



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

Upcoming events

Wednesdays--Business Network, first in person event April 7

[4/14 City Council Candidate forum](#)

[4/21 Growth and Mobility](#)

[4/27 & 4/28 Federal Legislative Policy Briefing](#)



Chairman profile: Eric Peltier, Prosperity Bank

Watch a new podcast with 2021 Chamber Chairman Eric Peltier, about his background and his priorities for 2021:

- **Diversity, equity and inclusion**
- **75th anniversary of the chamber**
- **5-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

[Read more](#)

Chamber update

The chamber has formed a committee to evaluate the **strategic priorities** and mission of the chamber. The results of their work will be incorporated into the chamber's application for **reaccreditation**. Every five years the health and leadership of the chamber is evaluated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to submit by the August 31 deadline.

Another committee has been formed by Chairman Eric Peltier targeting a strategic and foundational effort by the chamber for **diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI)**. Outside consultants are being interviewed, and the hope is to have a strategy in place by the end of the year.

The Richardson Chamber ended 2020 in a better **financial** place than what **budgeted**. In addition, the chamber became eligible for an SBA PPP loan, which has been received and is expected to be forgivable.

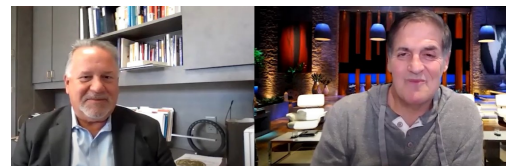
In-person chamber events beginning for those who feel comfortable: both Richardson Young Professionals and the Richardson Chamber Business Network have scheduled in-person meetings.

Sylvia Palmer, our member services manager for the last 5 years, has left the Richardson Chamber to pursue a new opportunity. She will be missed!

Welcome new members of the **Richardson Chamber board**. On the elected board will be Darrell Becket from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Kortney Gibson, BAL Global (both moving up from the advisory committee). New members of the advisory committee include Jen Royal from State Farm, Ben Isaac from Homecare Assistance, Jeffrey Tuthill from Ryan & Company, and Christine Podraza from Fujitsu Network Communications.

Annual meeting shines light on entrepreneurship

More than 250 people tuned in to hear Chamber CEO Bill Sproull interview Mark Cuban during the 2021 Annual Meeting, presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas](#).



[Stan Bradshaw, outgoing chairman of the board, served as master of ceremonies](#)

Special thanks to all the sponsors who made the event possible: [Methodist Richardson Medical Center](#), the [City of Richardson](#), [U.S. Freedom Capital](#), [Prosperity Bank](#), [KDC Real Estate Development](#), [Pillar Commercial](#), [Fobare Commercial](#) and [National Write Your Congressman](#).

[Read more here](#).

[Richard Ramey, 2021](#)

[2020 volunteers](#)

Citizen of the Year

"When I think of Richardson, I think of Richard. And the two of them go hand in hand," said Bill Keffler, former Richardson city manager.

Richard Ramey, former chairman of the board, is the Richardson Chamber's 2021 Citizen of the Year.

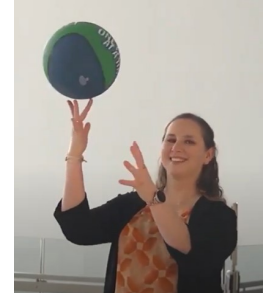
[Read more](#)



of the year

The chamber could not succeed without the work of its volunteers.

At the 2021 annual meeting, the chamber recognized several categories of awards who stayed 'on-the-ball' even during the pandemic to keep the chamber 'in the game' for the success of fellow members.



[Read more](#)

Principal



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas
Through it all.

GEICO®

State Farm®

The one who first resorts to violence shows that he has no more arguments. Chinese proverb

Richardson has a large Asian population. They aren't just our 'neighbors,' they're part of our Richardson family. I pray that recent violence stops. Period. **Our Asian family continues to show how hardworking, caring, and generous they are. They are truly valued.**

Please continue to empathize with those in our community who fear their uniqueness. Show your acceptance by nodding. Take your business to someone in another ethnic group, particularly Asian during a time when not all the messages they hear are inclusive.

We ALL are Richardson.

Bill Sproull, President/CEO of the Richardson Chamber

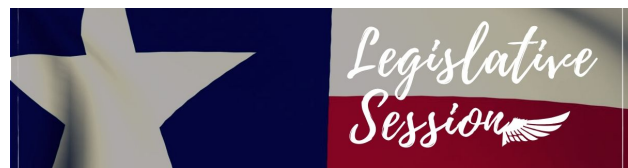
Public policy and legislative issues

Legislative decisions being made today in Austin and Washington, D.C., that will affect your business tomorrow. One of the major responsibilities of the chamber is representing members to work within the policy process for pro-business results.

There's a long list of public policy activities this spring:

- [Washington D.C. Fly-in April 27-28](#)
- [Austin Fly-in](#) (videos available)
- [Legislative updates](#)
- [Local elections](#)
- [City Council Candidate Forum -- April 14](#)
- [RISD \\$750 million bond proposal](#)
- [City bond election](#)
- [Public Policy Committee](#)

[Read more](#) for more updates on the above



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RICHARDSON
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Learn • Grow • Lead

We're diving into our 'ancestry' books and populating some memories. We'll be updating our [history webpage](#) this year.

See a [video celebration here](#) with some of our past chairs.

[Richardson's first woman president in 1976](#)

1976
Apple Computer was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. The Eagles release Hotel California. The median household income was \$16K and gallon of gas was \$.59. Jimmy Carter was elected president of the US, and **Frances Powell was chosen president of the Richardson Chamber. The first woman.**

[Read more](#)



[Member profile: Amy Martin, Go Gourmet Catering](#)

Amy Martin and her husband, executive chef Stephen, serve award-winning lasagna bolognese and just about anything else you could imagine through their full-service company, Go Gourmet Catering.

For more than 20 years, the pair has served weddings, training breakfasts, Fortune 500 events and intimate parties. They've adapted to COVID-19 precautions with individually packed meals, social distancing and masked servers.

[Read more](#)



[Ecodev: mayor's lunches and economic gardening](#)

Statistically, about 75% of all the new jobs in a community are created by local businesses. In Richardson, REDP uses a three-legged approach to retention: an annual online survey, 1-on-1 visitations (replaced in recent times by Zoom calls) and monthly mayor's lunches (also replaced temporarily by Zoom calls). The later program is an effort to acquaint the local company not only with local resources and opportunities but also to build relationships between the company's decision makers and city and chamber leadership.

[Read more](#)

[Richardson ISD update and bond information](#)

Teachers have received their first vaccine. Students are 68% face to face (the rest virtual). Student distancing can be moved from 6 feet to 3 feet, according to the state.

RISD \$750 million bond proposal—supported by the Richardson Chamber board in vote after presentation by Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Stone (right) Based on the recommendations of a community bond steering committee, RISD trustees place two bond propositions before voters as part of the May 1



election. The total of both propositions is \$750 million, the largest in RISD history. No change in the tax rate, total of \$1.4047 per \$100 of property value. Be aware: the actual ballot is required to say it's a tax increase, though RISD has creatively worked financials to make sure it won't.

[Read more](#)

[Federal stimulus includes business tax breaks](#)

Many of us have received our personal stimulus checks from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In addition, the ARPA includes several tax breaks and financial benefits for businesses.

[Here are some of the tax highlights of the ARPA](#) offered by chamber member [Bland Garvey Accountants and Consultants](#); Also, note the [extension of the tax deadline from April 15 to June 15](#) to all of Texas because of the winter storms

[Read more](#)

[Governor launches Small Business Resource Portal](#)

The [Small Business Resource Portal](#) offers a customized list of useful business resources to assist in starting or growing a business in Texas. National resources are available at the [Small Business Administration](#).

[Read more](#)

[Innovators and entrepreneurs network at IQ Brew](#)

Richardson's new Innovation Quarter, aka [Richardson IQ](#), is quickly gathering a following of entrepreneurs, small business owners and innovators. You don't have to be located in the Richardson IQ to participate in the group.

One way to stay in the know is an informative networking program called the IQ Brew.

The education and networking event featuring presentations from entrepreneurs, small businesses, and subject-matter experts meets at 9 a.m. every other Thursday.

[Read more>>](#)



[Workforce of Tomorrow](#)

One of the Chamber's primary goals focuses on the **workforce of tomorrow**. The [Interlink survey](#) is a significant tool that helps school districts train tomorrow's workers.

[Please complete this survey](#). Your participation is essential.

Access the link to download last year's report and to participate in the 2021 survey.

[Read more](#)



[Richardson business leaders support local high schoolers with internships](#)

One of the most successful programs around is the Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program. **Sign up deadline is April 8.**

Chamber CEO Bill Sproull is urging business members to get involved by hosting or sponsoring an intern, June 3-Aug. 6. Individual volunteers also are needed to help with mock interviews and the job fair April 29.

[Read more](#)





New and renewing members

Please welcome our new and returning members from January and February.

New members

Welcome! We're so glad to have you!

- AdvoCare International, LLC
- Asa Abloy Global Solutions
- Backyard Workroom LLC
- Bagel Cafe 21
- Bob Krombach
- CMIT Solutions of Richardson
- Dean Henigsmann
- Greenville Avenue Pizza Company (GAPCo)
- Ibex Digital Consulting
- Law Offices of J.R. Fletcher, PLLC
- Monster Fitness
- New York Life - Paula Miller
- Sababa Mediterranean Cuisine
- [\(Read a little bit about our marketplace new arrivals\)](#)

40+ years

President's Club

Bank of Texas - Richardson

- Como Motel, Inc.
- Education Service Center Region 10
- Credit Union of Texas

20+ years

- Advancial Federal Credit Union
- Canyon Creek Home Owners Association
- Ethnos Bible Church
- McNeff Commercial Real Estate
- North Texas Premier Soccer Assoc.
- Residence Inn by Marriott Richardson
- Richardson Rotary Club
- Texans Credit Union

10+ year

President's Club

Frost Bank
Champion Partners
Hill & Wilkinson Contractors

- Assurnet Insurance Agency
- Bell Nunnally, LLP
- DFW Chinatown/Terrace Shopping
- Lifesavers Foundation
- Shutt Law Firm, PLLC

5+ year

President's Club

Methodist Richardson Medical Center

- AIR - "Arts Incubator of Richardson"
- Blair Group Real Estate
- Charter Communications
- Covenant Realty Corp.
- Dallas County Comm. 2, JJ Koch
- Dream Angels, Inc.
- Financial Benefit Services, LLC
- Fox Byrd & Company
- Happy Tails Pet Pal, LLC
- Hyatt House-Dallas/Richardson
- Leader Mutual Freight System, Inc.
- Mass Group Mktg / Financial Benefit Services, Inc.
- Momentum Commercial Realty Inc.
- Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and School
- Spine Team Texas
- The Kirkpatrick Group, Inc.

1+ year

President's Club

Archer Western Herzog

- ACTS 29 Consulting, LLC
- Boisset Collection
- Cambria Hotel Richardson - Dallas
- Chris Landry
- Collin College - Plano Campus
- Cowles and Thompson, PC
- Criss Law Group, PLLC
- Dallas Nephrology Associates
- Dimensional Payments
- Erin Williams, Financial Advisor
- First Baptist Church Richardson
- Goetz and Sons Inc
- Herbert & Eberstein, LLP
- J Grant Insurance Agency, LLC
- Lawson Event Rentals
- LH Executive Services
- Phase Dynamics, Inc.
- Priscilla Wood
- Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union
- Simply Grace
- Springtree Restoration LLC
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
- VerbaCom
- Z Constructors

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.

