

NEWSLETTER

RICHARDSON CHAMBER

Our mission: we develop and provide leadership for our members and community through advocacy, alliances, economic development and education to advance economic prosperity.



Support local businesses

Can't come up with comfort food from the cabinet? Local restaurants have curbside pickup and delivery. Find your food savior for sheltered lunches or Netflix dinners.

[Visit Discover Richardson](#)

Upcoming events

We are actively developing virtual programming and want your ideas and input about content and speakers. [Suggestions for future topics](#)

Wednesdays--BizNet virtual

June 3 -- Women in Leadership

June 12 -- Annual Bowling Tournament

August 15 -- Census Day (extended)

Sept. 2 -- Women in Leadership

Oct. 27 -- Annual Golf Classic

Bailout Briefing

Stay tuned for an announcement about a webinar on Monday at noon with an expert about what the \$2 trillion bailout means to you and your business.

Resources

[Stimulus package news](#) (Business Insider)

[Unemployment tips](#) (USA Today)

[Small Business Administration loans](#)

[CDC Guidance Business Response](#)

[US Chamber Small Business](#)

[SCORE](#)

[SHRM: Health, Wellness and Leave](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Families First Coronavirus Response](#)

[Act](#) (Inc.)

An update

Best wishes to you in your social sheltering where we hope you are finding inspiration and innovation in navigating the current situation. This storm is slow to come while knowing our businesses are hurting now but pent-up demand will help us spring back.

We're thankful for our community that finds ways to connect and help others even in isolation. Internet and virtual capabilities help us connect. No doubt we'll have a new collective remembrance that serves as a bonding experience.

The Chamber's first two **virtual events** allowed us to reach into the virtual waters for our generation's version of 'reach out and touch someone.' Growth & Mobility's **Richardson IQ** update looked at both Richardson's past (how we got here) and future redevelopment. Our current retraction may emphasize how we can make virtual work, but as humans, we best flourish when working elbow to elbow with other innovative people.

Our next virtual event about **legal considerations** fulfills a thirst for navigating contracts in the face of a changed landscape. As business leaders, we're managing a lot of needs, beyond virtually 'keeping our doors open.' If you missed the legal update, you can access it [online here](#).

Everyone on the chamber board participated in a virtual meeting this week. **Mayor Paul Voelker** updated about what he calls the most difficult vote he's ever had to make, the **shelter in place order** until April 30. "We're asking our business community to make a tremendous sacrifice, and that's not lost on us," he said. "We've become a more service-oriented community. Our service industry is really taking it on the nose, and their employees are really hurting."

The city council will cut back meetings in the short term. Putting the shelter in place out to April 30 still allows them to delete parts or all of the declaration. "We can potentially cancel it," he said. "I wanted a consistent approach across all Richardson, especially since we sit in both Dallas and Collin counties." Mayor Voelker said he wanted to eliminate confusion about what was true where within Richardson, and now there is a consistent ruling across the city. If you're confused about what is an essential business is, visit the [city coronavirus website](#).

The spring **Cottonwood Arts and Wildflower festivals** have been cancelled. "We just want to be extremely cautious," he said. The next 10 days will see what happens in NYC and cases in our area to see if we are flattening the curve. "My objective is to get us back to work as soon as possible," he said.

Though the chamber doors aren't open, we as a business are. We're only an **email, phone call** or even Zoom chat away. We'll be sending out updates and ways to make your journey through the unknown easier. If you think of some way for us to help or help other members, please let us know.

Members helping others

We've found a few good news articles you may have missed amongst the avalanche of Covid-19 news and updates. Sometimes it takes a crisis for us humans to realize how good we are to each other.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas will waive member copays and deductibles for COVID-19 tests

Communion Neighborhood Cooperative has started a meal subscription plan that also helps feed those affected by the coronavirus

Lockwood Distilling, with support from Durkin Properties, has started a gofundme campaign as it starts producing hand sanitizer for local health organizations.

Vestals Catering Co. (Pizza Americana) has started Furlough Kitchen to offer furloughed hospitality workers free meals.

For those who have lost jobs, there are companies hiring for delivery, shipping, caretaking and grocery industries.

The North Texas Food Bank is hiring employees for traditionally volunteer positions using donations from Communities Foundation of Texas.

Austin-based Favor is waiving delivery fees for independent Texas restaurants.

President's Club Platinum



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas
Through it all.

GEICO®

State Farm®

Helpful articles

The 2019 tax extension: coronavirus policies explained

D Magazine

Local tax experts provide insights into the new policy, offer tips for businesses looking to preserve cash and liquid assets.

Business strategy through four phases of the coronavirus crisis

Forbes

Each phase has its own distinctive uncertainties and business strategy imperatives. Awaiting major impacts, withstanding initial impact, returning to normalcy, sorting out new industry dynamics.

McKinsey & Company executive briefing implications for business

Provides perspective on the evolving situation and implications for executives' companies.

How to keep the coronavirus from killing off America's small businesses

Forbes

After conversations with nearly fifty CEOs, some of the best tips about how to weather this storm.

Why it's so exhausting to work from home

Medium

If you're a person who spent your pre-pandemic work life in a cubicle or office, right now is a good time to throw yourself into looking on the bright side: You're not stuck at home; you're free.

Companies brace for potential inventory shortage amid coronavirus outbreak

from Community Impact

Richardson businesses that rely on China and other countries for inventory are scrambling to ensure production stays on track as the coronavirus continues to spread worldwide.

Some offshore factories are still shut down, while others are just coming back online. This has slowed production and transit of items, particularly from China to the U.S., said Lawrence P. Howorth, director of the city of Richardson's Mayor's Office of International Business. "Some [plants] have reduced production, so it's taking longer to get their products," he said.

Expert weighs in on survival tactics for Dallas-Fort Worth small businesses feeling strain from coronavirus

Can we say it enough?

- Stay home
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Don't touch your face
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Wash your hands again.

Up-to-date Richardson information is available at the city's [website](#).

from Community Impact

With new restrictions in place to limit the spread of coronavirus, many businesses are being forced to invent new ways to serve customers at a time when most Americans have been advised to stay in their homes.

Small businesses are especially vulnerable in times of crisis, said Marta Gomez Frey, director of the Collin Small Business Development Council. Without sufficient cash flow or savings, many companies are faced with the reality of having to close their doors for good, she said.

The strain on small businesses brought on by the coronavirus is threefold, Frey said. Many establishments are not only struggling to get customers through the door but are also grappling with a skeleton workforce and inventory shortages.

"The overall mood among business owners is sadness, desperation and frustration," Frey said. *Watch for details about a virtual event with Marta in the coming weeks.*

There are thousands of small businesses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In 2019, the U.S. Small Business Administration reported a collective 256,060 companies with 250 employees or less across Collin, Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties. This represented a roughly 9% increase year-over-year.

[Read more.](#)



Richardson-based company launches new platform to supplement education amid school closure crisis

As parents and educators scramble to provide a new normal for school-aged children amid a school closure crisis spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, NuMinds Enrichment, an innovative provider of engaging, mixed-age STEAM programs, has launched numinds.tv, and is now streaming free, interactive content for school-aged kids and their caregivers every week day.

"Almost with the snap of a finger, millions of parents, students, and teachers around the globe are learning to navigate a new medium for learning," said Ben Koch, M.Ed., NuMinds CEO. "We can offer the world what we are experts at: engaging, STEAM-based learning."

[Read more](#)

Profile: Jan Arrant from Methodist Richardson Medical

by Suellen Price

Hospital and healthcare stories are hugely important now, and the official communicator for Methodist Richardson Medical Center still finds time to serve on the chamber's executive committee. The helpful pieces that are serving our community have her fingerprints on them. As the director of community and public relations, Jan Arrant joined Methodist in 2015, after a 29-year career in television journalism.

The driving force for her has always been to do just one thing – make a difference. For many years, that involved giving viewers information they needed to make decisions about their daily life. After transitioning to healthcare, Jan has found her life motto still applies; only now, it's giving people information they need to make decisions about their health and wellness.

[Read more>>](#)



President's Club Gold



New and renewing members

Please welcome our new and returning members from February.

New members

Welcome! We're so glad to have you!

ADH Guardian
Batteries Plus Bulbs #588
Children's Health PM Urgent Care
Deep Cuts
Faith Hope & Love Bible Church
Meineke Car Care Center
Progressive IT Solutions
Your CBD Store - Richardson TX

30+ years

Solutions For Local Control
North Texas Premier Soccer Assoc.

20+ years

Canyon Creek Home Owners Association
Appletree Court

10+ years

President's Club

Frost Bank
Oncor
Richland College of the DCCCD
University of Texas at Dallas

Assurnet Insurance Agency
Avison Young
Canyon Creek Country Club
Cottonwood Creek Healthcare
Community
Ebby Halliday Realtors - Executive
Offices
Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Richardson
National Write Your Congressman
North Central Ford
Photo Organizing Solutions
Structure Tone Southwest
Thompson Realty Capital, LLC

5+ years

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Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Durkin Enterprises

Angel Young Realty
Durkin Properties LLC
Ebby Halliday Realtors-LopezGroup
Edward Jones - Erin Williams, Financial
Advisor
Harrington Insurance Solutions, LLC and
The Enrollment Store
MonsterADZMedia.
Plano Super Bowl
Rosies Landscaping Services, LLC
Simpson Law / Fidelity National Title
The Law Offices of Lisa Schwamkrug

1+ years

Priscilla Wood
ProNail Roofing and Construction
Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union
Total Men's Primary Care

Submissions policy:

If you feel you have a worthy submission for the Chamber newsletter (including member news), please email Amy Alexander at amy@richardsonchamber.com. Our goal is to create a communication vehicle interesting for the largest number of our members, so unfortunately not all submissions will be accepted. Also contact Amy for advertising possibilities.

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