Richardson City Council adopts disaster declaration outlining COVID-19 protections through April 30

On March 23, the Richardson City Council approved a continuation of the Declaration of Disaster for a Local Health Emergency that was first signed by Mayor Paul Voelker March 18. The newly adopted declaration by the full Council expands its prohibitions and includes orders for sheltering in place as well as the closing for all business operations not considered to be “essential.” The declaration is effective until April 30, which allows the orders to stay in place without the need for weekly re-approvals. The orders may also be rescinded prior to April 30 if conditions should change.

Residential Impacts
Recent spikes in infections in the North Texas area has led Richardson residents to issue “shelter in place” orders as part of the newly adopted disaster declaration. The city is in the process of using its available resources to stay in their homes and limit movement to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Richardson residents must stay in their residence unless they are:
  - Leaving to perform tasks essential to their health and safety or the health and safety of family members (for example obtaining medical supplies or going to the doctor);
  - Leaving to obtain necessary services or supplies for their household or to deliver them to someone else (for example picking up food, pet supplies or other household consumer products);
  - Engaging in an outdoor activity, during which time social distancing including remaining at least 6 feet from other people must be practiced (for example walking, biking or running);
  - Working at an essential business;
  - Caring for a family or pet in another household.

- All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household are prohibited.
- If someone in a household tests positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconference.
- A limit on the purchase of toilet paper has been established. Residents may purchase only 12 rolls, or one package, whichever is greater.
- All elective medical, surgical and dental procedures are prohibited.

Business/Industry Impacts
The newly adopted order includes orders for all “non-essential” businesses to close until April 30, unless superseded, canceled, modified, amended or terminated by the Mayor and/or the City Council, or pursuant to applicable law. While the definitions are provided, businesses are required to make a self determination based on the guidelines. The following list is not all inclusive but intended to provide guidance on what may remain open.

- Retail food (for example grocery stores, restaurants and gas stations);
- Retail limits may remain open but are limited to take-out, pick-up and delivery service;
- Health care operations (for example hospitals, pharmacies, doctor’s offices and dentists);
- Government functions (for example government agencies providing for the health, safety and welfare of the public);
- Critical infrastructure (for example construction, internet and telecommunications systems, and banks);
- Suppliers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations;
- Services necessary to maintain essential operations for residences or businesses (for example, mail and shipping services, building cleaning and maintenance, plumbers and electricians);
- News media;
- Childcare services.

Essential businesses that remain open must practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Why Actions are Being Taken
Efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 are focused on flattening the curve, or slowing the spread of the virus so that medical facilities are not overwhelmed. To do this, people are asked to practice social distancing and proper hygiene.

- Social distancing means:
  - Maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others;
  - Avoiding congregating with other people;
  - Avoiding unnecessary physical contact.
- Proper hygiene includes:
  - Not touching your face;
  - Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue;
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
  - If soap and water are not available, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Art installation showcased Richardson as a tech hub

Visitors to the Eisemann Center last month (before COVID-19 restrictions) were treated to the first art installation created through the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund, which was started in 2019 with a $250,000 donation from Ann and Charles Eisemann.

The Fund is a joint initiative of the City of Richardson, the Eisemann Center and the University of Texas at Dallas School of Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication (ATEC). Work funded through the project will explore the intersection of technology with the visual and performing arts.

The Eisemann Edge is an endowment fund that offers the opportunity to lead the reinvention of arts and technology as we know it and understand it, putting the groundwork for the future in areas we could not dream of today,” said Charles Eisemann. “This is not all about today. This is mostly about tomorrow. The whole goal of this endowment fund that we have created is to carry us forward.”

The first piece, titled Mother Board, was created by the ATEC LighSquad and featured 30-foot-long panels composed of steel, LED lighting, and projection elements. The piece showcased not only the talents of its creators, but also the importance of the collaboration between the City of Richardson and UT Dallas on the past, present and future growth of technology in North Texas.

“We use the motherboard idea to address a number of tech topics such as the integrated circuit board, which has been important not only to the city of Richardson but also, in many ways, to UT Dal- lass,” said Andrew Scott, UT Dal- lass associate professor of arts and technology.

The initial donation to the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund will support a new ATEC project next year. Bruce MacPherson, Eisemann Center Managing Director, said he hopes the community will step up to ensure the art installations continue past next year.

“The initiative gave us an opportunity to think outside the box and find ways to blend traditional arts with emerging technologies,” he said. “The Eisemanns established the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund to provide the seed money to meet this first challenge, with the hope that others will contribute to the endowment to sustain Eisemann Edge initiatives for many years to come.”
Summer water conservation plan in effect

Beginning April 1, no lawn watering between 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The City of Richardson will implement its summer water conservation plan April 1. The strategy allows for lawn irrigation at even-numbered addresses on Tuesdays and Saturdays and at odd-numbered addresses on Wednesdays and Sundays. Watering is not permitted between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on the allowed days from April 1-Oct. 31. Watering is permitted at any time on the allowed days from Nov. 1-March 31.

This water conservation strategy is in place year-round unless the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) asks for more severe restrictions due to drought conditions. The NTMWD is Richardson’s water supplier and continuously monitors its water supply to determine if there is a need for additional restrictions.

Beginning April 1, lawn watering is not permitted between the hours of 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on allowed watering days. Please water only as needed, based on moisture content of the soil. For more information, visit www.cor.net/waterconservation or call 972-744-4220.

MAY 2020

JUNE 2020

JULY 2020

AUGUST 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

OCTOBER 2020

TWICE-PER-WEEK WATERING:
Lawn irrigation is prohibited from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. during periods of rain.

Visit www.cor.net/WaterConservation or call the Public Services Department at 972-744-4220.

Receive City news updates by e-mail

Sign up to receive the City’s “Week In Review” e-mail, which is sent each Friday, as well as to receive important notifications concerning City events, projects, services and information about weather-related activities and the West Nile virus. Visit www.cor.net/ENews, and select the options you would like to subscribe to.

As this edition of Richardson Today is being delivered, we are amid one of the most challenging times in our community as Richardson joins the world in doing its part to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I share your worries about this disease and assure you we are monitoring its spread in our region, state and nation.

As you can imagine, we are receiving many questions from people worried about the health and economic impacts this may have in Richardson. To help limit our exposure, the City has activated emergency plans to maintain staffing levels and provide essential services through thoughtful planning for several impact scenarios.

Several operational changes have also been made to safeguard our community and we continue to follow guidelines from the CDC and other agencies as outlined in the City’s Emergency Management Plan.

The plan is developed and coordinated through Richardson’s Office of Emergency Management and includes procedures for responding to the spread of airborne diseases like COVID-19.

While I know many of our normal municipal services have been impacted, please know we are working to return them to normal as quickly and safely as possible, and I thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

I have heard from many people and business owners who have expressed their concerns and fears, and I know that our combined efforts to work together to protect ourselves will get us through this crisis.

Sincerely,

Paul Voelker
Mayor

Richardson Today Staff

Richardson Today is monthly publication of the City of Richardson. It is free for Richardson residents. The publication is designed to keep citizens of Richardson informed of activities and news that may be of interest to them. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning this or future issues, please send them to:

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Mayor’s Message

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Sincerely,

Paul Voelker
Mayor

Contact the City Council

Richardson City Council

411 W. Arapaho Rd.

Richardson, TX 75080

972-744-4203

www.cor.net/council

About City Council Meetings

Richardson City Council meetings (second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m.) and work sessions (Mondays at 6 p.m.) are open to the public, and citizens are welcome to attend (see story top left of this page).

Each meeting’s agenda is posted at City Hall on a bulletin board at the west end of the building and can be found on the City website, www.cor.net.

The agenda is posted on Friday evening prior to the Monday night meeting. You may request a copy of the agenda or more information by calling the City Secretary’s Office at 972-744-4292.

City Council meetings and work sessions are broadcast live on the City’s website at www.cor.net and on the City’s cable TV channel on Spectrum (channel 16) and AT&T U-Verse (channel 99). Taped replays of the meetings are also available on the website within 24 hours.

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Visit www.cor.net/coronavirus for more information.

### Impact on City facilities and services:

**Animal Shelter—972-744-4480**
- Open normal business hours but limiting operations that require public contact
- To reclaim pets, drop off stray animals or adopt a pet you must make an appointment. Appointments may be made via telephone or e-mail.
- All volunteer and community service activity is suspended.

**Civic Center—972-744-4090**
- All events are canceled.

**Eisemann Center—972-744-4650**
- All events are canceled.
- The ticket office and Green Art Gallery remain open.

**Library—972-744-4350**
- DVR services will be offered through Facebook live feeds.
- All computers are limited to 10 items checked out at a time.
- Patrons are required to ride one person to a golf cart unless they are members of the same household or living unit.
- All golf carts are washed and disinfected after each use.
- All drinking fountains in parks and on trails have been shut off.

**Municipal Court—972-744-4500**
- The Court remains open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, however, all dockets, hearings and trials are postponed.
- In lieu of appearing in person, defendants are encouraged to access their records and make an appointment. Appointments may be made via telephone or e-mail.
- The Court remains open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, however, all dockets, hearings and trials are postponed.

**Parks and Recreation—972-744-4300**
- Heights and Huffines Recreation Centers, Huffines Tennis Center and the Gymnastics Center are closed.
- The Bush Central Barkway dog park and Ann Eisemann Inclusive Playground are closed. In addition, people are discouraged from using other playgrounds or park fixtures since they cannot be sanitized in such a way to provide for their safe use.
- All Parks and Recreation programming is suspended.
- All league play is canceled.
- All facility rentals are canceled.
- New pavilion rentals will not be permitted.
- Parks, trails and public art remain open, but social distancing is strongly encouraged. All drinking fountains in parks and on trails have been shut off.

**Senior Center—972-744-7800**
- All Senior Center programs are canceled.
- Bus transit is limited to essential travel only.

**Sherrill Park Golf Course—972-234-1416**
- Restaurant is limited to take-out service only using outside window.
- All tournaments are canceled.
- The tournament pavilion is closed.
- Customers are required to ride one person to a golf cart unless they are members of the same household or living unit.
- Golf carts are washed and disinfected after each use.
- All other services are limited to allow for CDC guidelines related to social distancing.

**Finding open restaurants, stores and other businesses**

Grocery stores and restaurants that offer drive-thru, take-out or delivery are still open. Restaurants that don’t typically offer delivery may now be doing so through third-party delivery apps like UberEats, GrubHub and DoorDash. The best way to find out if a restaurant is still open is to call the restaurant or use a mobile app.

The Richardson Chamber of Commerce and the Community Impact newspaper websites offer updates for restaurants/businesses that are currently open.

www.discoverrichardson.com/

For more information:

- **City of Richardson**: www.cor.net/coronavirus
- **Collin County**: www.collincountytx.gov/healthcare_services/Pages/news.aspx
- **State of Texas**: www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/
- **CDC**: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

### Impact on business and industry

The Declaration of Disaster adopted March 23 includes orders for all “non-essential” businesses to close until April 30, unless superseded, canceled, modified, amended or terminated by the Mayor and/or the City Council, pursuant to applicable law. See page 1 for more details.

Essential businesses that remain open must practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

For more information:

www.cor.net/coronavirus
Census 2020 is here, make sure you are counted

The 2020 Census is now in progress. Getting a complete and accurate count of the U.S. population is everyone’s responsibility, as results will determine which communities will benefit from human services and opportunities in federal funding over the next decade. This funding impacts areas such as health clinics, highways, fire departments, disaster response, education programs and college tuition assistance, to name a few. Census results will also determine representativeness in government at all levels, from the number of U.S. Congressional districts to the boundaries of Richardson City Council districts.

While April 1 is the official date of the 2020 Census, Richardson residents received invitations to participate mid-March. The invitation includes the web address to fill out the Census along with a 14-digit code linked to the residential address. If you did not receive the invitation or misplaced it, an address lookup option is available.

The online form is quick and easy to fill out and is offered in English and 12 other languages. Video and print guides to the Census are also available in English and 59 other languages.

Residents received will receive several pieces of correspondence from the Census Bureau over the next few weeks, based on when they responded to the Census:
- March 12-20 — An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census
- March 16-24 — A reminder letter
- March 26-April 3 — A reminder postcard
- April 4-8 — A reminder letter paper questionnaire
- April 20-27 — A final reminder postcard before an in-person follow-up

Your information and your answers are kept strictly confidential with measures in place to ensure that the results of the Census are secure. The information is used to create a complete and accurate picture of the U.S. population. Census results determine funding, which impacts areas such as health clinics, highways, fire protection, and education. Census results also determine representation in government.

Additional information on the Census, including language resources is available at www.cor.net/census.

Public Utility Commission to conduct review of water rates

In February, the Public Utility Commission announced its decision to conduct a review of water rates charged by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). The announcement comes in response to concerns expressed by the City and irrigation system users about questionable charges and overcharges by the NTMWD. The goal is to establish a new rate methodology that rebalances the percentage of water paid for through the system vs. the rate paid directly to the NTMWD.

The rate methodology doesn’t take new water conservation measures into account and encourages water usage without providing incentives for water conservation, forcing members cities to pay a higher rate for the water than the cost of providing it. This rate methodology is expected to end by 2027.

The Health Department will begin surveillance of mosquitoes for West Nile virus this month. Mosquito surveillance traps are set and collected in 12 areas of the City on a weekly basis as part of the City's surveillance system. If a positive mosquito test result is found, the mosquito and mosquitoes are sent to a lab to test for the West Nile Virus. If a mosquito sample tests positive for the virus, the management area surrounding the sample's trap is sprayed. In addition, if a resident is diagnosed with West Nile virus, surveillance traps are placed at or near the person's home, and spraying is scheduled if a mosquito from these traps tests positive for the virus. If a resident is confirmed to have contracted the Chikungunya or Zika viruses, spraying will be done in the small, localized area due to limited flight range of the type of mosquito that carries these viruses.

The Health Department schedules West Nile virus spraying to begin at 9 p.m. to limit exposure to people who may wish to avoid contact with the pesticide used to control mosquito populations. The goal is to end by 4 a.m., though it may last until 4:30 a.m. depending upon the size of the spray area. Targeted neighborhoods are sprayed twice, on two consecutive nights (Wednesday and Thursday). The start, time, duration and frequency may vary as spraying is done for the Zika or Chikungunya viruses.

Scheduled spraying is postponed due to rain, wind speeds greater than 10 mph and/ or an outside temperature below 50 degrees due to the weather conditions.

City begins mosquito testing this month

The “Fire Hose Stream/Beacon” art piece lays on its side as help is prepared to be transported for installation.

Creek maintenance preserves property, aids drainage

Creeks enhance the beauty and enjoyment of many Richardson neighborhoods and play a vital role to convey stormwater and prevent flooding. Creeks that are not maintained regularly become overgrown with weeds, the banks erode and become eroded and unattractive. This can increase the risk of flooding and cause other problems that will damage the property, undermining the value of your property. Any slope stabilization measures that are in place, such as retaining walls, should be inspected at least twice a year and repaired promptly at the first sign of any damage or erosion. This will save you money and preserve your property in the long run.

Guidelines
- Trees, brush and wood debris
- Remove fallen trees, brush and tree limbs from the creek since they catch trash and cause stagnant water and sediment to build up. This can act as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and block the natural flow of the creek, which can lead to flooding.

Use BABIC service

The City can remove trash debris and bulky items removed from the creek, through the Brush and Bulky Item Collection (BABIC) service. BABIC is offered to Richardson residents for an additional fee and is designed to help residents dispose of large amounts of brush or oversized items that cannot be placed out for regular trash collection.

A resident's BABIC day is the same as their recycling day, and residents are asked to request brushes or bulky item collection service prior to placing an item between the sidewalk and the street curb for collection. BABIC service can be requested by:
- Calling 972-744-4111
- Using the My Richardson App
- Visiting www.cor.net/babic

For more information on maintaining creeks, including information about erosion protection, permits required for improvements near the creek and for suggestions for maintenance, contact the Richardson Engineering/Capital Projects Department at 972-744-4280 or go to www.cor.net/creek-maintenance.