

RICHLANDNEWS

Richland Neighborhood Association Newsletter • P.O. Box 852636, Richardson, Texas 75085-2636 • www.richlandhoa.com

Hey Richland Neighborhood Association – Get Ready for 2025!

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to a vibrant and promising new year in 2025 with the Richardson Neighborhood Association! We have an exciting lineup of events planned to bring our community closer together and enhance our beautiful neighborhood. Look forward to our Shred Truck event for safe



document disposal, the return of the Bike Rodeo for kids, and a fun day trip to a minor league baseball game.

We're also excited about the upcoming enhancements to our neighborhood entrances and our beloved yard awards that celebrate the best-kept lawns. There's so much more in store, and we can't wait to share these experiences with you.

Now is the perfect time to join the Richardson Neighborhood Association! Sign up before April 1, 2025, to enjoy a special \$5 discount, making the annual membership fee just \$45. (Look for the application on Page 13 of this newsletter.) Becoming a member not only supports our events and initiatives but also offers fantastic opportunities to get involved.



You can help organize events, participate in Crime Watch, contribute to judging the yard awards, or even become a block captain to foster community spirit on your street. Together, we can make 2025 our best year yet!



Warm regards,
Richland Neighborhood Association Board



2025 RICHLAND PARK/ OAKS SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 5 **RNA Bike Rodeo**
- 20 Easter
- 26 **Shred Truck Event**

MAY

- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 15 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 First Day of Summer

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Most are Richland Park or Richland Oaks residents. Their support of the newsletter pays for printing and distribution. See pages 15-20.

RNA OFFICERS/CHAIRS

OFFICERS

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President's Message

Richland Neighborhood Association
Richland Park and Richland Oaks Community

Dear Neighbors,

The new year is upon us and what a crazy beginning it has been. The weather has broken records for the highest temperature along with the lowest temperature all within just a few days of each other. Hopefully with spring around the corner the temperature will be more predictable and seasonal.

We are revamping some of our goals and planned activities this year. We are bringing back the bike rodeo this spring. More information can be found in this newsletter (page 4) about this event. We are looking at smaller group activities that will be announced throughout the year.



We are considering going to a Rough Rider baseball game in Frisco, so look for information in the future. Also, we have a variety of activities that will be

presented to the members of the Richland Neighborhood Association. We would also encourage neighbors to let us know what types of activities you would like us to help organize.

Get involved in your neighborhood. The more involved a neighborhood is, the safer it becomes. Consider becoming a block captain, which will only take a few hours a year to meet your neighbors and encourage membership. With membership comes free or reduced prices to any of the RNA activities; you will get your money's worth by becoming a member. A more involved neighborhood also helps us to be heard by the city. To volunteer please send an email to: President@richlandhoa.com.

I'm looking forward to warmer weather and seeing people out walking and working in their yards. The beautification committee will again begin presenting yard awards starting in April, we have some amazing yards in our neighborhood. Remember you must be a member of the neighborhood association to qualify for a yard award.

D'Nelle Lyons
RNA President

President@richlandhoa.com



Crime Watch Report

Richland Neighborhood Association
Richland Park and Richland Oaks Community

National Night Out (NNO) was a remarkable success!

Richardson earned first place nationwide in Category 2 (for communities with populations between 100,000 and 300,000) for 2024 National Night Out. There were 114 block parties and park celebrations across the city that included a *Turn the Town Blue* campaign.

The event saw participation from police officers, firefighters, city and state officials, volunteers, and special guests. Since the city transitioned to Category 2 (around 2011), RPD has won First Place distinction three times.

We look forward to seeing all of you, and more, again next year. Mark October 7, 2025, on your calendar for National Night Out – 2025!

From December through mid-February we had seven incidents in our neighborhood.

- 12/02/24-6xx Goodwin: Theft of Property
- 12/17/24-5xx Goodwin: Burglary of Building
- 12/26/24-6xx Wentworth: Motor Vehicle Theft
- 01/14/25-5xx Stillmeadow: Aggravated Assault/Family/House w/weapon
- 01/22/25-6xx Harvest Glen: Motor Vehicle Theft
- 01/25/25-11xx Hilton: Public Intoxication-Alcohol
- 02/08/25-4xx Birch: Assault Bodily Injury-Family Member

RPD cautions us to be watchful neighbors to keep crime in our neighborhood down. Call 911. Do not try and scare the perpetrators away. The RPD would like to catch them in the act!

As always, **LOCK YOUR CARS** and do not leave anything in them. Do not entice the burglars or make their crime opportunities easy.

Be sure to **CLOSE YOUR GARAGE DOOR** if you are not working in your garage and monitoring who might enter your garage.

Do not leave bill payments in your mailbox for pickup. Anything with a check, or otherwise important contents, should be mailed at a post office or a USPS mailbox.

Carol Levy

CrimeWatchCoord.for.RNA@gmail.com

Take Me Home Program

The Richardson Police Department has a new program, *Take Me Home*, aimed at assisting individuals with cognitive disabilities who may struggle to communicate in emergency situations.

The program is designed to streamline the process of reuniting these individuals with their families or caretakers when officers find them.

Families or caregivers can enroll their loved ones in the program by completing an online form.

To register and learn more, visit www.richardsonpolice.net/takemehome or contact the Richardson Police Community Relations Unit at 972-744-4955.



Richland Neighborhood Association Bike Rodeo

April 5th, 10 AM-Noon, Richland Elementary

This is a FREE event, and the RPD and Richardson Bike Mart will participate!



Spring is approaching and this is a fantastic opportunity to get the bikes out and:

- Get your bike inspected and worked on by a professional from the Richardson Bike Mart
- Get refreshed on bike safety and laws from RPD.
- Get those skills honed on our skills/obstacle course.
- Meet a few neighbors.
- Maybe win one of our raffle prizes!
- Riders under 12 years of age MUST be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.
- Please, no motor-scooters!
- E-bikes are allowed, but RBM can only service them at their shop, not at the rodeo.

Come join us for some fun in the sun (hopefully), something cool to drink, and some chances to chat with your neighbor on what kind of fertilizer they are using this year!

Trash Bash second Saturday of each Month



Your RNA provides the opportunity for neighbors to help keep our neighborhood looking great. Join us on the second Saturday morning of each month at 9:00 in the park. Meet other neighbors, get some exercise, and help clean along the walls surrounding Richland Park. We finish by 10:00. Hope to see some of you there. All ages are welcome. (We provide the equipment needed to pick up the trash.)

Landscaping and trees in Richland Park

We are working with the city of Richardson to update our entrances on Walnut at Richland Park and Walnut at Lois Lane. We need you to join the Neighborhood Association to help us complete this project.

The more that join the more funds we will have to complete the landscaping on Walnut and possibly some updates on Audelia. We will also be planting two trees in the park using a matching funds program with the city of Richardson.



Let’s congratulate the “2024 Christmas Yard Award” winners!

Last December, the neighborhood was adorned with dazzling Christmas lights and festive decorations. Illuminated reindeer and walkways lined with candy canes delighted residents, while traditional wooden figures of Santa, elves, and sleighs

filled with gifts contributed to the joyful atmosphere. Families enjoyed the sight of cheerful snowmen, charming nativity scenes, and brightly lit Christmas trees twinkling from the front windows.
The winners of the 2024 Christmas Yard Awards are:



501 Stillmeadow Drive
Mary and Mo Rajabagha



528 Stillmeadow Drive
Edward and Kjesten Fiducia



520 Sheffield
Robert and Gladys Rivera



618 Wentworth
Barbara Finnigan



Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival

The musical lineup for the city of Richardson’s 2025 Art and Music Festival has been announced. The annual event is scheduled to take place May 16-18 at Galatyn Park Urban Center. Resident discounted tickets and general admission single day tickets are on sale. Single-day general admission tickets are \$25.00 on Friday and Saturday and \$10.00 on Sunday. Children aged 12 and under will receive free admission with a paid adult all weekend. Resident tickets are available for \$15.00 online only through May 16. For a full list of performers, visit www.wildflowerfestival.com/lineup.

Proposed Tax Exemption Increase

City staff briefed the city council on February 3 on a proposed increase in the property tax exemption for residents who are age 65 and over or disabled. The recommendation is to raise the city’s current exemption from \$145,000 to \$160,000. This is in keeping with the city’s ongoing goal of maintaining a tax benefit of 30 percent of the average market value of a senior or disabled individual’s home for a savings around \$867.00.

Free Tax Assistance

Free assistance in preparing and filing your taxes is available through April 15 at Heights and Huffhines Recreation Centers courtesy of the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program. The by-appointment service assists anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over the age of 50 and have low to moderate income. You do not need to be an AARP member to use the service. For more information or appointments visit <https://www.cor.net/deparments/public-library/adult/taxforms-and-and-information>.

City Council & School Board Elections

City Council and School Board trustees’ elections will be on May 3, 2025.

City Council

- Place 1 – Curtis Dorian
- Place 2 – Jennifer Justice
- Place 3 – Dan Barrios
- Place 4 – Joe Corcoran
- Place 5 – Ken Hutchenrider
- Place 6 – Arefin Shamsul (Incumbent)
Lisa Kupfer
- Place 7 – Mayor – Bob Dubey (Incumbent)
Amir Omar
Alan North

Richardson Independent School District trustees

There are three trustees up for re-election

- District 2 – Vanessa Pacheco (Incumbent)
Elaine Bonavita
Pamela Hughes
- District 4 – Regina Harris – unopposed
- District 5 – Rachael Mcowen (Incumbent)
Christina Anhelina Neria

- April 22-April 29 – Early election
- May 3 – Election Day
- June 7 – Runoff Election Day (if needed)
Become knowledgeable of the candidates and vote.

City Hall Groundbreaking

On February 8, the City Council took place in a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of Richardson’s new city hall. The new building will be completed in early 2027. The new municipal campus revitalization was funded through bond elections in 2021 and 2023 that includes renovations to the Richardson Public Library set to be completed in early 2026. For more information go to www.cor.net/NewCityHall.



Refresh Your Home on a Budget: Simple Ideas for a Spring Makeover

Spring is the perfect time to give your home a fresh, updated look without spending a fortune. These budget-friendly ideas will help you transform your space and get ready for the new season:

> Freshen Up with Paint

A fresh coat of paint can do wonders for any room. Paint an accent wall, refresh trim and baseboards, or give your front door a bold new color. A single gallon of paint can create a dramatic change.

> Update Hardware

Modernize your kitchen, bathroom, or furniture by replacing outdated cabinet knobs, drawer pulls, and door handles. Affordable options are easy to find at hardware stores or online.



> Revive Your Outdoor Space

Boost your home's curb appeal by planting colorful flowers, adding fresh mulch, or refreshing patio furniture with new cushions or a quick coat of spray paint. These simple updates can make your yard feel inviting and spring ready.

> Rearrange and Declutter

Rearranging furniture and decluttering your space can provide an instant refresh—at no cost! Donate items you no longer use and rotate décor items to create a new look and feel.

> Add Greenery

Bring the outdoors in with low-maintenance

Quick Refresh Ideas

- Budget-Friendly Plants: Try pothos, succulents, or ferns for easy-care indoor greenery.
- Best Paint Colors for Spring: Consider soft greens, light blues, or warm neutrals.
- Decluttering Shortcut: Use the “one-year rule” – if you haven’t used it in a year, donate or recycle it to give it a new life.
- Affordable Décor Updates: Check thrift stores, discount retailers, or even DIY your own seasonal pieces!

houseplants like succulents, pothos, or snake plants. A few strategically placed plants can make your space feel fresh and lively.

> Upgrade Light Fixtures

Brighten up your home by swapping outdated light fixtures or upgrading to energy-efficient LED bulbs. Affordable fixture options can easily be found online or at discount stores.

> Revitalize Floors and Carpets

Deep cleaning carpets or polishing hardwood floors can significantly refresh your home. Renting a carpet cleaner is a cost-effective way to make floors look new.

> Create a Seasonal Theme

Switch out throw pillows, blankets, and table linens with lighter fabrics and brighter colors that reflect the season. Thrift stores and discount retailers offer great options for seasonal updates.

A little creativity and effort can go a long way in refreshing your home this spring. Plus, if you’re considering selling in the future, these updates can make your home more appealing to potential buyers. Start small and watch your space come to life!

Richland Park Neighbor & Realtor, Jeana Vasquez
JeanaVasquez@ebby.com, 214-929-1569

Where were these programs when I was in school?

The Richland Neighborhood Association President and neighbors toured the Career & Technical Education (CTE) facilities at Berkner High School in Richardson. Collaborating with community and industry partners, RISD prepares students for college and careers through advanced STEM-focused academics.

They examined 3-D images of a human heart on state-of-the-art computers, met “Waffles” the robotic dog, visited a student-staffed SMART bank branch that offers real-world experience and financial literacy training, participated in an Immersion room covering everything from being on the moon to examining life forms in a lake, and toured the Cosmetology Lab and Barber Shop.

The school staff highlighted the program’s success and the contributions students can make, thanks to support from property taxes and city bonds.



“Waffles”



From the Garden...101 on Soil Fertilizers *by Yeni Gutierrez*

Vegetarian Options

➤ **Alfalfa Meal** is alfalfa that usually has grown as a cover crop, dried and ground. With a 2-0-2 NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) it is best to use in early Spring.

➤ **Cottonseed Meal** is the ground leftover from a cottonseed production. With a 6-2-1 NPK, it can be applied to soil in the fall to be ready by early spring.

Animal Based

➤ **Blood Meal** is made from dried animal blood that has been ground. It is fast acting and tends to be high in nitrogen such as 12-0-0 NPK and found in other scales. Be careful when applying because too much can increase acidity in the soil. It is best to apply a couple of months before needed, such as in early winter.

➤ **Bone Meal** is made from animal bones that have been ground. 4-12-0 NPK. It is best if applied a couple of months before it is needed to be ready (early winter is best). You can also use fish bones. A 2-4-0 up to 5-4-0 NPK can be used to plant 4-6” under the seed, 2-4” below the seedling or next to a larger plant transplant.

➤ **Bat Guano** is feces from wild insect-eating bats usually found in Southwestern Puerto Rico. With a 10-3-1 NPK and great trace minerals, it can be used when plants are growing or in between crops that need nitrogen. Also, you may create a form of plant tea fertilizer.

➤ **Kelp Meal** is found in lakes/water deposits and has great trace minerals. With a low scale of 1-0-2 NPK, kelp is favored more for its trace minerals than for its nitrogen and potassium. Apply directly or sprinkle.

Manures

➤ **Chicken** has a hot acting release that can burn the plants. It is best to let it work on an empty bed for a few months before planting. With a 3-1-2 NPK, it is great for plants and easy to find in the community.

➤ **Cow** has a moderate acting release, which is usually a 3-1-4 NPK.

➤ **Earthworm Castings** have a cold release. From food scrap build-up, you can sprinkle in the soil as needed.

Minerals

➤ **Rock Phosphate** contains a natural mineral scaling from 0-3-0 up to 0-5-0 NPK. It is used to increase or improve deficits of phosphorus levels. Soil must otherwise be healthy for this to work best.

➤ **Greensand** is an extracted mineral from Glauconite, which contains high concentrations of iron, potassium, and silicate. A must for organic gardens, it helps to bind sandy soil, as well as loosening clay soil. It also increases the water retention, conditions, and adds a variety of nutrients to the soil.

➤ **Garden Gypsum** is supplied to loosen up the soil. It is best for heavy clay soil or a soil high in salts, which can be found by taking a simple soil test. The salt will eventually replace the calcium.

➤ **Garden Lyme** helps convert an acidic soil (with a pH under 6.5) and balance the pH (above 7 which is a neutral pH) to alkalize it. A simple soil test will reveal the pH content. It is important to remember that soil tends to fix itself if the pH is not too acidic.

“Friendship isn’t one big thing; it’s a million little things.”



Richardson Public Library Receives Excellence Award

The Texas Municipal Library Directors Association announced this week that the Richardson Public Library has earned the 2024 Achievement of library Excellence Award.

The recognition is due to demonstrated distinction with the facility’s many programs and services designed to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences, including increasing community outreach, a new seed library, a puzzle swap, and multicultural events such as “Dance Around the World.”

The award places Richardson’s public library in the top 19 percent of all public libraries in Texas.

This is the 20th consecutive year the Richardson Public Library has been recognized with the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association’s Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award.



I recently read an article about “letting go.” Do you expect others to change their schedules for you? Are you a perfectionist? Do you simply worry too much? I narrowed down this intriguing article to some of the behaviors you can eliminate for a happier life.

- Let go of expecting others to adhere to your busy schedule.
- Let go of comparing yourself to others.
- Let go of the need for approval.
- Let go of unhealthy habits.
- Let go of the fear of being judged.
- Let go of unrealistic expectations.
- Let go of trying to please everyone.
- Let go of worrying about the future.
- Let go of the fear of failure.
- Let go of holding grudges.
- Let go of the need to be in control all the time.
- Let go of overworking yourself.
- Let go of blaming others.
- Let go of procrastination.
- Let go of doubting your potential.
- Let go of self- imposed deadlines.
- Let go of regret for things you cannot change.

Once you can let go, look for these green flags in the people you know.

- They celebrate your wins and support you when you stumble.
- They remember small things about you.
- They respect your boundaries.
- You feel energized after being around them.
- You do not have to watch what you say around them.
- They allow you to be yourself.
- They always have time for you.
- They listen without lecturing.

D’Nelle Lyons

RNA President

President@richlandhoa.com



Richland Neighborhood Association

2025 Neighborhood Registry

Dear Neighbors:

Please fill out the RNA 2025 registry form and include your dues for 2025. The RNA board uses your funds for a variety of activities for the neighborhood and for the beautification and security of the neighborhood. If you rent or own your home you receive the same services. We encourage renters to become involved in the neighborhood.

This year we are planning to produce a Neighborhood Directory. The information received is **NEVER** shared with outside parties — it's just for neighbors and the neighborhood. Please provide your name and address, and a telephone number. If you do not wish to have your telephone number published in the directory please indicate on the form. The directory is only successful if we receive updated information from every household. Each paid member will receive a directory.

The entire neighborhood is protected by our prize-winning Crime Watch Patrol made possible by trained neighborhood volunteers and supported by the RNA. Please help them be as effective and efficient as possible by providing your *Crime Watch Patrol* only contact telephone information, which will always be completely private and secure and used only by Crime Watch and only in an emergency (such as if your doors were left open, your property is flooding or on fire, prowlers, etc.).

Great News! You can now pay your dues quickly and easily via Venmo, in addition to PayPal and check. No more hassle—just use the QR code at the top of the membership form to access electronic payment methods.

**Membership Dues are \$50 (\$45 if paid before April 1st, 10% Discount),
starting on January 1st through December 31st, 2025.**

Dues may be paid by mail, through Venmo or PayPal at www.richlandhoa.com

Our members and volunteers sponsor many neighborhood-enhancing programs:

- **Beautification**
 - Matching Fund Projects
 - Neighborhood Integrity Programs
 - Architectural Enhancements (e.g. lighting, landscaping)
- **Social Activities for all ages**
 - Summer Neighborhood Event
 - Fall Neighborhood Event
 - Flags for 4th of July
 - National Night Out
 - Richardson Christmas Parade
- **Representation at City of Richardson meetings**
- **Coordination of matching projects with the City of Richardson**
- **Interaction with RISD (local elementary)**
- **RichlandNEWS neighborhood newsletter**
- **Neighborhood Directory**
- **Neighborhood Website** (www.richlandhoa.com) – linked to city's www.cor.net
- **RNA Social Networking** limited to residents only: <https://richlandhoa.nextdoor.com/>

The RNA board is composed of volunteers who put in many hours to make this neighborhood more secure and give the neighborhood a sense of community. Please join the RNA and help us make this neighborhood even better.

Richland Neighborhood Association (RNA)

2025 Membership Form



Please PRINT clearly or register online at www.richlandhoa.com.
Use the QR code above (your phone's camera will take you there).

1. Name & Address

_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name

House Number and Street Name			

2. For Publication in RNA Directory used only by neighbors (*not available to the public*).

Phone Number for Directory (not available to the public) _____

3. For Use Only by Crime Watch Patrol (*garage or entry doors open, security reasons*).

Primary Phone(s) for Crime Watch only _____

4. For communicating RNA meetings, planned events, and alerts (*will not be included in directory*).

E-mail address (*Not for directory*) _____

5. Volunteer Interests: Check each one that interests you! Best time to contact: _____

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Watch Patrol (2-4 hrs./month) | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain/Co-Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Advertising Marketer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Yard Award Judging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> Shredding Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> National Night Out Help | |

Comments or Suggestions:

☐ Enclosed Check or use PayPal at richlandhoa.com

Annual Dues	\$	50.00
If paid by April 1, 10% Discount	\$	-5.00
Additional Contribution (Not tax deductible)	\$	_____
Total:	\$	_____

Payable to RNA and mail with completed form to:
RNA, P.O. Box 852636, Richardson, TX 75085-2636

Shred Event Spring 2025

Front of Richland Park Elementary
The Richland Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce a **Shred Truck Event** on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9 a.m. until noon.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for residents to safely dispose of paper products such as receipts, tax documents, junk mail, and more. By participating, community members can help protect their personal information while contributing to a cleaner environment.

Don't miss this chance to securely shred your sensitive documents! There is no charge, but we will accept donations which go toward all our events.



RICHLANDNEWS Advertising Rates

The **RICHLANDNEWS** newsletter is published quarterly and delivered to the Richland Park/Oaks neighborhoods.

Listed below are two options for placing an advertisement.

Option 1: Send payment (RNA, P.O. Box 852636, Richardson, TX 75085-2636) and advertisement in by due date. If advertisement is on file we will use the current ad until a replacement is sent. You will receive a 10% discount if you are a Richland Neighborhood Association (RNA) member.

Option 2: Pay for your advertisement for a full year and receive an additional 10% discount along with the 10% discount if you are a RNA member.

The type, size and costs are listed below. Cost is per issue.

Type	Size	Cost
Business Card	3 5/8" x 2 3/8"	\$25.00
1/4 Page (Vertical only)	3 5/8" x 4 7/8"	\$50.00
1/2 Page (Horizontal only)	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	\$75.00
Full Page	7 1/2" x 9 7/8"	\$125.00
Back Page	7 1/2" x 9 7/8"	\$175.00

Advertisements must be a high resolution (300 dpi), camera-ready pdf or jpg and sent to:
news@richlandhoa.com



Your Local Realtor,
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As a Realtor deeply rooted in our community for over 16 years, I bring firsthand knowledge, experience, and a personal touch to guide you through your real estate journey.

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I am uniquely qualified to provide the specialized expertise and care you deserve, whether you're buying, selling, or planning for the future.



EBBY HALLIDAY

A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

Let's start the conversation today!



Jeana Vasquez

214.929.1569
jeanavasquez@ebby.com

I can transfer your old VHS tapes
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John W. Jones

Certified Public Accountant

Proud Sponsor of the
Richland Neighborhood Association

Go Mean Green

Crime Watch Volunteers Needed!

The Richland Park/Oaks Crime Watch needs more volunteers to help patrol our neighborhood.

To join the Crime Watch Patrol, you will need to fill out an application form. A link to the application and additional information can be found on the City Website, cor.net.



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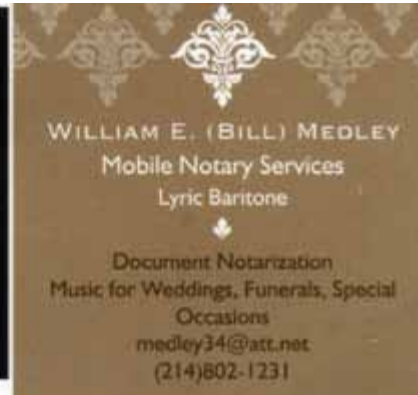
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