Central Trail will connect north to south.

By the end of next spring, runners, walkers and cyclists will be able to travel from the north end of Richardson to the south end, without having to leave the trail.

With a 1.9-mile extension now under construction, Central Trail will run from the southern city limit to the Galatyn Woodland Preserve, where it connects with trails through the Spring Creek Nature area. Further trail connections will lead cyclists and pedestrians north to President George Bush Turnpike.

“This is a major piece of a regional trail network, and it’s a huge addition to both recreation and transportation in Richardson,” said Parks and Recreation Director Michael Massey. “Central Trail is the spine of our trail network in Richardson, connecting with other multi-use trails and neighborhoods in the city, as well as with surrounding communities.”

Eventually, Central Trail will connect to trails in Dallas, including the Cottonwood Trail and the White Rock Creek Trail. This interconnectivity for both transportation and recreation is a priority for cities including Richardson, as well as Dallas County, Collin County and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Richardson resident and frequent cyclist Marshall Hallberg said he enjoys using trails because it lets him avoid traffic congestion. “Sometimes using a trail you’re cut off from the quickest route, but it is the peaceful route,” he said. “I’m looking forward to the Central Trail being extended, because it currently ends about a mile away from my house. It’s going to go right in front of my house to Belt Line Road, which I bike down all the time.”

The Central Trail project is funded with $1.4 million from the 2010 Bond Program, $2.5 million from Dallas County and $600,000 in Regional Toll Revenue dollars. In addition, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is allowing the City to use its right of way for the trail route. The City has also worked with numerous businesses and property owners along the trail route during the design and construction process.

“When we produced the system-wide master plan, trails were rated the highest priority,” Massey said. “We responded to that need and that desire from the public by including the Central Trail, as well as trails in several neighborhood parks, in the 2010 Bond Program. Richardson already has more than 40 miles of trails, and with the addition of the Central Trail, our community’s system will continue to be one of the best, most connected network of trails in North Texas.”

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema opens doors in Richardson

The “Coolest Movie Theatre in the World” opened its Richardson doors last month as the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema held its grand opening at the Richardson Heights Shopping Center, located at the southwest corner of Belt Line Road and US 75.

The 39,000 square foot Richardson location, the first Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in the Metroplex, features an expanded theater size range in size from a small room for private parties to a 247-seat theater, the largest in Alamo history. The cinema-eatery includes a wide variety of menu options with made-from-scratch pizzas, burgers, a stand-alone cocktail bar with more than 30 local beers on tap and of course, the movies.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema shows first-run Hollywood films, the classics, and limited release films. The iconic theater was founded in 1997 in Austin and developed a passionate fan base by providing more than just a movie, but a total movie experience. Premiere contests, entertainment, quote-alongs and sing-alongs and creative themes help to enhance the films. But the theater also takes movie watching seriously and has a strict no texting and talking rule, which works in testing and talking during films.

It was recently announced that Richardson’s Alamo Drafthouse Cinema will host the Dallas Video Fest Oct. 9-13. It is the oldest and largest video festival in the United States and is celebrating its 26th year. Find out more about the festival and what Alamo has to offer at drafthouse.com/dfw Richardson.
Currently we are at:

Stage 3 water restrictions are in effect

The City of Richardson moved to Stage 3 water conservation measures June 1. Stage 3 restrictions allow residents and businesses to irrigate lawns once a week. [See table below.] The implementation of Stage 3 comes at the request of the North Texas Municipal Water District, which is facing critical shortages in its water supply. For additional information about Stage 3, visit the City’s website at cor.net or contact the Public Services Department at 972-744-4220 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Stage 3 outdoor irrigation schedule (once a week until further notice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last digit of address</th>
<th>Allowed landscape watering days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 4, 6, 8, 0 (even)</td>
<td>Saturdays (no watering between 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 3, 5, 7, 9 (odd)</td>
<td>Sundays (no watering between 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have a hardship and will have difficulty following the Stage 3 guidelines. Who can help me?

In special circumstances, variances can be given. These variances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Public Services Director. Please contact the Public Services main line at 972-744-4220.

I have an ET/Smart Irrigation system. Do I qualify for a variance in Stage 3?

Variances will not be given to ET/Smart irrigation systems in Stage 3. Those systems need to be set to water only once a week (or their designated watering day by address).

Visit cor.net/WaterConservation for more information.

Richardson’s 42nd annual Christmas Parade

“Candy Canes and Christmas Carols” Dec. 7
Registration begins Oct. 14

The 42nd Annual Richardson Christmas Parade, produced by the City of Richardson, has been scheduled for Saturday morning, Dec. 7. The theme for this year’s parade is “Candy Canes and Christmas Carols.”

Individuals and groups are encouraged to represent their businesses, churches, schools and clubs, and local organizations.

The parade will be held on Plano Road. For information regarding the parade, please contact Parade Chairperson Barbara Cottrone at barbara.cottrone@cor.gov, or call 972-744-4110.

Online interactive map provides mosquito information

The City of Richardson’s map shown can be accessed at cor.net/mosquito. Click on one of the 12 mosquito management areas to see mosquito trap test results, dates storm drains were sprayed and dates truck-mounted ground spraying was done (if necessary). The blue dots on the map show where mosquito traps are located.

The website also allows you to sign up for mosquito spray notifications (be sure to enter your e-mail address and choose the mosquito spraying/ West Nile check box).

City Council Action

The following is a listing of some of the main items considered by the Richardson City Council at the July 22 and Aug. 12 meetings. Citizens are welcome to attend Council meetings (second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m.) and work sessions (every Monday at 5:30 p.m.). The Richardson City Council 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, 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 cor.net and on the City’s cable TV channel on Time Warner Cable, channel 16 and AT&T U-Verse, channel 99. Taped replays of the meetings are also available on the website within 24 hours.

July 22

Appointments and/or reappointments to the City Plan Commission, Civil Service Board, Environmental Advisory Commission and Parks And Recreation Commission were approved.

Public Hearing, Zoning File 13-12 and Adoption of Ordinance No. 4013, Amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of Richardson, by adding the definition of Large Scale Retail Store and by amending Special Permits, to allow Large Scale Retail Stores upon approval of a Special Permit in Non-Residential Zoning Districts, was approved.

Randy Craig

Aug. 12

City Council Action

Consent agenda

Ordinance No. 4016, amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richardson Chapter 6, “Buildings and Building Regulations” Article XI, “Rental Registration,” by amending the regulations for rental registration.

Resolution No. 13-16, approving the terms and conditions of the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Funds Sharing and Fiscal Agency Agreement, and authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreement.

Mayor’s Message

Public green spaces and open play areas make a community attractive, fun and healthy. They give people places to exercise, enjoy the outdoors, play a game of soccer, or to simply have a picnic.

Here in Richardson, we are so fortunate that our Parks and Recreation Department goes beyond the basics. Recreation Centers offer activities for people of all ages, our growing network of trails connects neighborhoods and gives people a place to bike and jog, our pools and Aquatic Center let you cool off during the hot summer months. There’s tennis (one of my personal favorites!), gymnastics and golf here in Richardson—really, something for nearly every interest.

But did you know that the Parks and Recreation Department is also responsible for some of our most popular events in Richardson? We’ve just a month away from our community’s longest-running event, the 44th annual Cottonwood Art Festival, which has become known for being the premier fine art festival in our region. Also happening right now is the 16th annual Corporate Challenge, which was created to engage our business community and to encourage wellness at the workplace. Coming up soon is Hafflin Emm Art Trails, and then soon we’ll be looking forward to seeing what bands will be coming to Wildflower! Richardson’s Arts and Music Festival next May.

Through initiatives such as the 2010 Bond Program, our community has continued to invest in Richardson’s parks and recreation system. Thanks to your support, we have shady structures at ball fields at our newly dedicated Kef ﬂer Ballpark, a new Gymnastics Center, a new Heights Recreation Center and a new Heights Family Aquatic Center. We will also soon have miles of new trails, including new ones in several neighborhood parks throughout the community.

So, if you haven’t had a chance lately, I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy our award-winning parks and recreation system. It is truly one of the core services our city offers that makes Richardson a family friendly and beautiful community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Laura Maczka

Richardson Today Staff

Richardson Today is a 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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bob.townsend@cor.gov

Council Member
Mark Solomon
Place 2
mark.solomon@cor.gov

Council Member
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Place 3
scott.dunn@cor.gov

Council Member
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Council Member
Steve Mitchell
Place 6
steve.mitchell@cor.gov

Contact by mail or phone:
Richardson City Council, 411 W. Arapaho Rd., Richardson, TX 75080
972-744-4203

Citizen Information Services
City Hall/Civic Center
411 W. Arapaho Rd., Suite 106
Richardson, Texas 75080
972-744-4104
richardsontoday@cor.gov

Pinned on recycled paper

Mayor
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Council Member
Steve Mitchell
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Richardson Today, September 2013
Sherrill Park Golf Course offerings something for everyone

Richardson’s Sherrill Park Golf Course truly offers players two highly ranked, reasonably priced 18-hole courses, but because of the longevity of the pro shop personnel, it is also a place where “everyone knows your name.” For the weekend golfer, it does not get any better than that.

Ronny Glanton has been the Head Golf Pro at Sherrill Park since 1983 and began his career at the course as an assistant pro in 1982. The assistant golf professionals on staff have more than 35 years of experience. Sherrill Park and Course Superintendent Steve Greenhaw has directed maintenance on the course for almost 25 years.

“The team we have in place at Sherrill Park takes great pride in the work they do,” Glanton said. “We want to provide a quality course and quality service that results in an enjoyable golfing experience for not just our course players but for first-time visitors as well.”

Glanton also credits the Richardson City Councils that have committed their support to the course over the years. “More than $8 million in bond funds have been designated for course improvements. From 1995 to 2001, both 18-hole courses were completely redesigned, and a new clubhouse was built, with the pro shop and the full-service grill and snack bar. The previous clubhouse was remodeled into a tournament pavilion, upgrades to the irrigation system have been made, a bike and hike trail now runs through the course, and a new water feature was built. Future plans call for the renovation of greens on Course 1 in 2015. The enhancements helped Sherrill Park’s Course 1 to secure the top spot in The Dallas Morning News’ annual rankings of public access courses in Texas in 2011 and 2012. Course 2 also received rave reviews and has had significant work in both 2011 and 2012.

Richardson residents don’t just enjoy playing on well-maintained courses close to home at Sherrill Park, they also get the first choice of weekend tee times and can purchase a ‘punch card’ for the best deals. “The Richardson City Council stressed the importance of making these facilities available to the local residents,” Glanton said. “If you live in Richardson, you can come out to the Sherrill Park clubhouse every Tuesday at noon and enter a drawing for Saturday and Sunday tee times. We have also launched a new website that offers some great features and also allows golfers to reserve weekday tee times online up to a week in advance.”

Sherrill Park’s ‘punch card’ program offers special prices for residents and seniors (ages 60 and over). The senior resident punch card is good for weekdays only and costs $108.25. The Course 1 punch amount is $108.83 and the Course 2 punch amount is $8.19. The resident punch card is good for weekdays, weekends and holidays and costs $216.50. The Course 1 punch amount is $216.50, and the Course 2 punch amount is $16.24. The punch card prices do not include cart fee. You can purchase one at the pro shop. Sherrill Park’s fees are structured so that a round of golf is affordable for anyone who wants to play the game. The teaching professionals at the course offer numerous instructional programs and “test drives” for golfers of all ages and skill levels including: private lessons; golf clinics for beginner and intermediate men, women and senior players; the “Hawks” junior golf team, and summer junior golf camps.

The Sherrill Park Golf Course is located at 2001 E. Lookout Dr. in Richardson. For more information visit SherrillParkGolf.com or call the pro shop at 972-234-1416.

Cupcakes to line dancing, rec centers have it all

Where can you find aie decorating classes, line dancing lessons, personal training, basketball clinics and art classes, all under one roof? Richardson’s two recreation centers are home to a wide variety of classes and activities, geared toward serving people of all ages.

This May, the City opened the new Heights Recreation Center, allowing for even more classroom, fitness and athletics space. Its space and amenities are comparable to Sherrill Park Golf Course, featured so that a round of golf is affordable for anyone who wants to play the game.

The recreation center manages work closely with instructors to come up with a variety of classes that will appeal to just about everybody,” Zimmerman said. “What’s offered is constantly changing so we can provide residents with the classes they want and still enjoy.”

As with most cities, Richardson residents are able to buy annual memberships for less than non-residents must pay. But Richardson also offers discounted fees to people who work in the city.

“This is part of our overall corporate recreation strategy and is a true benefit to the employees who work in Richardson,” said Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Robbie Hazelbaker. “Not only do you get a resident discount on your membership, but our recreation centers are convenient for you to use before or after work, or even during your lunch hour.”

Richardson provides a variety of events

Tens of thousands of people flock to Richardson each May for a weekend of concerts, art, food and fun at Wildflower! Richardson’s Arts & Music Festival. The music ends after three days, but for event planners in the Parks and Recreation Department, the work in Richardson never really stops. Richardson’s Sherrill Park Golf Course offers something for everyone. (To see class listings online, visit cor.net/parks/recreation.)

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National Voter Registration Day will be celebrated Sept. 24

Several organizations will celebrate National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 24. Richardsonites are encouraged to exercise their right to vote.

In Texas, voters may download an application online at Vote.Texas.gov that may be filled out, printed and mailed to your county’s voting registrar. Voter registration applications are also available at City Hall in the City Secretary’s office.

Effective immediately, Texas voters will have to present one of the following forms of valid photo ID when voting in person:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- U.S. military identification card containing your photograph
- U.S. citizenship certificate containing your photograph
- U.S. passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the ID must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Several exemptions to the photo ID requirement apply, including disability, a consistent religious objection to being photographed, and certain natural disasters that prevent a voter from having a valid form of photo ID.

For more information, visit Vote.Texas.gov, or contact the Dallas County Elections office at 214-819-4889 or visit Collin County Elections Administrator at 972-424-4460 ext. 1990. You may also contact the Richardson City Secretary’s office at 972-744-4290 or visit cor.net/Elections.

For Megan Fenton, a routine day on the job involves flips, tumbling and flying through the air. As the manager at the Richardson Gymnastics Center, she helps students from 2 years old through high school learn how to safely master everything from the balance beam to the trampoline.

The popular program recently moved from the Heights Recreation Center to the new freestanding Gymnastics Center, which opened in January, giving the athletes more space and equipment to learn new skills.

“It’s really improved the program, because the new facility is laid out in a way that we can make better use of our space,” Fenton said. “We were able to increase our occupancy and get in more classes per hour.”

The 16,000-square-foot building at the corner of Arapaho and Grove roads was funded through the 2010 Bond Program. On Wednesday, early afternoons it is full of preschoolers just learning the sport, while members of the City of Richardson gymnastics team practice for competition later in the day.

The facility also hosts special events, such as private birthday par- ties and the Friday Night Fun, a weekly event that opens some of the equipment for supervised play for children not necessarily enrolled in the gymnastics program.

The Richardson City Council created the Community Revitalization Awards in 1994 to recognize owners who have enhanced the community by making significant improvements to their properties. Both residential and non-residential properties are eligible for consideration. 184 properties have been recognized since the program’s inception. Because no one knows their neighborhoods better than residents, the City of Richardson is asking the public to identify candidates for the 2013 Community Revitalization Awards.

What is revitalization?

Revitalization is defined as “imparting new life or vigor.” When applied to the built environment of our community, revitalization can take several forms:

- Significant improvements to properties or structures that halt or reverse decline.
- An ongoing high level of maintenance and/or periodic refurbishment of properties or structures that prevents decline.
- Total redevelopment of a property or structure; or
- Fundamental development—new development on vacant property in a developed area.
- A Community Revitalization Award nomination is evaluated by assessing its individual merit as well as its impact on surrounding properties, or on the City as a whole, if appropriate.
- Has the effort improved the built environment?
- Does the effort contribute to the stability or enhancement of an existing neighborhood or district?
- Does the effort set a desirable precedent for surrounding property owners?
- Projects that receive awards typically incorporate at least two of the following elements: land-scaping enhancements, building or façade improvements, lighting enhancements, signage upgrades and/or a consistently high level of general maintenance.

Nomination process

Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including the property owner, and may be submitted any time throughout the year. The Community Revitalization Awards competition deadline for the 2013 awards is Friday, Sept. 20. Nominations received after Sept. 20 will be held for consideration next year.

Nominations must include the property address, a description of the environmental improvements that have been made, and any additional information available, such as the property owner’s name and phone number. Contact information for the person making the nomination should also be provided. Before and after photos are particularly helpful, but are not required. This information can also be viewed on the Community Revitalization Awards website listed at right.

Projects that receive awards or submit a nomination will be highlighted on the City’s MyRichardson App.

For more information on the awards or to submit a nomination, contact Israel Roberts, Development Review Manager, Development Services Department.

City Council set to vote on 2013-2014 Budget Sept. 9

The Richardson City Council is expected to formally approve the 2013-2014 Budget and the proposed tax rate of $0.6316 per $100 of assessed valuation, unchanged from the 2012-2013 rate, at a public meeting Sept. 9 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The public meeting in this year’s budget process is open to the public and will begin at 7:30 p.m. In addition, as part of the City Council’s Transparency Initiative goals, the meeting will be broadcast live on the City website, www.cor.net, and on the City cable TV stations (channel 16 on Time Warner and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse).

All budget documents are available online at cor.net/budget.

The Razmann residence was one of five residences and three commercial properties recognized by the City of Richardson with a Revitalization Award last year.
EXPLORE PARKS & RECREATION!

**REC CENTERS**

**Heights Recreation Center**
711 W. Arapaho Rd.  
972-744-7850
- The 25,000 sq. ft. center includes a full-sized gymnasium, a game room, classrooms, multipurpose room and workout rooms.

**Huffhines Recreation Center**
200 N. Plano Rd.  
972-744-7881
- The 25,000 sq. ft. center includes a full-sized gymnasium, multipurpose area, game room, outdoor classroom area, dedicated preschool area, dance studio with wood sprung floor and workout room.

**TRAILS**

- Richardson has more than 40 miles of trails and walkways.
- 13 walking trails.
- Four multuse trails: Breckinridge, Central, Duck Creek and Spring Creek.
- Multuse trails are 8-12 feet wide suitable for both pedestrians, rollerblades and bicycles.
- Richardson’s interactive trails map allows you to find trails in and around your neighborhood and to map your own route for walking, running or cycling in the city.
- Visit cor.net/Trails for maps of all the trails.

**GOLF**

**Sherrill Park Golf Course**
2001 E. Lookout Dr.  
972-234-1416
SherrillParkGolf.com
- Two, 18-hole courses with numerous tee boxes.
- Consistently ranked among the top golf courses in the Metroplex.
- PGA instruction available.
- Junior golf program.
- Corporate golf outings and events.

**Huffhines Tennis**
1601 Syracuse Dr.  
972-744-7870
cor.net/Tennis
- Tennis Center has 10 lighted courts, a fully stocked pro shop and racquet stringing available.
- Lessons, league play and tournament play available.
- There are 22 other tennis courts located in parks throughout the city, and the majority are lighted.

**PARKS**

- Richardson has nearly 840 acres of developed parkland, including Sherrill Park Golf Course.
- Most parks have pavilions, which may be reserved for parties or other events.
- Athletic fields at Richardson’s parks are used by approximately 192 youth baseball and softball teams.
- Master plans have been developed for Heights Park, Breckinridge Park and Prairie Creek Park to guide future development of each.
- Several new parks have opened in recent years to serve surrounding neighborhoods, including Durham Park, McKamy Spring Park and Ruth Back Toler Park.

**GYMNASTICS**

Richardson Gymnastics Center
300 E. Arapaho Rd.  
972-744-7860
- The new Gymnastics Center is designed for everyday classes and training, as well as to host regional and statewide meets.
- More than just gymnasts can use the facility: Private birthday parties and the weekly Friday Night Fun let kids have fun at the Gymnastics Center with supervised play on the equipment.
- Richardson Gymnastics started more than 40 years ago and has grown into a thriving program.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Richardson Senior Center
820 W. Arapaho Rd.  
972-744-7800
- Offers numerous activities for every interest.
- Health and wellness programs provide free weekly blood pressure checks and monthly presentations.
- Has fully equipped workout room.

**POOLS**

- Heights Family Aquatic Center and four pools include a variety of water play areas.
- Swim lessons are offered by age group from 6 months old through advanced swimmers.
- The new Heights Family Aquatic Center includes modern amenities such as a zero-entry pool with splash playground, current channel, vortex pool, instructional water, lap swim, play features for a variety of ages, a double flume slide and shade structures.

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**General Interest**
Richardson Reads One Book Author Lecture Sept. 10, 7-10 p.m. First United Methodist Church, Richardson. Call 972-744-4576 for info about free tickets.

**RCAS Meeting and Presentation** Sept. 17, 6:30-8:45 p.m. Richardson Central Rotary. "The Sounds of Fall" Sept. 4, 7-9 p.m. Richardson Masonic Lodge.

**Computer Classes** Richardson Public Library card needed for requested registration. Call 972-744-8411 after 10 a.m. weekdays.

**Job Searching on the Internet** Sept. 13, 10-11:30 p.m. Internet 101 Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-noon

**Children’s Activities** Tales for Tallies Sept. 8, 3-4 p.m. Children’s Program Room.
Family Storytime Every Monday at 4:45-7:15 p.m. Children’s Program Room.
Everyone welcome.
It’s Elementary! Storytime Every Tuesday, 4:15-4:45 p.m. Children’s Program Room.
Grades K-4.

**Special Interest**

**Dewey KNIT?** adult knitting program. Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m. First Floor Program Room. Call 972-744-4355 for info.

**Writers’ Guild of Texas** Sept. 12, 6-8:30 p.m. Richardson Central Rotary.
Community Writers’ Critique Group Sept. 18, 6-8:30 a.m. Richardson Poets Group Reading Sept. 22, 2-5 p.m. Richardson basement Program Room.

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Special Events

**Richardson’s Bunch** Sept. 17—Crossroads Dinner Cost for the trip is $2, payable on the day of the trip, plus the cost of your luncheon. Van will leave the Senior Center at 10:45 a.m. Please call 972-744-7800 to save your spot.

**The Sounds of Fall** Sept. 4, 7-9 p.m. Richardson Masonic Lodge.

**Pre-NNO Event** Sept. 30—noon-2 p.m. Join the Richardson Senior Center and the Richardson Police Department as we celebrate the award-winning National Night Out. We will provide the entertainment, hot dogs and sides, and you bring a dessert. Come for fun and information on how to help fight crime in your neighborhood.

**Halloween Party** Oct. 31—1-2:30 p.m. The Kiwanis invite all to an afternoon of ghastly fun. Come in costume for a costume contest, treat, fun, games, prizes and maybe a trick or two! Bring a treat.

**Health Connection Fall Clinic** Sept. 11-12 Please check page 10 in this edition for more information.

**Navigate Medical Verbiage** Sept. 26—10 a.m. It can often be difficult to follow conversations related to the aging process. Presbyterian Communities and Services will discuss how to handle the medical verbiage and abbreviations in health care and help you make sense out of health care vocabulary.

**Family Groups**
Canyon Creek Moms Club 972-690-7609 or canyondreamsmomsclub.com
MOMS Club of Richardson—East momsrichardsoneast@yahoo.com
MOMS Club of Richardson—West momsrichardsonwest@gmail.com

**Support Groups**
Dallas Amputee Network 972-826-7657
DFW Splittings Support Group degrwingingly@yahoo.com
Better Breathers Club Richardson area
American Lung Association 214-916-5120, ext. 5133 or rls@lun.org
Toastmasters Clubs
Hallelyuj High Toastmasters
www.toastmasters.com
Richardson Toastmasters
214-334-0887
Richardson—Icebreakers
214-877-4709

**Toastmasters Groups**

**Highland Noon Toastmasters** 469-235-3586
Texs Toastmasters
214-566-4066 or texs.tootastmasters.org

**Veterans Groups**
Richardson American Legion Post #168 972-479-1509
Richardson VFW Post 8627 214-741-8627
Richardson Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 8627 214-741-8627
Korean War Veterans 972-279-7000
North Dallas VFW Memorial Post 3530 214-231-2626
WWII Veterans 214-613-7284
Military Officers
Women’s Club 972-854-1247
Military Officers
Association of America Greater Dallas Chapter 972-437-2345

**Travel Opportunities**
Fall/Winter Trip Meeting Sept. 3—1 p.m. The Sept. 20-21 Granbury trip, our Cristmas in the Canyon trip to New Mexico, and your ideas for 2014 travel destinations will be on the agenda for discussion. Bring your questions and ideas.

**Granbury** Sept. 20-21 Departure from the Senior Center, 9 a.m. Sept. 20. Arrival back at the Senior Center, approx. 4 p.m. Cost: $349 per person for double occupancy, $392 for single occupancy. Lunch and dinner included.

We will leave the Senior Center by motor coach and travel west to Granbury with collegial and historical commentary along the way.

Once in Granbury, we will take a drive through the wonderful period homes and historic sites of the rugged ranch country that the town of Granbury was built on. We will have time to explore the area voted “best town square in Texas.” Dinner and seeing the produc- tion of “The Promise” will round out your first day.

Overnight accommodations will be at the Best Western close to downtown.

The next day we will learn all about the workings and history of The Windmill Farm. Lunch will be at the Grady’s Line Camp Steakhouse in the scenic countryside west of Granbury, followed by more shopping and strolling time on the town square.

We will then attend the Comedy play, "Puttin’ On The Glitz" at the Granbury Theater Company. Dinner will be in Granbury before we return to Richardson.
### Civic Art Society plans 2013-14 events, shows

Richardson Civic Art Society (RCAS) invites all Dallas-Fort Worth Metropole artists to join them for an art-filled season.

**Art shows, artist’s demonstrations and workshops are organized by RCAS to benefit anyone who wants to participate. Complete information on the events of the 2013-14 season is available online at richardson-arts.org.**

The first artist’s demonstration will be at the monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Richardson Public Library Basement Program Room. A print making demonstration will be given by Lynne Hubner, a Dallas-area print maker. Lynne is an active lecturer and workshop presenter whose work is exhibited in numerous university and private collections. Lynne is represented by two galleries in Texas and teaches classes at the McKinney Art House. The first RCSA workshop will be held at the McKinney Art House at 902 N. Kentucky St. in McKinney. Lynne will work with participants in gelatin printmaking on Saturday, Sept. 28. Her work can be seen at lynnehubnerprints.com

**RCAS sponsors six art shows each year with different objectives, from membership shows to area elementary school competitions, to a regional exhibition with prize awards. The first show is a Membership Show at the Richardson Public Library, which will be presented later this fall.**

RCAS meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Richardson Public Library. RCAS is supported in part by the City of Richardson through the Arts Commission.
Rivers Residential Corporation, funds become available. The Twin park sometime in the future when expected to be developed as a of 6.1 acres of land near Glenville ardson Room to discuss the future Sept. 5, in the Civic Center's Rich- lic meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, to register at

The Texas A&M AgriLife Re- search and Extension Center will offer several classes in Septem- ber and October to help residents learn how to better conserve our natural resources.

The AgriLife Center serves all of urban Texas, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in particu- lar. The Center's research and educational programs are focused on urban needs in managing and conserving urban natural re- sources. The classes listed are pro- vided to residents to help achieve goals.

Go to the AgriLife Center web- site to view class descriptions and to register at http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses.

September 2013 Vegetable Gardening for Fall* Sept. 4 10 a.m.-noon Lawn Care Maintenance* Sept. 17 10 a.m.-noon Landscape Basics* Sept. 17 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

October 2013 Composting* Oct. 10 6-8 p.m. Controlling your Irrigation Controller* Oct. 15 6-8 p.m. Trees for North Texas* Oct. 27 6:30-7:30 p.m.

*Free class All classes are held at the Dal- las center at 17660 Coit Rd. Registration is required for all classes at http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses.

Urban conservation classes are offered at AgriLife Center

The Parks and Recreation De- partment is hosting a second public meeting to be held Sept. 5 to discuss Twin Rivers/Glenville Land Study

The Richardson Police Department Crime Prevention Unit reports crime statistics by Incident Reporting Areas (IRA). Locate your residence or business on the IRA map. If the IRA in which you reside or have a business is shaded, the number represents the total bur- gularies reported. If the IRA is not shaded, no bur- gularies were reported.

Visit the Department website at cor.net/PD and click on “Crime Statistics” for online statistics. If you have any questions about these statistics, contact the Richardson Crime Prevention Unit at 972-744-4955 or go to richard- sonpolice.net.

Make a Rain Barrel ($50 class fee) Sept. 19 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Save the Date! Waterwise Landscape Class Oct. 19 10 a.m.-noon

CFAAA to hold fundraiser The Richardson Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Asso- ciation (CFAAA) will host an Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Sept. 21 from 8 a.m.- 10 a.m. at the Richardson Ap- plebee’s location, 1610 E. Belt Line Rd. CFAAA members will serve, and the cost is $8 per per- son. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any CFAAA member or at the Richardson Fire Department Administrative Office at 156 N. Greenville Ave. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Richardson Fire Department Causality Emer- gency Relief Fund.

The documents will be de- stroyed on site, safely and se- curely.

The shredding event Oct. 12 at the City Hall parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no charge to drop off items, but donations will be accepted. See the list of electronics below.

Cell Phones

GPD Devices

Calculators

MP3 Players

PDAs

Portable CD & DVD Players

Desktop Computers

Laptop Computers

Computer Speakers

Computer Components

Seers

Keyboards

CRT & LCD Monitors

Hats

Car Amplifiers

Car Audio Receivers

Refrigerators

Air Conditioners

Lawn Mowers

Grills

Non-Disposable Film Cameras

Non-Disposable Film Cameras

Calculators

PDAs

Cell Phones

Save the Date!

Shredding Event

The shredding event will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in the south parking lot at Richardson City Hall/Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd.

Shredding will be limited to what can fit into a car. There is no charge to drop off items, but donations toward the CFAAA Scholarship Fund are greatly ac- cepted. For more information please contact Bruce Murphy at 214-707-1945 or warriors1959@sbcglobal.net

The documents will be de- stroyed on site, safely and se- curely.

Save the Date!

Drug Take Back event is Oct. 26

Residential/business burglaries May 16-Aug. 15

The Richardson Police Department Crime Prevention Unit reports crime statistics by Incident Reporting Areas (IRA). Locate your residence or business on the IRA map. If the IRA in which you reside or have a business is shaded, the number represents the total bur- gularies reported. If the IRA is not shaded, no bur- gularies were reported.

Visit the Department website at cor.net/PD and click on “Crime Statistics” for online statistics. If you have any questions about these statistics, contact the Richardson Crime Prevention Unit at 972-744-4955.

Residential burglaries reported in blue.

Business burglaries reported in red.
The Richardson Corporate Challenge is in full swing, bringing more than 10,000 employees from more than 50 companies together in 10 weeks of Olympic-style competition.

The 16th annual event, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, includes competition in 24 events ranging from athletic sports such as softball, basketball and flag football, to non-athletic contests such as darts, billiards and miniature golf. It is the only one of its kind in Texas.

“Corporate Challenge is something that businesses and employees from throughout Richardson and nearby communities look forward to every year,” said Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Robbie Hazelbaker. “It’s a fun event, it gets people active, it develops camaraderie, and it is something unique that we as a city can do to help build a sense of community among our businesses here. Best of all? It’s a charitable event, raising funds for Special Olympics Texas.”

Since its inception, the program has raised more than $1.2 million for Special Olympics Texas.

Companies are divided into five categories based upon the number of employees (the two largest categories are divided into two sub-categories as well), and teams accumulate points through their performance and their participation.

Opening ceremonies were Aug. 16, and closing ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18. For more information about Corporate Challenge, the companies involved, a schedule of events and results, visit cor.net/cc.

**Upcoming Golf Tournaments**

**16th annual**

**NETWORK Golf Classic**

**honor Billye Meyer**

**Friday, Sept. 27**

**Sherrill Park**

$165 individual or $600 team

Four-person scramble, shotgun start at 1 p.m. Fee includes greens fees, cart and range balls, lunch (before tournament) and dinner, commemorative golf items(s), goodie bag, individual prizes and team prizes.

NETWORK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your participant fee is tax deductible, with the exception of $50 per golfer. Visit TheNETWORK.org or call 972-234-8880.

**26th annual**

**Richardson Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic**

**Friday, Oct. 4**

**Sherrill Park**

Four-person scramble featuring a variety of contests sure to challenge golfers of all skill levels. Golf teams and sponsorship opportunities are available! Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Check-in at 11 a.m., with lunch included.

To register or for sponsorship information, visit RichardsonChamber.com or call 972-792-2800.

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**Dog Splash Day Thank You**

The City of Richardson Animal Services Department and AnimaLuv wish to thank donors, volunteers and City staff for their contributions and efforts in making the 16th annual Dog Splash a success.

Hundred of dogs brought their owners for a dip in Terrace Pool last month, and a great time was had by all. Money raised at the event will benefit animals at the Richardson Animal Shelter.

Thanks to the following sponsors and volunteers:

Sunbelt Pools
Fiesta Mart
Young Men’s Service League
Kona Ice
Williams Allstate Agency
Bank of America
Dollar General
Pecho (Buckingham & Plano)

Reunion Title
Corner Bakery
National Charity League (NCL)
Children’s Medical Center

And special thanks to Ralph Herrick for the countless hours he spent organizing Dog Splash Day.

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**Richardson AnimaLuv**

**Ninth Annual City Wide Pet Day**

**BENEFITING THE RICHARDSON ANIMAL SHELTER**

**SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, AUG. 3-5**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 2**

**10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Owens Farm in Richardson
Plano Road & East Lookout Drive

RICHARDSONANIMALUV.ORG
**Special Events and Trip Information**

**Classes**

For all classes, unless otherwise noted, you may pay online (credit card and debit card are accepted) or in person with a credit card, check, or cash.

AARP Driver Safety Classes

Anyone 50 years and older may attend. The completion certificate is used for automobile insurance premium reduction. Please check with your insurance company for percentage of reduction. The certificate does not qualify for a traffic citation dismissal. Fee is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members. Reservations may be made by calling 972-744-7800. Please pay the instructor at the time of the class. Classes are held at the Richardson Senior Center.

**Drug and Alcohol Driving Awareness**

Completion of this course provides a 5 percent discount on their auto liability and collision insurance good for three years. The course provides information on the effects alcohol and drugs affect driving and summarizes current laws. Classes are held at the Richardson Senior Center as follows:

**Fundamentals of Windows**

Overcome the fear of personal computers and be introduced to the basics of personal computing. You will be introduced to the basics of Windows 7 and 8, Vista and XP. This class will help prepare you for when you are ready to explore other computers or computer training. Class held Mondays from 1-2 p.m. The next four-week sessions start Sept. 9 and 24 with a morning class from 9 a.m.-noon and an evening class from 6-9 p.m. Cost for the class is $50 with membership, $35 without membership.

**Learn the Right Way to Sell on eBay**

Learn how you can use the internet to do research and create listings to attract buyers, enhance listings with better photographs and answer to sales for exactly what’s working and what’s not. The next class session will be Sept. 12 and 29, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost is $25 with membership, $15 without membership.

**iPhone Instruction 101**

A beginners’ class to learn the basics of the iPhone. Learn what the buttons and icons can do for you! Bring your iPhone to class Sat., Sept. 14 from 9-11 a.m. Cost is $25 with membership, $15 without membership.

**iPhone Instruction 102**

This class will cover storing contacts, taking and sending pictures, adding, helpful free programs to your iPhone and more. Bring your iPhone and contacts to class Sat., Sept. 21 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost is $25 with membership, $15 without membership.

**iPad Instruction 101**

Learn how to use your iPad and your PC information portable and convenient. Bring your iPad to class Monday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost of the class is $60 with membership, $65 without membership.

**iPad Instruction 102**

This class covers more advanced functions and applications available for your iPad. Bring your iPad to class Monday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is $65 per month. Call 972-744-7800 for an appointment.

**Quilt Essentials**

Learn the art of hand piecing and quilting on the machine. Class meets Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost for beginners and first-time students is $35 per month and for advanced students is $45 per month. Free sewing time is from 8-10 a.m. Tuesdays. All adults are welcome. Darlene Martin is the instructor.

**Quilting**

This class offers encouragement and challenges for the intermediate and advanced appliqué students. Beginning students will go through the basic classes to learn and build their skills and tablespoon bast- ing will be taught. A large standing please remember those who have constructed quilt tops and need to pin, thread baste or tie their quilts. Hand pieces will be available. For those who have completed a basic class and are quilters needing extra time to “catch up” on their quilt tops. This class will begin Monday, Sept. 22 at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost for the class is $16 a month. Jan Eby is the instructor. Contact jsen@earthlink.net to register with a $150 Spanish brush up on your Spanish skills by joining our intermediate Span- "Clinical Spanish" brings its unique Spanish styles to the class this month. Some knowledge of the language is required of the instructor. Barbara Garza, 972-382-9673, for more details. Class is $65 per month. Class is $65 per month.

**Senior Table Tennis**

Classes are taught Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. The price is $5 per class. For new students, please bring a #J or #K crochet hook and a skein of yarn.

**Senior Golf League**

Ladies group plays Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The league gives players Tuesday and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. A non-member fee of $14 per month is required. Those interested in playing are encouraged to attend. Cost for this group is $30 for the 2013 season. For more information, call 972-744-7870.

**Senior Play Days**

A new session of oil painting classes began the first Thursday of each month at 11:15 a.m. Instructor Andrea Hayes has 20 years of experience teaching and has painted for 50 years. Cost for the class is $85 a month.

**Sportsmanship**

Use various types of information. Remember through creative men-

**Stop by, browse and admire the handmade crafts which are for sale. Open to the public. The crafts pictured were made by Barbara Bresswer, who is a long-time crafter at the Robin’s Nest.**

**Tennis League**

Richardson’s Tennis League offers classes to senior members. The senior men’s group plays Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The ladies group plays Tuesday and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. A non-member fee of $14 per month is required. For both men and women players. Lessons are available to help players achieve this level. For information, call 972-744-7870.

**Train Flu Shot Clinic**

The Senior Center and Maxim Health Care will provide a flu shot clinic on the following dates and times:

- Sept. 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sept. 12, 1-4 p.m.

Medicare will be billed for those with insurance coverage through Medicare Part B and some participating insurers, and not enrolled in a HMO. Medicare Part B participants and those enrolled in a HMO will be charged $25 for the shot. You MUST present your Medicare card or participating insurance card as well as a government-issued ID number to be eligible for blood. Please call 972-744-7800 to secure your appointment.

**Trick or Treat**

A new session of oil painting classes is a self-paced class. You provide your own paint and brushes. Cost is $100 per month. Next class meets every Monday from 1-2 p.m. The price is $60 per month. Call 972-744-7800 for an appointment.

**Windows 7 and 8, Vista and XP**

PC information portable and convenient. Bring your iPad to class Monday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost of the class is $60 with membership, $65 without membership.

**Washable Quilts**

Bring your own needlework and learn the basics of hand piecing and quilting as well as sewing machine piecing and quilting. Beginner and subs for the 2013 season. For more information, call 972-744-7870.

**Yoga**

Frontenac Yoga trains in the seasons of SPRING, SUMMER, FALL or WINTER on the last Monday of the first month of each season at 2 p.m. Fall: September-December; Spring-March; Summer-June. Fall birthdays celebrated in this class, as are other holidays. Lessons are available to help players achieve this level. For information, call 972-744-7870.

**Zumba**

Course 1: the class is $100 per month. Next class meets every Monday from 1-2 p.m. The price is $60 per month. Call 972-744-7800 for an appointment.

**Programs**

**Happy Birthday Party**

We are celebrating birthdays that are in the seasons of SPRING, SUMMER, FALL or WINTER on the last Monday of the first month of each season at 2 p.m. Fall: September-December; Spring-March; Summer-June. Fall birthdays celebrated in this class, as are other holidays. Lessons are available to help players achieve this level. For information, call 972-744-7870.

**Learn the Right Way to Sell on eBay**

Basic class to learn the basics of selling on eBay. Bring your own needlework and learn the basics of hand piecing and quilting. Beginner and subs for the 2013 season. For more information, call 972-744-7870.
Bingo anyone? We play the third Center. New players welcome. Thursday afternoons from 12:30-4 p.m. at the Richardson Senior Center, 820 W. Arapaho Rd. Call 972-744-7800 for more information or questions.

Password and Emeritus Plus 50 program at Richland College Explore life-long learning with the Emeritus or log on to richlandcollege.edu/emeritus.

Transportation Service
Help Needed!!! Transportation for seniors who are no longer able to drive, we have a telephone reas-

_date_ Get reservations 972-898-5803 for appointment. Please call Liz Polanco for information on how to become in-

Password and Emeritus Plus 50 program at Richland College.

Bank
Come Book Club
Come and sing your favorite melo-
dies at our sing-a-long on 1 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. The Richardson Red Hatters
The Richardson Red Hatters welcome all women to put on their red hats, join the group and have some fun. The Red Hatters hold quarterly meetings the first Monday in February, March, August and No-

ter Center, 820 W. Arapaho Rd. and large-print books.

Yu-Gi-Oh! is played by our patrons. Skip-bo, Rummi-Cubes, Dominos, Canasta, Bunco, Party Bridge

Regular “42” games are scheduled Thursday afternoons from 12:30-4 p.m. at the Richardson Senior Center.

Cooper Institute Certifi ed

Certifi ed personal trainer Elaine Kirtley, our chair massage volunteer. The Rowdies volunteer to become a “Richardson Rowdies” representative to shop for free loaves of bread at the Richardson Public Library, 7800 S. Sherman St. in Richardson. For more information call Debbie Clubb at 972-234-8880. Personalized fi tness programs are designed to help increase cardiovascular endurance, strength, fi xility and balance. All sessions are in a private room and are just 30 minutes each with a 30-minute commit-

Hatha Yoga for all Ages Bharati Anis, who has been teach-

Bingo anyone? We play the third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. Prizes... fun... laughter...

**Fit For Life—Beginning Strength Training Class**
Strength training that works all muscle groups. Two classes offered the first Monday of each month: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., four weeks. First class is on 9-10-10. A 12-month punch card is $60 each with a six-session com-

**Fit For Life—Intermediate Strength Training Class**
Three classes offered for men and women at all fl exibility levels. You will learn easy-to-follow moves that will help you to shop for free loaves of bread at the Richardson Public Library, 7800 S. Sherman St. in Richardson. For more information call Debbie Clubb at 972-234-8880.

**Fit For Life—Advanced Strength Training Class**
Class is for those who suffer from Alzheimer’s/ Parkinson’s disease, those that are just starting their fi tness journey or for those that are looking for more challenge. Class fee is $2 for her class.

**Blood Pressure Checks**
Free blood pressure screenings are available Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center.

**Free Fitness Classes**
Bunco Friday, 10 p.m.
Bunco Friday, 10 p.m. ***If you are interested in taking bridge lessons please call 972-744-7800.

**Bridge**
Tuesday, 10 a.m.

**Tai Chi for all Ages**
Tai Chi is certifi ed in special population areas including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Classes are held Mon-

days and Fridays from 9-11 a.m.

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much has been made of the decision to market "The Book Thief" in this country as a YA book in the United Kingdom, it's really difficult to get a handle on how it's going when you're an outsider. All I know is that I was on the set (for just under a week) and that was everyone was happy. Every- one got along, and that's the best sign that things will turn out OK. The kids playing Liesel and Rudy were just some- thing else, and I can't wait to see them on screen, as hard as it will be for me to watch.

I've read that a few of the book's war scenes were based on your mother's firsthand rec- ollections. Did you grow up with a heightened awareness of the Holocaust?

I've never thought of it exactly like that. It's more something you view in hindsight—and now realize that my mum and dad were both great storytellers. Where they told us about growing up in Germany and Austria, it was like a piece of Europe entered our kitchens. You gather these things piece by piece till you get a question like this, and then you accept that you probably did have a heightened sense of a particular history. The Holocaust is a big and awful and chilling as it gets, and I think I'm lucky that parents were really too young to understand what was going on.

The book has given me a greater appreciation for accor- dance music. In fact, an accur- dian player will perform before your communal lecture. Why does Hans' love for the instru- ment play such a prominent role in "The Book Thief"?

I don't always recognize the many meanings of a certain idea in a book right away, but this one was pretty apparent from the out- set. The accordion is a breathing instrument, and I equated that idea with Hans as a giver of life. He brings Liesel to life as well, and the accordion mirrors this. Originally he was going to play the harmonica, but I'd already had a character in a previous book play a har- monica, so it's true in books as it is in everyday life—necessity is the mother of all invention.

Many involved with planning Richmond Lochner One is librarians and educators and are softies for books with literacy and love of reading themes. What attracted you to these themes, and what inspired your love of reading?

It was just the melding of a few different ideas. I'd had an So I can't really say for sure. I didn't write the script, but I did see it and offered a few of my own thoughts.

As far as liking what I've seen, it's really difficult to get a handle on how it's going when you're an outsider. All I know is that I was on the set (for just under a week) and that was everyone was happy. Every- one got along, and that's the best sign that things will turn out OK. The kids playing Liesel and Rudy were just some- thing else, and I can't wait to see them on screen, as hard as it will be for me to watch.

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It was just the melding of a few different ideas. I'd had an story about a girl stealing books in mod- ern-day Sydney, and I thought, "Maybe I should just use that in the book set in Nazi Germany."

Then I thought of the significance of books and words in that time, and it made sense. It's important to have those moments when ideas come together that you know you're close to getting somewhere. In this case, it also gave me the book's title.

As for my own reading, it was inspired by the fact that my parents couldn't speak English when they came to Australia. That made them want to have a lot of books for us so we could be proficient. We had every Dr. Seuss book you can imag- ine when we were growing up, and I still read those old, falling-apart versions to my kids.

"The Book Thief" pulls off the difficult balance between tell- ing the truth about the horrors of the Holocaust and retaining an optimistic and hopeful view in hindsight. Was this a problem for you as a writer?

I always knew what I wanted to happen, and when you narrate a book with the voice of Death, tragic things have to happen. The thing is, I always knew that I would lose a lot, but she would gain a lot too. There was a great generosity in many of the sur- rounding characters, and she was also given many things, despite so much being taken away. At the end of the day, you have to do what's right for the story and hope the rest will take care of itself. As it is, I'm essentially an optimist, and I don't think I could write anything no matter how despairing, without a trace of hope in it as well.

What books are you recom- mending to friends right now?

I've been recommending John Irving's "A Prayer for Owen Meany." It's a book. I've had it on my shelf for a very long time, and I finally started it. As I began, I thought, 'This is what a novel looks like.' It's not frightened to face its time. It doesn't ask pa- tience of the reader—it expects it. And the reader is rewarded for it.

What is the most important thing about your life as a writer that your fans don't know?

It's probably the doubt. A lot of people think I just sit down and make it happen, but I battle the demons every day. Most of what I'm writing now is that I'm trying to go back to it, no matter how much I struggled the day before. If you show up at the desk every day, you don't want to, you're a writer. The hardest part of the job is showing up. The best part is writing something you like that you didn't know you were going to come up with when you started the day.