth park serving the Freeman Town community. Knowing these residents had desired a park in their community, Mayor Moore kept this park a priority as the Parks and Recreation Board has been working on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan over this past nine months. Freeman Town Park is the sixth park added to the City of Richmond parks system.



Aerial view



June 2017 - Pavilion in Freeman Town Park



June 2017 - Basketball court / goals at Freeman Town Park

George Park Update



May 2016 - before addition



May 2017 - additional parking

This northwest corner aerial photo does not easily show the extensive trails system George Park offers through the wooded southern side of park (shown at top right of photo). At 233 acres, George Park is the largest park in the City's park system and classified as a special use park due to its' size and the baseball and softball complexes it offers. Citizens should see updates to this park coming with the adoption of the Parks Master Plan this year.

In the meantime, the City streets teams have added a much needed parking lot to the Rose-Rich Softball complex. The Rose- Rich fields will be expanding soon to include another field on the western side of their softball complex.

SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Richmond's Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) has met the first milestone of 30% groundwater reduction, as mandated by the Fort Bend Subsidence District, by 2016. The SWTP is currently at 65% completion and due to finish in February 2018. Once online the SWTP will enable the City to satisfy the Subsidence District mandate which requires the City to reduce groundwater withdrawal by 60% by 2025.

Per contract with the Brazos River Authority, the SWTP can draw up to 2.6 million gallons of water a day from the NRG Canal via pump station (pictured below).



Overview of the entire SWTP 38.7 acres- pictured below- shows the water reservoir (right side of photo) where water is then stored and treated before it moves through various filtration and treatment systems- like the (micro-filtration) membrane plant in center of photo. The treated water then moves to the 1 million gallon storage tank (left side of photo), before it moves to the City's water system, where it will blend with the groundwater treated at the City's water plants. These water plants will begin chloramine conversion preparing for the blending.



CHLORAMINE CONVERSION

As the City of Richmond prepares for Surface Water integration and blending with groundwater, the disinfection process of our drinking water treatment will also have to change. The disinfection change will be from free chlorine to chloramines and is necessary as Richmond transitions to the use of legislatively mandated surface water. Construction for the conversion project has begun at each of the five groundwater plants located in the City, the most obvious of these new buildings located behind City Hall. These chloramine conversion buildings will house the pumping equipment necessary for the chloramination process, which is a method of disinfection used in drinking water and consists of adding a small amount of ammonia to chlorinated water.



Chloramination, as a disinfectant, produces lower levels of chlorine by-products which can potentially form when free chlorine mixes with natural organic substances in water. Chloramination is more stable than free chlorine and lasts longer in the distribution system. The conversion will enable the City of Richmond to continue to comply with all regulatory drinking water standards and will provide continued protection for the citizens of Richmond as we transition to surface water.

The City plans to begin using chloramines to disinfect its public drinking water between late August and September 2017 and to begin integrating surface water early next year. Notices will be sent to all water customers within the next couple of months with more specific information as it relates to the disinfection change.

FALL CLEANUP CAMPAIGN



The City of Richmond and Republic Services will partner to bring 2017 Fall Clean Up Campaign across 3 Saturdays in October – October 7th, 14th, and 21st. The Clean Up Campaign occurs spring and fall to assist citizens in eliminating large item waste. Residents supported the effort this past Spring by providing 36.95 tons of large item waste to be collected.

When you counted the 5.5 tons of documents shredded the middle weekend of the spring campaign, an astonishing 42.45 tons of waste and documents were disposed of! Set your Calendar now for October, 7th, 14th and 21st. As we get closer to those dates, check

out the City website www.richmondtx.gov/departments/public-works/sanitation for map showing which weekend hits your neighborhood.

KRB AND CITY AGAIN PARTNER FOR 2017 FALL SHRED EVENT

KRB and City of Richmond will sponsor 2 document shred trucks on Saturday, October 7th, for 2017 Fall Shred Event. This will ensure the Shred Event is ready to handle all the documents residents would like to bring!

Mark your calendar and check out the City's website at www.richmondtx.gov.



**CITY OFFICES
ARE CLOSED
LABOR DAY, SEPT.
4TH AND
FAIR DAY,
SEPT. 29TH**

DEFEND AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES

Spring to summer months always bring increased mosquito populations. There are a number of ways residents can protect themselves against mosquito bites, which is especially important for our elderly and young children, who are at high risk. All residents should practice the 'Four D's' to protect your family-

- DRAIN- Drain standing water on your property where mosquitoes tend to breed. Common sites are flower pots, bird baths, old tires and clogged rain gutters.
- DUSK and DAWN- Mosquitoes are most active during these periods, so stay inside at dusk and dawn!
- DRESS- Dress in long sleeves and pants when outside
- DEET- Use insect repellent containing Deet or oil of lemon eucalyptus.



The City began spraying the entire City of Richmond Friday, June 9th, followed by July 1st and July 14th. The schedule will continue as:

August 11th starting at 4 pm

September 8th starting at 4 pm

REPORTING STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

Street light outages should be reported directly to CenterPoint Energy at 713.207.2222 or online at www.centerpointenergy.com/outage/. 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.

The City's Public Works Department is also able to contact CenterPoint Energy, as a courtesy, so citizens may phone the City's Public Works Department at 281-342-0559.



RECYCLE BINS NEEDED

If you are in need of a recycle bin please phone our Public Works Department at 281-342-0559. Newspapers, magazines, catalogs printed on glossy paper, junk mail, white paper, mixed paper and envelopes 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 including milk, juice, soy milk, broth, soup and other food and beverage cartons may be recycled.