

RICHLAND NEWS

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

Make a positive 2024 Resolution...Join the Richardson Neighborhood Association (RNA)!

Get ready for 2024! And what better way to do that than to join your Richland Neighborhood Association (RNA)! The annual cost is only \$50, and you can join for just \$45 if you join early by April 1, 2024.

Your RNA Board is working hard already preparing for the coming year to use membership funds to benefit you and your neighborhood.

Along with matching funds from the City of Richardson, the entrances will be spruced up. So be looking for the landscape changes around the kiosks and street area welcoming you into your neighborhood.

Your membership fee also makes it possible to enjoy activities such as the 4th of July flag event, Spring Fling, and back by popular demand — the Shred Truck! And don't forget National Night Out, the Membership Directory and the General Meeting!

Look for your membership letter in the mail soon to join your RNA for 2024! Or if you would like, a membership application is always included in the newsletter (see page 13), so you can join now.

Thank you so much to all devoted members in years' past and to folks new to the neighborhood ready to join. An informed and involved neighborhood benefits us all.



2024 RICHLAND PARK/OAKS WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 Mardi Gras
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 President's Day

MARCH

- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Spring Begins
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter



Please Support our Advertisers!

Most are Richland Park or Richland Oaks residents. Their support of the newsletter pays for printing and distribution. See pages 14-20.

RNA OFFICERS/CHAIRS

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Vice President

Michael Spencer
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Secretary

Carol Harris
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Treasurer

Jerry Walker
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Carolyn Sherman

Newsletter Content and Design

Karla and Jay Weesner



President’s Message

Richland Neighborhood Association
Richland Park and Richland Oaks Community

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

As 2023 is ending I always like to look back over the year and what it has brought. I feel very blessed this year. I am so grateful that Covid is mostly behind us and people are once again wanting to reconnect with friends, family, and neighbors.

I am grateful for all the many neighbors who have joined and taken an active role in the neighborhood association. I am especially grateful to the dedicated individuals who have been on the RNA board this year. They are a group who have given so much of their time and talents for the betterment of the neighborhood.

I am grateful of the city of Richardson for its diversity and all the opportunities to be a part of the many celebrations and programs it provides.

The RNA Mission is to assure beauty, safety, and a feeling of community. This is our guiding statement. We have done some work on the entrances, and much more will be done next year.

We have organized trash bash to keep the neighborhood clean, have an active Crime Watch program to help keep us safe and have provided activities to help all neighbors have a feeling of inclusion and community.

The RNA has so many ways to connect and meet your neighbors. Here are a few ways. We meet the second Saturday of each month to help clean up the neighborhood, which only takes one hour of your time, once a month. It is a good way to get out for some fresh air and make the neighborhood shine.

We have a spring and fall event that is always in need of volunteers. The Saturday before the 4th of July we place flags throughout the neighborhood. This is always a fun-filled morning, putting out the flags and then enjoying breakfast together. Some of our neighbors have been making this yearly event for years, some are newcomers; all are welcome.

We are always in need of more crime watch members, which is a wonderful way to help keep our neighborhood safe. Block captain is another way to meet your neighbors and give the neighborhood the feeling of community. When you know your neighbors, the neighborhood is safer.

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed holiday season.

D’Nelle Lyons
RNA President

President@richlandhoa.com



Crime Watch Report

Richland Neighborhood Association
Richland Park and Richland Oaks Community

HI NEIGHBORS,

Be sure to be watchful of your surroundings during this holiday season. Crooks look for the most vulnerable and that’s who they go after. If you must go shopping at night, be sure to take someone with you.

I know I’ve said this stuff 100 times before but it’s worth repeating—be sure and break down your large boxes after Christmas. You don’t want to put it out by the trash and advertise what you got. Cut them up and put them in a plastic bag. Crooks drive our alleys to see what we got new.

Crime in the neighborhood is still down. Just be sure to close your garage door and lock your cars; don’t leave anything in it.

This is my last Crimewatch report. I am resigning my position as Crimewatch coordinator since my health just won’t allow me to continue. Hopefully, there is someone out there in the neighborhood that is willing to step up and take over for me.

It only takes a few hours a month and I enjoy going out and doing it and have for the last 25 years. Is there someone out there to continue for me to help make this neighborhood safe? I will help you out the first couple of months and will always be on call if you need me.

I have enjoyed watching over this neighborhood and will continue to do so as I drive through it. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Stay safe,
Bob McClure
Crimewatchone@yahoo.com
214-763-0589



Thank you Bob for 25 years of dedication
to the Richland Park/Oaks Neighborhood!

CRIME WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Richland Park/Oaks Crime Watch needs more volunteers to help patrol our neighborhood. We have fairly good coverage during the daytime, but are in need of help for nighttime. Unfortunately, late night is when we experience most of our problems. Therefore, we need more volunteers at night, every day of the week. This is a great way to get out, meet new people, learn new things and experience something different in life.

In order to join the Crime Watch Patrol, you will need to fill out an *application form* which we submit to the Richardson Police Department. The police will run a criminal background check on each applicant. Once all the paperwork has been cleared, the applicant will receive about six hours of training. All new applicants will also be assigned a patrol partner.

Crime Watch Patrols are extremely effective because criminals do not want to get caught by anyone, police or otherwise. So when you put those reflective signs on your cars and patrol the neighborhood, the bad guys tend to go some place else. The problem is we need to maintain these patrols at all hours in order to keep crime away.

Each shift usually consists of one and half hours of patrol time every other week (total of 3 hours per month.) The two shifts where we need the most help are evenings (7 p.m. to midnight) and deep nights (midnight to 6:00 a.m.).

RNA Board Thank You

A special thank you to the 2023 Richland Neighborhood Association Board. This group has put in so many hours during the year to keep this neighborhood safe, beautiful, and welcoming.

Michael Spencer – *Vice President* – keeps us informed of what is going on in the city.

Jerry Walker – *Treasurer* – does an amazing job of keeping up with membership dues, our books and keeping us on budget. He also heads up the Monthly Trash Bash.

Carol Harris – *Secretary* – takes minutes at our monthly meetings.

Karla Weesner – *Newsletter* – does an amazing job putting together the quarterly newsletter, selling advertisements to offset the cost, and helping put together the 2023 Membership Directory. She spends so many hours behind the scenes and makes it look easy, which it is not.

Bob McClure – *Crime Watch Coordinator* – he is so valuable in keeping the neighborhood safe. He puts in countless hours patrolling the neighborhood and training new

crime watch members. He organizes the National Night Out for our neighborhood. He also organized the curb painting project for the entire neighborhood. He will be stepping down after 25 years of service. Please thank him if you see him out in the neighborhood.

Barry Propes – *Web-social media* – he keeps our web site up to date and sends out essential information to the neighborhood. He also created our membership database and creates lists of members for our block captains. He is such a valuable member of the organization.

David Kirkland – *Activity* – he does a magnificent job planning and organizing our many events: spring fling, shredding event, and chili cook out, which unfortunately got rained out, but will be back next year.

Millie Harrison – *Beautification* – helps keep our entrances beautiful.

Carolyn Sherman and **Dave Harrison** – *Advisors* – They are valuable voices to the board to provide additional input on our many projects and events.

Thank you to all for your service; you make my job so much easier,
D’Nelle Lyons
President

Block Captains

Thank you to all who have agreed to become block captains. It is a great way to meet your neighbors. We have some long blocks; therefore, our goal is to have two block captains per block.

Block captains will be coming around in February or March to meet the neighbors. Please open your doors to them, they will be wearing a badge that will identify them as block captains. When we know our neighbors, we have a more welcoming and safer neighborhood.

Street repairs

Street repairs are starting to happen. The City of Richardson has finished making repairs to Wentworth Drive with minimum disruption and it was completed in a timely manner.

More streets are to be repaired in the near future. Remember to have patience when the streets are shut down or are rerouted, since this is the process necessary to get our streets in better shape.

2023 RNA General Meeting Update

Thank you to all who attended the Richland Neighborhood Association General Meeting on November 2nd. It was great to see so many neighbors in attendance.

The program was very informative, which included the introduction of our new Richland Elementary principal, an update from our Richardson City Manager Don Magner, and



an overview from Network of Community Ministries President Abbie Kauffman. Richardson City Manager Don

Magner gave an update on the new city hall and temporary location of city employees until the new building is completed. Construction on the new Silver Dart Line is progressing, and repairs to streets in Richland Park continue. Additionally, he answered questions from the audience.

Abbie Kauffman, President and CEO of Network of Community Ministries (Network), presented an overview of what Network is doing to help our neighbors in need. Network is an amazing

facility. If you have not been to their new home at 1500 Interurban, you need to go check it out. Also, explore the numerous ways you can volunteer to help. They need 80 volunteers each



day so there is room for all interested to find an area to lend a helping hand. Many thanks for the donations to Network from

RNA members who attended the general meeting. Sixty pairs of new socks and 70 pairs of new underwear were presented to Network from the Richland Neighborhood Association. There is always a need for these items all year long.

Thank you to all who donated to help our neighbors in need!



2024 RNA Executive Board

The new executive board was nominated and voted on at the November General meeting:

- President – D’Nelle Lyons
- Vice President – Michael Spencer
- Treasurer – Jerry Walker
- Secretary – Billie Lara

RNA Christmas Decorations



The Christmas decorations have been placed on the Audelia and Walnut side of the neighborhood. Thank you to the RNA board who spent an evening repairing the decorations with new lights and replacing broken ornaments.

A special thank you goes out to Jerry Walker, Michael Spencer, Gary and D’Nelle Lyons who installed the decorations. It is a welcome sight when driving into the neighborhood.



Yard Awards

We had some amazing yards to pick from for our August, Fall, and Halloween-Scary awards. The winners are:

August Yard Awards

- Susan Linn – 602 Birch
- Scott & Carly Thompson – 637 Tiffany Trail
- Ken & Mary Frei – 617 Stillmeadow
- Jim Chandler – 418 Birch

Fall Yard Awards

- Max Cook & Daniela Canales – 518 Harvest Glen
- Sarah Tucker – 528 Goodwin
- Edward & Kjesten Fiducia – 528 Stillmeadow

Halloween-Scary Awards

- Mo & Mary Rajabagha – 500 Stillmeadow
- Robert & Susan Stovall – 509 Stillmeadow
- Rob & Roseanne Tunnell – 628 Goodwin

Congratulations to all our winners!



National Night Out

National Night Out on October 3rd was a success! It was a beautiful evening filled with neighbors, police and firefighters visiting and sharing about safety. Thank you to Bob McClure for making National Night Out a wonderful event to get to know our City officials better.

Bob always does a great job of getting this special night organized for our neighborhood; we will truly miss him not being at the helm, but we hope to see him at these future neighborhood events. And hopefully Bob, we will maintain your friendship and recruitment capabilities with TJ's Hot Dog Truck to return to our gatherings!



New Trees in Richland Park



The Richland Neighborhood Association Crime Watch received money in memory of Vern Ruuska, a long time Richland Park resident and Crimewatch member. The amount received, along with matching funds from the city, was used to plant a tree in Richland Park by the tennis court in Vern's honor.

A second tree was sponsored by the RNA, again using matching funds, to plant a tree for the many years of dedication of Bob McClure, our Crime Watch coordinator and to honor all crime watch members. We would like to work with the city in 2024 to plant more trees in our park.

Many trees have been lost in the last few years due to the extreme cold and hot weather. The amount we can plant will depend on the support of the neighborhood membership.



Introduction from the new Richland Elementary Principal

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce myself as the new principal at Richland Elementary. I am honored to be a part of this wonderful community, which comprises exceptional students, dedicated teachers, and supportive parents. I am enthusiastic about returning to Richland Elementary, where I served as an assistant principal during the 2019-2020 school year. I cannot wait to reunite with everyone and cultivate new relationships with students, staff, and the community.

My educational journey commenced in 2013, when I began as a paraprofessional at Berkner High School. I transitioned to teaching Physical Education at Dobie Primary, while coaching football at Berkner High School. Subsequently, I served as a third-grade teacher and Special Education teacher before assuming the role of Assistant Principal. I have been an Assistant Principal for the past four years.

I grew up in the area and attended Big Springs Elementary, MST, Apollo Junior High, and Berkner High School. I

went to college at Texas A&M University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. I obtained my master's degree in Education Administration from Lamar University.

My passion lies in fostering academic growth and helping students reach their dreams. I look forward to meeting with the Richland staff, community, and students to establish strong relationships and work together toward a bright future.

Sincerely,
Bill Gattus, Principal
Richland Elementary



Richland Park Elementary Playground Upgrade

If you have driven by Richland Elementary recently you may have noticed the new playground being constructed. The wood chips have been removed that many times washed down into the street.

In the Garden...

What to do in the garden during Winter?

De-weed. Remove all dead plants and weeds.

Design. Make a Spring design on paper. List all needs (tools, seeds, pots, etc.) and gather them.

Changes. Since minimal plants are growing now, consider physical, structural, and transplants in beds and pots (Note: New or recently germinated transplants must be covered if temperatures go below 20°F – also cover plants when below 31°F, including wind factor).

Upgrade, Amend and Cover Soil. Add compost deeper in the soil, pots, or beds to add nutrients, amend soil and add fertilizer (slow release) to plants that are deficient (yellow leaves). Add more soil if needed and cover with mulch. Weeds do not stay dormant during winters and continue growing. Keep plant roots warm. Any bed/pot not in use, covered with cardboard (weigh down with some bricks, rocks, etc.)

Adjust Watering. Reducing watering periods to once or twice a week if needed.

Preparing Inventory. Best time to work on own seed catalog and to design a final planting map for the Spring and to order/trade seeds as needed.

Money Saving Tips:

Cut your water bill. In a previous conversation with the City of Richardson, they

explained that they charge per 1,000 gallons of water used and round DOWN. Meaning that if the consumption was 2,999 gallons the charge will only be for 2,000. Close the sink water while brushing your teeth, open the hot water for the shower (supervise minors on this) and then open the cold to adjust to desirable temperature. We saved 22% of our bill last month!

One week per month avoid going grocery shopping and cook from your pantry, freezer, and refrigerator. Rotation of food not only can save money, but also prevents waste and spoilage of food. Call it a family challenge or throw down! Save what would

have been spent that week for a family project, vacation, fun time or even to increase your emergency fund!

Join the Buy Nothing Project (East Richardson) on Facebook, gift and declutter unwanted items and ISO (In Search Of)/receive items useful for you. Many neighbors have joined already. It is fun and helps save money by recycling an item that still has enough life to serve a purpose.

Look for other ways to save money, try re-negotiating utility contracts, insurance, and adjust services and purchases. Do as little or as much as your budget needs.

—Yeni Gutierrez

Richardson Winter Watering Schedule

WINTER LAWN WATERING
Nov. 1-March 31

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
for odd-numbered addresses
(ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

TUESDAY & SATURDAY
for even-numbered addresses
(ending in 2, 4, 6, 8, 0)

Beginning Nov. 1, residents may water their yards at any time on their designated watering days to avoid watering during times when temperatures may drop below freezing.

MUNICIPAL UTILITY RATE INCREASES TO TAKE EFFECT

This November, rates are set to increase for some Richardson utility services. Rates for water, sewer and solid waste will increase beginning Nov. 1.

DESCRIPTION	FY 2022-23 COST	FY 2023-24 COST	ANNUAL DOLLAR CHANGE	TYPICAL RATEPAYER ASSUMPTIONS:
Water Charges	\$1,052	\$1,081	\$29	8,000 gal/month - 100 Max; 18,000 gal/month - 3-in Step
Sewer Charges	\$536	\$573	\$34	Based on 90% of water usage (7,643 gal/month)
Residential Solid Waste	\$268	\$300	\$32	Flat monthly rate of \$21 per household
Total	\$1,856	\$1,954	\$98	

Increased funding helps pay for maintenance and infrastructure costs associated with providing utility services.

More information on these and other budget impacts are available at www.cor.net/budget.



Richland Neighborhood Association 2024 Neighborhood Registry

Dear Neighbors:

Please fill out the RNA 2024 registry form and include your dues for 2024. 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.).

**Membership Dues are \$50 (\$45 if paid before April 1st, 10% Discount),
starting on January 1st through December 31st, 2024.**

Dues may be paid by mail or through PayPal at www.richlandhoa.com/Site/rha-membership/

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**
 - Spring Neighborhood Event ➤ National Night Out
 - Fall Neighborhood Event ➤ Richardson Christmas Parade
 - Flags for 4th of July
- **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) 2024 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"/> Spring 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

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

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