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# RICHARDSON TODAY

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## What's Inside



### Pilobolus at the Eisemann

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The popular dance Company Pilobolus visits the Eisemann Center March 5-6.



### Trash collection fee discount for seniors

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Richardson residents 65 years of age and older are eligible for a discount on their residential trash collection fee.



### Summer Safety Camp

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Summer Safety Camp registration begins March 22.



### Photography Contest winners

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## Richardson residents encouraged to be counted

The federal government's decennial census process is about to enter the most important phase. This month, each Richardson residence will receive a census form by U.S. Mail. A postcard and/or a letter may arrive in advance to advise the household that the form will be on the way soon. The 10-question survey form should be completed and returned to the Census Bureau in the postage paid envelope by April 1 or shortly thereafter.

The survey is completely anonymous and all answers are strictly confidential. The census does not ask about the legal/immigration status of respondents or their Social Security numbers. No person will be required to disclose information about religious beliefs or membership in a religious organization and any personal data provided is protected under federal law.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years, but the census is much more than a population count. The 2010 Census will help the federal government allocate more than \$400 billion to communities over the next 10 years for a variety of programs involving education, employment, transportation, community services and many other areas of daily life.

In order for the funding to be distributed equitably, a fair and accurate count of the population is necessary. The census is also used to determine government representation, from the number of

Congressional seats to the boundaries of city council districts. (Richardson City Council district boundaries were redrawn after the 2000 Census.)

Because it is so important that everyone be counted, between late April and July census workers will visit households that do not return the form. The following information is intended to help residents protect themselves and their identity during this process.

#### Census taker visits

A census taker (enumerator) will carry an official government badge marked with the worker's name (the badge does not contain a photo) and he or she may also carry a U.S. Census Bureau canvas bag.



Enumerators will never ask to enter your home. If you are uncertain as to their legitimacy, contact the Dallas Regional Center at 214-253-4400 (or TDD 214-655-5363) to verify the worker's credentials.



Enumerators may visit a home up to three times to attempt contact with a resident. If a person is not at home, a number will be left for the resident to call to set up an appointment for a return visit.

The only telephone contact between residents and census workers is to set up appointments for visits or to address unanswered or ambiguous responses on the survey form.

No financial or personal identifying information should be requested by a legitimate census worker, nor should you provide it over the telephone.

A legitimate census enumerator will not ask for personal financial or identifying information such as Social Security numbers, bank account or credit card numbers, nor will enumerators solicit donations

or payments of any kind.

There will be no legitimate census contacts by e-mail.

For more information visit the City's Web page at [www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net), the census home page at [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) or the Better Business Bureau Web site at <http://necal.bbb.org/article/2010-census--be-cooperative-but-cautious-13617>.

**See page 3 for information about census taker job opportunities.**



## Revitalization program recognizes properties

One infill project, one nonresidential property and six residences were recognized in February as part of the 15th annual Community Revitalization Awards program. The program allows the City to say "thank you" to property owners who have completed revitalization projects having a significant, positive impact on their property and the surrounding area.

The judging committee included Council Members Mark Solomon and Amir Omar, City Plan Commissioners David Gantt and Marilyn Frederick and Janice Peters representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Properties receiving an award in February include:

**Twin Rivers Senior Living**—This 156-room, independent living and retirement facility was developed on a five-acre infill site replacing a former miniature golf course and batting cage entertainment center. The three-story facil-



**Twin Rivers Senior Living**

ity includes a brick and stucco façade, covered drop-off area, garages, extensive landscaping and a community center. Additionally, a six-acre parcel of land, located south of the site is dedicated for a future City park.

**Hopper Residence**—This 1950s Richardson Heights site was demolished and rebuilt in 2008. The new home features a two-story, brick and stone façade, steep pitched gabled roof, a recessed front door, shutters and garage doors that match in color and design to the trim and detail work of the façade.

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## City Council calls for Bond Election May 8

In a unanimous vote, the Richardson City Council has approved placing a bond election before voters on the May 8, 2010 ballot. The issues will be separated into four propositions, allowing residents to support or deny any set of proposed City projects.

At its Feb. 15 meeting, the City Council heard from finance experts who informed the Council that now appears to be a good time to sell bonds due to the sluggish economy. The slump in the construction market is expected to allow the City to find low bids for projects, while historically low interest rates are anticipated to allow the City to borrow money at a low cost. In addition, the City's tax base appears stable, while the property tax rate in Richardson remains lower than most other surrounding cities in the Metroplex.

The sale of the bonds would be used to complete 32 identified projects ranging across the City. Among the most notable is construction of a new recreation center to be built in Heights Park along with the replacement of Arapaho Pool, a \$3.7 million plan to

replace 4.8 miles of alleys in several neighborhoods, construction of City of Richardson signs at City gateways along major roads and the replacement of Fire Station 4 near Huffhines Park. Further explanation on each of the propositions can be found on the City's Web site at [www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net).

If voters approve all of the propositions, then the measures would be supported by a six cent tax increase to support financing for the bonds. That would have about a \$110 annual impact on the average homeowner in Richardson. The last time a bond election went before Richardson voters was May 2006. At that time, \$55 million was approved to construct and repair infrastructure and public facilities.

In the coming weeks, the City of Richardson will send out an informational flyer to inform residents about the specific projects in each of the bond propositions. Work is also under way to provide a special link on the City's Web site to better inform voters about the individual bond propositions.

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Neighborhood Services

## Eight properties win Revitalization Awards



Hopper Residence



Debus Residence



Aldridge Elementary

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**Debus Residence**—This Canyon Park Estates home was demolished in 2008 and rebuilt. The two-story, traditional style home features an exposed aggregate sidewalk that leads to a large columned front porch with a standing seam metal roof, dark painted shutters to accent the front door, new landscaping, and a brick and Hardiplank façade.

**Aldridge Elementary School**—Originally constructed in 1968, Aldridge Elementary School finished a complete remodel in 2009. Highlights of the remodel include: replacing the original mansard para-

pet, installing new energy efficient windows, a bus drop-off area with a covered walkway featuring split-faced textured CMU columns, new landscaping and retaining walls to protect the existing trees.

**Gumbert Residence**—This Prairie Creek Estates home was demolished and then rebuilt in 2009. The new home features a three-story, brick and stone façade, an arched entryway with recessed front door, exterior lighting and a bifurcated front sidewalk with a landscape island for spring flowers.

**Riley Residence**—This 1960 Richardson Heights Estates home was purchased by the Riley Family

in 2007 and they began remodeling in 2008. Highlights of the renovations include: adding stone veneer to the front façade along with a second gable, archways to clearly define a covered porch, new windows, lighted stone pillars along the sidewalk and extensive landscaping.

**3rd Street Custom Homes**—This Prairie Creek project entailed a complete tear-down and reconstruction. Constructed by 3rd Street Custom Homes, this Tudor style home features a brick veneer with exposed cedar trim and shutters, a large bay window, three-car garage with matching cedar doors,

a brick mail box and new landscaping that maintained the large mature trees.

**Thorson Residence**—This 1959 Richardson Heights Estates home was completely remodeled in 2008. The Craftsman style home includes a new second story with dormers and steep gabled roof, large standing seam metal roof covered front porch, a brick veneer with Hardiplank siding, new windows and new landscaping.

Nominations are already being accepted for the 2010 awards. For more information, contact Israel B. Roberts at 972-744-4256 or israel.roberts@cor.gov.



Gumbert Residence



Riley Residence



3rd Street Custom Homes



Thorson Residence

## Chamber banquet honors Citizen of Year

by Bill Sproull  
President and CEO of  
Richardson Chamber  
of Commerce

The Richardson Chamber of Commerce will honor its Citizen of the Year and other distinguished volunteers at its annual banquet March 11. The annual banquet is the Chamber's premier event of the year.

The Chamber will also recognize valuable members of its organization in the following categories: Small Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Rookie Volunteer of the Year, Committee of the Year and Ambassador of the Year. Volunteers are an integral part of the Richardson Chamber's operations. Their hard work and dedication to the Richardson community enables the Chamber to offer programs that enhance the local business environment, foster economic development and help make Richardson a premier place to live, work and play.

The keynote speaker for this year's annual banquet will be Clay

Jones, chairman, president and CEO of Rockwell Collins. His company was a pioneer of the tech industry in Richardson and recently celebrated its 75th anniversary, with 58 years of operation in Richardson. Over the past few years, Jones has led Rockwell Collins through a turnaround and recovery. He will share his views on the prospects for our country's economic recovery in 2010. Steve Moon, president of Bank of Texas-Richardson and chairman of the board for the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The annual banquet will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson and is open to the public. For information on sponsorships or to register for the banquet, see [www.richardsonchamber.com](http://www.richardsonchamber.com).



## CITV programs available to AT&T's U-verse customers

Richardson residents who have AT&T U-verse as their provider of television programming are now able to access Richardson's Citizens Information Television (CITV) on Channel 99. This additional outlet will broaden the reach of CITV, further enhancing the City's ability to communicate City-related news and information easily to its citizens. CITV programming will continue to be available on Time Warner Cable Channel 16 in Richardson.

The City began broadcasting Council meetings in 2009 and providing this programming to more citizens through AT&T's U-verse is a natural extension of the City's communication efforts.

Each year, CITV creates 30 to 40 video programs in addition to numerous smaller projects. The department produces promotional, marketing, educational, training, public service and informational video programs. These programs are used to inform Richardson's citizens, promote the City and train City staff. Many CITV programs are also available on the City's Web site, [www.cor.net/CITV](http://www.cor.net/CITV), and are available for checkout at the Richardson Public Library. Council meetings are rebroadcast throughout the week and available on-demand via the Internet.

For more information on CITV and how to access it in your household, visit the City's Web site at [www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net) or call 972-744-4025.

## Wild weather sparks in spring

Springtime in North Central Texas ushers in fabulous flowers, warmer temperatures and show-stopping storms! As we prepare for severe weather season, the Office of Emergency Management wants to remind you of the following details regarding the warning systems used within the City of Richardson.

During severe weather events in the past you might have heard the outdoor warning sirens go off. The outdoor warning sirens are activated based on regional guidelines which outline when the City will activate the 22 outdoor warning sirens. These guidelines are:

- When the National Weather Services (NWS) issues a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning with destructive winds in excess of 70 mph for areas in and around the City of Richardson.
- Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado with the potential to affect the City of Richardson.
- Reported hail of 1.25" in diameter or greater is imminent.
- Deemed necessary by City of

Richardson officials (i.e. in the event of any emergency when officials need to get citizens to move indoors for their safety).

It is important to know that the outdoor warning sirens are not designed or intended to penetrate structures for indoor warning. The purpose of the system is to get the attention of citizens who are outdoors so they will go indoors to seek shelter and further information regarding the emergency.

To receive warning while indoors, it is recommended that you purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology. Weather radios are credited with saving thousands of lives by providing alerts and information on severe weather in your area, even if the power is out!

Another reason why it is important to have the NOAA weather radio for indoor notification is because the City's Reverse 9-1-1 system will **not** be used for events such as severe thunderstorms or tornado warnings. Because the

current capability of the system is to make approximately 1,900 calls per hour and warnings for these types of rapid moving weather events are usually 10-15 minutes, the situation does not allow enough time to effectively warn Richardson citizens via this system.

For those interested in learning more about severe thunderstorms and weather in general, the National Weather Service conducts annual storm spotter training and relies on these volunteers to be additional "eyes" of the NWS during severe weather events. You can see the class schedule with locations at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/> and clicking "2010 Spotter Training Class Schedule."

To find out more about preparing for emergencies, check the City's Emergency Management Web site at <http://www.cor.net/em>.



## Trash discount available to 65 and older

Richardson residents 65 years of age and older are eligible for a discount on their residential trash collection fee. In order to qualify, residents must come to City Hall and fill out an application form in the Water and Sewer Customer Service Office, Room 101.

The City requires that the person signing up for the exemption be the one whose name is on the City's water account. However, in the instance of a married couple, either party may fill out the form.

Individuals should bring one form of identification with them to City Hall. A valid Texas driver's license, a Texas ID, a birth certificate, a U.S. passport, military discharge papers or printouts from the Social Security Administration will be accepted as proof of age.

Residents may apply for the discount the day they turn 65 and it will take effect on the next bill. With the discount, the charge for residential trash collection, including tax and the state-mandated

landfill fee, is \$13.33. The same charge without the discount is \$18.

For more information on the discount, contact the Water and Sewer Customer Service Department at 972-744-4120.

