City's 2012-2013 Budget "charts the course"

The 2012-2013 Budget will focus Richardson's efforts on planning for the future of the community while also continuing to provide excellent services that residents have come to expect.

The outcomes of those planning processes are going to have important impacts for the community," he said. "It is important planning that will really set the stage for years to come."

Johnson said Richardson was fortunate to have experienced a strong rebound from the recent economic downturn, with the Certified Tax Roll increasing 3.4 percent, largely because of strong 

Methodist Health System breaks ground on new Richardson hospital

Methodist Health System celebrated its latest expansion in North Texas during a groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 27 for the Methodist Richardson Medical Center—Bush/Renner Hospital. The new 125-bed, four-story acute care hospital is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014 and will create more than 100 new jobs.

"Methodist Health System is excited to begin its highly anticipated expansions in Richardson," said Dr. Stephen L. Mansfield, president and CEO, Methodist Health System. "Our Campbell Road location has serviced the Richardson area's health care needs for more than 40 years. We see great opportunity in this important market and look forward to extending our presence and capabilities with the Bush/Renner expansion."

The new 266,250-square-foot hospital will be located at the southeast corner of Renner Road and President George Bush Turnpike. The expansion extends Methodist's existing service area and will offer enhanced health care services to residents in Richardson, Garland, Murphy, Plano, Sachse, Wylie and surrounding areas.

What's Inside

VOTE

Charter Amendment Election is Nov. 6

Early voting for the Nov. 6 City Charter Amendment Election begins Oct. 22.

Family, pet reunited

Animal Shelter website helps reunite family with pet.

Stray cat gets international attention

A 41-pound stray cat has got ten international attention.

Huffines Art Trails is Oct. 27-28

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Page 5

Other Revenue

Fines & Forfeits 6.4%

License & Permits 2.0

Revenue from Money/Property 0.5%

General Property Taxes 36.9%

SALES & OTHER BUSINESS TAXES 25.8%

FRANCHISE FEES 13.7%

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE 8.9%

RECREATION & LEISURE 3.4%

Other Revenue 4.4%

Revenue from Money/Property Revenue from interest earnings on the City's bank and investment accounts

12.3% Other Revenue

4.4% Franchise Fees

3.4% Fines & Forfeits

8.9% General Property Taxes

25.8% Sales & Other Business Taxes

13.7% Franchise Fees

4.4% License & Permits

0.5% Revenue from Money/Property

36.9% General Property Taxes

2012-2013 General Fund Revenues definitions

General Property Taxes-taxes levied on real and business personal property.

Sales and Other Business Taxes - $0.01 per dollar tax collected by retailers on the sale of goods and services within the City as well as business taxes on mixed beverages and lump

Franchise Fees-charges to utility companies operating within the City limits for use of the City’s rights of way.

License and Permit-fees including but not limited to building permits, childcare permits, alarm system permits, animal license and shelter fees and apartment inspection fees

Revenue from Money/Property-revenue from interest earnings on the City’s bank and investment accounts

FINES & FORFEITS

REVENUE FROM MONEY/PROPERTY

GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES

SALES & OTHER BUSINESS TAXES

FRANCHISE FEES

LICENSE & PERMITS

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

RECREATION & LEISURE

OTHER REVENUE
Richardson, Texas fiscal year begins Oct. 1, and this year’s budget hopes some great things for the community. First, we will retire $2 million worth of debt early, strengthening our financial position. We are also maintaining necessary reserves and making smart financial decisions to support and keep our important “triple-A” standing with both the Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s credit rating agencies. Next year’s budget also maintains our goal of committing a full penny of our tax revenue to fund infrastructure projects.

The best part of this year’s budget is the continued support of our community experience. On average, the value of property in the City increased 3.4 percent! That is a healthy increase, especially in today’s economy. Most of that growth was due to improvements in commercial properties. This increase in value shows vibrancy in our local economy, and we are very happy with the continued interest being shown by people and businesses who want to locate and grow in Richardson.

Of course, there were also hard decisions that had to be made. As part of responsible planning, the City is maintaining a hiring freeze on 15 positions. We also had to approve a 1.5 percent increase in water rates to pass along increases to the City is experiencing from the North Texas Municipal Water District, Richardson’s water supplier. However, we were able to provide a modest pay increase for our hard-working City employees.

Overall, this was a very good year for our community from a financial perspective. Through responsible planning, we are maintaining a healthy bottom line, and through responsible spending we are making community investments that are maintaining the value of our City. This strategy will preserve our reputation as one of the best places in the Metropolitans to live, work and play.
The complete 2012-2013 Budget document is available online at www.cor.net. Below is a list of additional highlights of this year’s budget:

- 1 percent of tax roll equals $638,000 impact
- 1 penny of tax rate equals $1 million in revenue
- 14 percent rate adjustment in water and sewer rates
- 3 percent merit based increase to employees
- 5 percent step increases, for the fifth year in a row
- 13 percent rate adjustment in water
- 50 percent of employees eligible for the senior exemption
- 1 percent of tax roll equals $1 million
- To date, the City has issued $2.9 million of bonds
- Richardson will also pay off $638,000 of debt

With the goal of maintaining active city utility projects.

The City Council unanimously approved the 2012-2013 Budget at its Sept. 10 meeting. The combined budget totals $198,235,950, an increase of $6,826,021 or 3.6 percent from the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year’s estimated expenditures of $191,409,929.

Richardson’s Assistant City Manager Michelle Thames steps down after 21-year career with City

In July, Thames announced that she will retire with more than 21 years with the City she was going to step down and take some time off. “It has been extremely rewarding to serve such a terrific community alongside incredibly talented staff and such dedicated citizens and passionate leaders,” said Thames. “I feel truly blessed to be able to take so many great Richardson experiences with me going forward.”

“Michelle has been an integral part of our organization and this community, and we will greatly miss her and her abilities,” said Richardson City Manager Dan Johnson. “She’s helped oversee many projects which have added to our civic pride, and we wish her all the best for her future endeavors.”

Richardson’s Assistant City Manager of Administrative Services Michelle Thames stepped down from her position Sept. 14, ending more than 21-year career with the City of Richardson. Thames joined the City in May 1991 as an intern in the City Manager’s Office.

In her role with the City, Thames had administrative responsibilities for Human Resources, the Budget Office, Information Technology, Emergency Management, Communications, the Richardson Public Library and had administrative oversight of the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts and Corporate Presentations.

Johnson said Thames “... has been a really positive indicator that our economy is doing very well in Richardson.”

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Charter Amendment Election is Nov. 6

The Richardson City Council approved an ordinance in July to call for a charter amendment election Nov. 6. The proposed amendment would change Richardson’s charter to provide for the direct election of the City’s mayor.

Below is the amendment as it will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Proposition Num. 1

Shall the Home Rule Charter of the City of Richardson, Texas be amended to provide for the direct election of the Mayor of the City of Richardson, Texas by amending Article 3, Section 3.01(a), Article 3.02, Article 3.03, Section 3.07, Article 4, Section 4.02, Section 4.05, Section 4.06, Section 4.08, Section 4.09 and Article 5, Section 5.01, Section 5.02, and Section 5.03 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Richardson, Texas?

Early voting information for the Nov. 6 election

Early voting for the Nov. 6 Charter Amendment and General Election is available: Oct. 22-Nov. 2 at the Richardson City Hall/Civic Center Complex, 411 W. Arapaho Rd. for Richardson residents who live in Dallas County. Richardson Colliion County residents have several locations at which to vote early on the same dates and hours. Visit www.coiustin.tx.us/elections for a list of locations.

For more information, contact the Dallas County Elections Department at 214-637-7937 or Collin County Elections Department at 972-547-1900.

Dates and times for early voting at all Dallas and Collin County locations:

- Oct. 22-26: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Oct. 27: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Oct. 28: 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Oct. 29-Nov. 2: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Richardson City Hall is NOT a voting location on Election Day.

The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the Nov. 6, 2012 General Election is Oct. 9, 2012.

If you live in:

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CPC meetings are broadcast live

As part of the City Council’s Transparency Initiative, Richardson this year began live broadcasts of City Plan Commission (CPC) meetings.

The CPC is made up of Richardson residents appointed by the City Council to make recommendations regarding land use, public improvements, planning and zoning, and thoroughfare improvements. The CPC also reviews development plans and certain variance requests. CPC meetings are typically held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The meetings are streamed live on the City’s website, www.cor.net, and are broadcast on the City’s cable TV channel (Time Warner Cable, channel 16 and A&T U-Verse, channel 99).

Taped replays of the meetings are also available on the website and cable TV.

Property tax bills to be mailed during October

The Dallas County and Collin County tax offices will mail property tax statements to Richardson residents this month based on values set by the county appraisal districts as of Jan. 1, 2012. The City of Richardson contracts with Collin and Dallas counties for the collection of property taxes. Property owners will receive a statement from the county tax office in which the property is located.

Richardson Independent School District taxes are billed by and paid to the school tax office at 970 Security Row, Richardson, TX 75081, 469-593-5000.

Collin County residents can make City and Collin County tax payments at the Collin County Tax Office branch located at 920 E. Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75074, 972-881-3014. For Dallas County residents, City and Dallas County taxes are now paid to the Dallas County Tax Office at 516 Twilight Trail, Richardson, TX 75080, 214-637-7811. All property tax payments should be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 2013.

City of Richardson is one of five Texas cities to hold “Triple A” from both rating agencies

Credit rating agencies Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s again recognized Richardson’s strong financial management and thriving economy this year, reaffirming the City’s Aaa and AAA bond ratings.

The ratings—the highest possible from both agencies—result in lower interest rates on bonds the City issues, which reduces the cost to taxpayers.

Richardson has held the Aaa rating from Moody’s for three consecutive years, and this was the fifth year in a row that the City has been rated AAA by Standard and Poor’s. Richardson is just one of five communities in Texas to hold both the top rating from both agencies.

Both agencies cited Richardson’s affluent tax base and the strength of the business community, as well as the consistent, experienced City management team.

The Moody’s rating places Richardson among the top 6.6 percent of rated cities in the nation and 2.1 percent of rated cities in Texas hold Aaa status. It has given only four other cities in Texas the same designation.

Standard and Poor’s Aa1 rating places Richardson among the top 5.3 percent of rated communities statewide.

Community welcomes visitors for Japan-America Grassroots Summit

About a dozen Japanese visitors stayed at homes in Richardson during the 2012 Japan-America Grassroots Summit, which helped to promote new opportunities between Japanese and Richardson businesses.

The visitors attended a welcome reception at City Hall, took tours at the University of Texas at Dallas and Fujitsu Network Communications, and had a progressive dinner with their home-stay hosts. More than 150 visitors from Japan toured North Texas during the summit.

Richardson was one of 15 North Texas cities selected to host the visitors as part of the annual gathering of Japanese and American citizens.

The summit, held alternately in Japan and the U.S., honors one of the first friendships between a Japanese person and an American, a unique bond begun in 1841 that continues through their descendants to the present day.

Pictured at right are Mayor Bob Townsend and the Richardson host families and the Japanese visitors who stayed with them while they attended the summit.
Stray cat draws international attention

A stray cat brought to the Rich-ardson Animal Shelter in Septem-ber gained international attention due to its unusually large size.

She is about 41 pounds and ex-tremely overweight, which means she is unable to care for herself. She has difficulty grooming herself and cannot walk around very easily. “Skinny” was picked up as a stray and brought to Richardson’s animal shelter. Local news initially covered the “Skinny” story, and she was featured around the world after The Associated Press picked up the story, followed by other national media including People magazine.

Hundreds of people worldwide contacted the Animal Shelter to inquire about adopting the cat, but she was placed in a long-term facility where she will receive spe-cialized care and get her back to good health.”

For information about other animals available for adoption, vis-it the Animal Shelter’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RichardsonAnimalShelter.

Chinese investors visit Richardson

A group of about 50 Chinese investors visited Richardson last month as part of a three-day visit of North Texas. The visitors stopped at UT Dallas and attended a VIP reception of local business execu-tives, academic and civic leaders at the Eisemann Center hosted by the Mayor’s Office of International Business Development.

The visitors participated in U.S.-China Investment Week, a program that highlights more than 100 Chinese companies during a nine-day tour across the U.S. The North Texas tour included stops at UT Dallas and the renovated campus is about 100 miles away.

Ground is broken is new Richardson hospital

The Eisemann Center held a 10th Anniversary celebration held at the Eisemann Center. The event included a reception held at the Eisemann Center a performance of the 10th Anniversary video.

Visit our online edition to play the Eisemann Center 10th Anniversary video.

10th Anniversary celebration held at the Eisemann Center

The Eisemann Center held a 10th Anniversary weekend celebration last month that included a special performance by Patti Lu-Pone and Mandy Patinkin Sept. 15 and 16. The event was held at the Eisemann Center during the Community Arts Day Sept. 16.

Lu-Pone and Patinkin debited their shows at the Eisemann Cen-ter’s grand opening in 2002 and have performed it across the country in the past decade.

The Community Arts Day included roaming artists, 10th Anni-versary merchandise, concessions, informational booths, groups and more. Visitors also got hands-on experience with technical equipment used at the Eisemann Center, the Bank of America Theatre, and a showcase of the All Round Tal-ent winners was held in the Hill Performance Hall.

Visit the Eisemann Center website at www.eisemanncenter.com to learn more about the up-coming 10th Anniversary Season. This month’s offerings at the Eisemann Center are highlighted on page seven of this publication.

MRMC and UTuD honored with Tech Titan Awards

Two Richardson institutions were recently recognized with prestigious Tech Titan Awards, presented by the Metroplex Tech-nology Business Council. Methodist Richardson Medi-cal Center (MRMC) was named an Entrepreneurial Technology Adopter for the success of the new hospital’s da Vinci® robotic surgery program and the Single-Site™ da Vinci® surgery technology.

“The success of the da Vinci’s robotic surgery program and the Single-Site™ da Vinci® surgery technology has truly been a team effort between our medical staff, leadership, and employees,” said Methodist Richardson president Ken Hutchens, Jr., said: “I am honored to receive the Tech Titans Technology Adoption award on behalf of Methodist Richardson, and I am proud of our employees’ dedi-cation to improving the lives of our patients.”

Robert Robb, associate vice president for technology commer-cialization at UT Dallas, received the award for his leadership of the Office of Technology Commercial-ization (OTC), a division of the Office of Research charged with moving viable UT Dallas research and technology from the labora-tory to the marketplace.

Established in 2008, the UT Dallas Office of Technology Com-mercialization is responsible for evaluating and protecting intellec-tual property, facilitating the creation of UT Dallas spinoff com-panies, assisting in the licensing of technologies, and communicating with investors and industry about commercialization opportunities.

“Being selected for the award was a surprise, for sure,” said Robb, who also is Director of Ven-ture Development for the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneur-ship (IIE) at UT Dallas. “It is a great recognition for all the terri-fic things the IIE, the HE, faculty and students are accomplishing.”

Robb stated the award also is a reflection of the strong support and endorsement the University administration has provided for technology commercialization ini-tiatives.

Kenneth Hutchens, Jr.
Civic Groups
Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc. 972-231-1651, 972-680-8615 lwvrichardson.org
The Junior League of Richardson, jrrjx.com
Richardson Central Kiwanis Club 214-739-5610
Richardson Exchange Club of Richardson 972-680-8615
The Junior League 972-231-5117
Richardson-North Dallas Christian Women’s Club 972-230-2506
Richardson Poets’ Group 214-478-4870 or richardsonpoetsroup@gmail.com
Richardson Retirement School Personnel 214-890-6899
Richardson Wireless Club http://curv.org
Seniors’ Net 972-234-8880 ext. 115 or dch4528@sbcglobal.net
Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society 972-668-1104
National Osteoporosis Foundation North Dallas Support Group 972-965-5767
Women’s Center in Richardson 972-762-2904
Support Groups Dallas Amputee Network 972-470-0505
Toastmasters Groups Hallelujah High Toastmasters vphp@hallelujah.freethes户.net
Richardson Evening Toastmasters 214-534-0885
Richardson Icebreakers Toastmasters 972-387-4709
Richardson Noon Toastmasters 469-235-3568
Texas Toastmasters 214-566-4086 or http://texas.freethes户.net
Veterans Groups Richardson American Legion Post 368 972-479-1505
Richardson VFW Post 8627 972-671-8627
Richardson Lady Auxiliary to VFW Post 8627 972-241-0495
Korean War Veterans 972-279-7000
North Dallas VFW Memorial Post 3930 972-762-2900
WWII Veterans 214-361-6294
Military Officers Women’s Club 972-644-6871
Military Officers Association of America Greater Dallas Chapter 972-457-2345
Civic Art Society plans artist workshops
The public is invited to two events hosted by the Richardson Civic Art Society (RCAS) this month.
RCAS meets in the Richardson Public Library basement on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. RCAS is supported by the Richardson Arts Commission.
Art by Marilyn Bourbon
Gail Delger
Gail Delger will demonstrate her techniques in painting with water media to a gathering at the Richardson Civic Art Society meeting Oct. 16. Delger has been a professional artist since 1990, is a signature member with the Southwestern Watercolor Society, and enjoys mixing humor with her artistic subjects. Her work may be viewed at www.gaidelger.com.
Marilyn Bourbon
Marilyn Bourbon will present an artist’s workshop 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 27 at Artists’ Showplace in Richardson. The workshop will demonstrate an easy method of creating figures by stylizing magazine ads. Materials will be mixed media, including transparent watercolor and gouache. Contact Carol Powell at 972-250-4814 or cdpowell76@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

Special Events Out to Lunch to Richardson
Oct. 16 Gail Delger Cost for the trip is $25, payable on the day of the trip, plus the cost of your lunch.

Richardson Today, October 2012

Travel Opportunities
Check our Travel Board at the Senior Center for 2012 travel opportunities with the Senior Center and Heritage Tours.

Galveston’s Dickens on the Strand
Oct. 2 Three-day, two-night trip Depart by motor coach from the Senior Center at 8 a.m. Nov. 30 and return to the Senior Center at approximately 8 p.m. Dec. 2. Cost: $679 per person, double occupancy. $808 per person, single occupancy.

We will travel to Galveston Island for the annual Dickens on the Strand Festival. Several rest stops are planned, including lunch at The Farmhouse Cafe in Huntsville (on your own).

We will stay right on the beach at the Hotel Galvez. Friday night we will dine in Galveston, and after dinner we will be entertained by George Lee, a veteran speaker recently featured on the History Channel. He will regale you with tales of the colorful history of the island.

Saturday is for spending time at the festival downtown, enjoying the many blocks of holiday merriment. Saturday evening we will tour the historic showplaces of the Menard Hunne and Bishop’s Palace while sipping champagne. Both will be decorated for Christ- mas to put you in the holiday spirit. Dinner will be at Clarion’s, a favor- ite to the locals. After dinner you may choose to take a private ghost and history tour with a concierge through the Haunted Stages of the Hotel Galvez.

Sunday morning will start with a brunch at the Garten Verein fol- lowed by a driving tour of the city. Jan Johnson, the author of “Driv- ing Tours of Galveston,” will be with us to give her narrative tour of Galveston before we head back to Richardson.

Senior Center
820 W. Arapaho Rd. 972-744-7800

Outstanding women from the community will be honored at the 2012 Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson Outstanding Women of Today Awards Luncheon to be held at noon Oct. 26.

Honorees will be recognized in six categories including Gov- ernment, Education, Non-Profit, Small Business, Corporate and Outstanding Woman of Tomor- row. The event will be held at the Wyatt Hotel, 435 E. Campbell Rd. in Richardson.

Former Lincoln Properties executive and nationally recognized travel trainer and speaker Anne Sadowsky will give the Keynote Address. The lunchbox will also include draw- ings for a week at a Scottish hunting lodge, a diamond and pearl necklace and other great prizes.

Proceeds from the Outstanding Women of Today luncheon sup- port the organization’s projects in the community, including funding college scholarships and elemen- tary school field trips, and spon- soring such organizations as the Richardson Adult Literacy Center and Richardson Reads One Book.

Tickets are $45 and may be pur- chased online at www.altrusarich- ardon.com. For more information e-mail contact@altrusarichardson. com.

Atrusa recognizes women’s work in community
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Eisemann Center Presents season begins with comedy

The 10th Anniversary season of Eisemann Center Presents begins this month with a mix of comedy, musical theatre, family entertainment and music. Tickets are available by visiting www.eisemanncenter.com or calling the Ticket Office at 972-744-4650. Jeff Garlin—Built for Comfort will bring a familiar actor, producer, director, actor and stand-up comedian to the stage for two shows. Jeff Garlin is a talented writer, producer, director, actor and stand-up comedian. Garlin both co-stars and executive produces the HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm."
Lauren Clarke will never forget the panic she felt recently when she realized her beloved pet had vanished.

Bianca, a 5-year-old Chihuahua-corgi mix, had weaseled out of her leash and vanished. "Our world stopped," Clarke said. "We all cried ourselves to sleep that one night she was gone."

Fortunately for the Clarke family, who had recently moved into the Canyon Creek area, a neighbor knew how to use it. "Everybody that uses it is very appreciative that we have that tool available for them," Wooten said.

"The online feature allows people who have lost a pet to enter information on its breed, color, gender, age, description and owner contact information and upload a photo. The entry is displayed on a map that shows where the animal was last seen."

Residents who have found pets may upload similar information, which appears on a separate map that shows where the pet was found. Lost and found reports stay posted on the site for two weeks.

"Seeing that picture pop up is what made it real to me that we had found her," she said. To view the Lost or Found Animals feature on the Animal Shelter website, visit the City’s website at www.cor.net and click on Animal Services under the Departments tab and then click on Lost or Found Animals.

"File of Life" speaks when you can’t speak for yourself

When Richardson Fire Department Paramedics respond to a call and enter the home to find the patient unconscious, precious life-saving minutes can be saved if important medical information is available.

"The "File of Life" Program provides citizens with a free life saving program that is a proven means for emergency personnel to quickly access the vital information on members of a household during an emergency. The "File of Life" Program is designed for seniors and individuals with serious medical conditions to provide medical information to emergency personnel who respond to and treat home emergencies. However, it can be used by anyone.

"The "File of Life" Program is a joint project of the Richardson Fire Department and The Seniors’ Net at the NETWORK of Community Ministries. Important medical and patient information is placed on an information form. All vital information, medical problems and medications are listed as well as other pertinent information. Once the information sheet is complete on each member of the family, you then place it in the file where your name is visible. The file is placed on your refrigerator. A registration card is provided with the File of Life kit that can be dropped off at any Richardson Fire Station. This will allow the responding paramedics to know that you have a File of Life. "

A "File of Life" can be useful: when to properly treat the patient. If this information is available immediately upon arrival on the scene, minutes can be saved while treating the patient. Sometimes a patient may be unconscious or unable to talk with the paramedics. The paramedics can look at the information sheet from the File of Life and retrieve the personal data, who to notify in case of emergency, health information, known medication allergies, medications in use, etc.

"File of Life" kits are FREE and are available at any Richardson Fire Station or the Richardson Senior Citizens Center located at 820 Arapaho Rd.

Kits contain: One plastic file sleeve, a medical information form, and a registration card.

• One file per pet family
• Every family member must complete a separate form
• NO medication is to be kept in the file
• KEEP ALL information updated regularly or as changes occur

If you have any questions contact the Richardson Fire Department at 972-744-5700.

Recycle electronics, shred documents Oct. 13 at City Hall south parking lot

Richardson AnimalLuv Seventh Annual

CITY WIDE PET DAY BENEFITING THE RICHARDSON ANIMAL SHELTER

Owens Farm in Richardson
Plano Road & East Lookout Drive

PET PARADES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS • PET CLINIC • CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES • MICROCHIPPING • CONCESSIONS • BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS • KITTY CAMPUS • ANIMAL ADOPTION GROUPS • ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT AREAS • PERFORMING DOG ACTS

Saturday, Nov. 3
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
$1 ADMISSION

FREE compost seminar
Saturday, Nov. 10
10 a.m. to noon
Richardson Service Center
1260 Columbia Dr.

Backyard composting helps save landfill space by not allowing grass clippings and leaves to enter the solid waste stream. Instead, these materials are transformed from yard waste into valuable nutrients for the soil in your flower beds. This seminar is intended for beginner composters, as well as more advanced composters. Participants will learn the basics of backyard composting, as well as advanced tips and techniques through a series of slides and instruction presented by Mary Tynes. Please contact Ryan Delzell at 972-744-4804 to make reservations, as space is limited for this event.
### Sherrill Park Golf Course

**2001 E. Lookout Dr.**

972-234-1416  
www.sherrillparkgolf.com

Two award-winning courses, individual and group lessons for seniors, adults and juniors. Open every day but Christmas.

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### Upcoming Tournaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tournament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Two Man Best Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3-4</td>
<td>Richardson Cup Matches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Year End Two Man Stableford</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Call 972-234-1416 to register.

### Private Lessons

- $90 per hour  
- $50 per half hour  
Call 972-234-1416 for information.

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### Lil’ Punkins Fall Festival

**Wednesday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-noon**  
Huffhines Recreation Center  
Ages 1-7 years  
Registration #68858  
Cost: $10 per person

Li’ Punkins join in the fun of our Li’ Punkins Fall Festival. There will be a petting zoo, games, crafts, activities, refreshments and entertainment. Come in a costume for a special time. Please pre-register.

---

### Halloween Bash

- **Friday, Oct. 26**  
  7-9:30 p.m.  
  Heights Rec Center  
  Ages 18 and up  
  Registration #69101  
  Cost: $20 per person

Come join us for our sixth annual Adaptive Halloween Bash. You will enjoy a night of music, dancing, dinner, crafts, contests, and more! We will also have a costume contest, so plan to come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume. This is one of our most popular dances, so be sure to sign up early! Don’t forget that you must park at Heights Park due to the building construction! Refreshments will be provided.

---

### Letter from Santa Request Form

Send your child a personalized letter from Santa Claus at Santa’s Village! For children ages 1 month and older. Each letter is addressed specifically to the individual child and sent from our own Santa’s Village, on very special stationery! No registrations taken after Dec. 6 to ensure delivery before Christmas Eve. Letters will start being mailed the last week of November. Please use the form below. Please use a separate request form for each child. Forms may be copied.

- Child’s name ________________________________
- Mailing address ________________________________
- City ______________ State ______ Zip ______
- Name child goes by ________________________________
- Boy ______ Girl ______ Date of birth ____________
- One or more items requested for Christmas ________________________________

This form is for a letter from Santa only: The City of Richardson does not provide the items requested.

- Your name ________________________________
- Date of birth ________________________________
- Your address ________________________________
- City ______________ State ______ Zip ______

Your telephone numbers:

- Home ________________________________
- Work ________________________________

Mail request to:

- Letter from Santa  
  200 N. Plano Road  
  Richardson, TX 75081

Registration #69049

$5 fee per letter by check or Money Order, payable to City of Richardson

MasterCard or Visa card number: ____________________________________________________________

Cardholder name: ________________________________

Exp. date ________________

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### Huffman Tennis Center

**1601 Syracuse Dr.**

972-744-7870

Group Lessons—Adults/Juniors:  
Oct. 1-19  
Oct. 29-Nov. 16  
Meet twice per week for three weeks. Cost: $42

Adult Leagues:  
Nov. 5-Dec. 23  
Singles cost: $30  
Doubles cost: $24 each
Senior Bowling League
The Richardson Bowling League is a great way to meet new people and exercise at the same time. We have openings for regular members and subs for the 2012 season. For more information, contact Richard Steffen-Pers, 972-865-9611. Lina McFerrin 972-874-6015.
Emeritus Plus 50 program at Richland College Explores life-long learning with over 25 free courses from computer arts to history and more. Day, evening and Saturday classes are available. Call 972-238-6973 or log on to www.richlandcollege.edu/emurals.
New!! Amateur Radio License Testing The Richardson Wireless Club (RWC) is offering Amateur Radio License Testing at 1:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month starting Oct. 6. The candidate will need to provide a government issued photo ID, driver’s license, social security number or FCC Federal Registration number. If testing for an upgrade to a higher class of license, a copy and the original of the current license will be needed as well. Fee is $15 as approved by FCC. Payment is due the day of testing. For additional information please contact Dave Russell, W2DMR, by phone at 972-690-9984 or by email at wrathh0g@tx.rr.com.
Richardson Public Library provides the Richardson Senior Center with books on CD and large-print books.
Senior Holiday Bazaar
November 5 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center.
Zumba Gold
The new fun fitness rage of Zumba Gold has now been modified to target older participants. Zumba Gold is a fitness program that is geared to older adults, as well as those who have finished their fitness journey. You will learn easy-to-follow moves to zesty music in a party upbeat atmosphere.
Classes are Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Drop in fee is $5.
Personal Training: Is your body in balance? Are your experiencing difficulties with your balance or even getting the hang of a chair lift? Personalized fitness programs are designed to help increase cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility and balance. Men and women in their 70s and 80s will dramatically improve their strength, agility and balance with strength training classes. These classes are in a private room and are just $60 each with a six-session commitment (90 minutes per session for couples).
Call 972-744-7800 to make your appointment with popular trainer Elaine Hossage. She is certified in sports medicine (population seniors) and general population by the Cooper Institute.
Bingo
Bingo anyone? play the third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.
Pilates Class
Pilates classes are held Tuesday, Friday and Sunday from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. The class is taught by Mrs. Catherine Curtis. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Class fee is $2 for her class.

canasta
Poker Tables
Poker tables are every Friday at 1 p.m. at registration beginning at 12:30 p.m.
Senior Table Tennis
Serious players who love the game are invited to play on Monday and Wednesday between 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard Tournaments
Shuffleboard tournaments are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The day of the event, play begins at 1 p.m.

Senior Bowling League
The Roadrunner Bowling League is a great way to meet new people and exercise at the same time. We have openings for regular members and subs for the 2012 season. For more information, contact Richard Steffen-Pers, 972-865-9611. Lina McFerrin 972-874-6015.
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Canasta
Canasta Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Pinochle Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
Scrabble Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Bridge Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Bridge Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Party Bridge Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Bunco Friday, 12:30 p.m.
Cribbage Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Bingo Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Senior Center
The Richardson Red Hatters celebrated their 10th birthday Aug. 6. An afternoon of entertainment, reminiscing, and laughter was enjoyed by all. Pictured from left to right: Thelma Burnham, Elaine Gregory, Bobbie Milne, Queen Judy Utay, Terry Ryan, Vernita Ogden and Sue Morrison.

Richardson Today, October 2012 Page 11
Best-selling author to be keynote speaker at Buns & Roses literacy fundraiser

The Seventh Annual Buns & Roses Romance Tea for Literacy will be held Oct. 14 at the Renaissance Hotel, 900 E. Lookout Dr. in Richardson.

Twenty-five romance- and mystery-authors from around the country including Deborah Crombie, Lorraine Heath and Sherry Thomas will host tea tables. The books of all 25 hosting authors will be available for sale and signing. All proceeds from the tea benefit literacy programs in Richardson offered through the Richardson Adult Literacy Center and the Richardson Public Library.

New York Times best-selling author Sarah MacLean will be the event’s keynote speaker. Returning as emcee this year is Candace Ha

Volunteers deliver books to seniors

The Richardson Public Library brings reading directly to the senior community, supplying collections of large-print books to 11 retirement homes and the Richardson Senior Center.

Volunteers from Altrusa International of Richardson have assisted the Library with this outreach project since it started 10 years ago. They rotate these special collections among the senior living homes every three to four months. New best-sellers are constantly added to these special collections to keep them fresh and up-to-date. The Library places more than 2,000 books directly at the sites, where many of Richardson’s seniors live. The Library also provides audio books to the Senior Center for its patrons to check out. This program has gotten so large (and heavy!) that this year the members of the Exchange Club of Richardson began assisting with this important project. This happy collaboration of Altrusa and the Exchange Club volunteers resulted in a fast and efficient book moving day on a recent Saturday morning.

Residents from El Dorado community recently expressed their appreciation for these book deliveries with this message: “Thanks for bringing large print books to our home. They are our windows to the world.”

Are you interested in helping bring books to seniors? Visit the Children’s Department or call 972-744-4358.

Parent/child relationships expert speaks at Library

Dr. Margaret Owens will speak about the “READY Method” at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 10 in the Library’s Basement Program Room. The “READY Method” trains parents and caregivers to interact sensitively with young children and to improve the quality of their interactions. Dr. Owen is the Director of UT Dallas Center for Children and Families and a professor of psychology.

Parents, child care workers and early childhood professionals are invited to attend the free program. No registration is required. Call Janet at 972-744-4376 for information.

Fall Storytimes

For Richardson residents

Valid Library card and registration are required. Visit the Children’s Department or call 972-744-4358.

BabySteps

A six-week program for children ages 6 weeks to 12 months accompanied by at least one parent. Designed to assist parents in preparing prewalkers for reading readiness by introducing them to books, stories, rhymes, fingerplays, music, and other early literacy tools. Program runs through Oct. 22.

Choose one of the following times:

- Monday 10:15-10:45 a.m.
- Monday 11-11:30 a.m.
- Thursday 10:15-10:45 a.m.
- Thursday 11-11:30 a.m.
- Friday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Friday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Tuesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Wednesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Wednesday 11-11:30 a.m.

Wiggle Worms

A six-week program for 12-36 month-olds, accompanied by at least one parent. Walking and wiggling toddlers will be introduced to books and reading using stories, fingerplays, rhymes and music. Children must be 12 months old by Sept. 1. Program runs through Oct. 25.

Choose one of the following times:

- Monday 10:15-10:45 a.m.
- Monday 11-11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Wednesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Thursday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Thursday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Friday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Friday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Saturday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Saturday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Sunday 10-10:30 a.m.

Storytime

A six-week program for children ages 3-6 filled with stories, puppets, songs and fingerplays. Children must be 3 by Sept. 1. Program runs through Oct. 22.

Choose one of the following times:

- Monday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Monday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Tuesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Wednesday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Thursday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Thursday 10:30-11 a.m.
- Friday 10-10:30 a.m.
- Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

Tales for Tails

For Readers in Grades K-4

Trick or Treat! Wear your costume while reading to canine reading buddies from Heart of Texas Therapy Dogs! 3-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28

Children’s Program Room

Friends of the Library

Fall Book Sale

*Oct. 4 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5:30-8:30 p.m.
*Oct. 5 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
*Oct. 6 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
*Oct. 7 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2-5 p.m.

The sale will be held in the Basement Program Room at the Richardson Public Library. For information, please call 972-744-4350.

*Members of the Friends of the Library only.

Individual memberships can be purchased for $10 at the door. Other types of memberships are available.

LEGOS needed!

Do you have unused LEGO’s? Please consider donating them to the Library’s Children’s Department!

Thank you for your support!