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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.

January edition

Legislation

[Education the focus of 2019 Texas Legislature](#)

School funding and property taxes top the list of priorities for the 2019 Texas Legislature. The 86th Legislature is off to an exciting start. More than 1,000 bills have been filed since November of last year.

Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick and the newly-elected Speaker Dennis Bonnen committed to collaborate on key issues during the upcoming session.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced an additional 8.1 percent will be available to lawmakers for the next budget.

[Read more](#)

iDream 2019 (video)

[Event identifies future career opportunities for 7th graders](#)

Year 2 of the iDream program was a clear success for Richardson 7th-graders and local professional mentors.



More than 300 students from Forest Meadow, Lake Highlands, Apollo and Liberty schools attended iDream 2019 at Richland College to learn about careers and the different paths to success.

[Read more](#)



Blog

[Hindsight: What business owners wish they would have done differently.](#)

by Manasseh Durkin, vice president/membership services

They say hindsight is 20-20. If you only would have known. As a business owner, you may already have a few things you wish you knew. Would you have hired that one person? Perhaps you would have started your company sooner. While it is important to look back, reflect and learn from these decisions, it is also important to realize that, when you are at the end of your business ownership, your wishes may be much different.



What do owners reflect on?

There are many things business owners wish they would have done differently. Here are some common themes that seem to come to light.

[Read more](#)

[City breaks ground on inclusive playground](#)

The City of Richardson has broken ground for the new Ann Eisemann Inclusive Playground at Cottonwood Park. The Richardson East Rotary Club led the fund-raising campaign that raised \$500,000.

The first of its kind in Richardson, this playground will be a free, outdoor, safe and inclusive

play environment. It will encompass sensory-rich structures designed to engage children of all ages and create a unique and meaningful community environment. Improvements include easier access amenities like ramps and specialized surfaces.

Take a virtual tour of the playground [here](#).

[Read more](#)



Profile

[Eyes on North Texas congressmen in 2019](#)

All eyes are on Congress at the start of 2019. The Richardson area has welcomed back area incumbents, and said hello to a few new ones. One particular North Texas freshman has drawn the attention of GQ magazine to document his transition.

Colin Allred is one of those people whose résumé prompts parents everywhere to remind their children-no matter their children's actual ages-that they really need to get their lives together.

[Read more](#)



Member news

[Humble beginnings: The story of Richardson Bike Mart](#)

Community Impact Newspaper

Walking into [Richardson Bike Mart](#) feels more like stumbling into a cyclist's fever dream. Clusters of bicycles line the walls, the floor and even hang from the ceiling.

At any given time owner and President Woody Smith said at least 1,000 bicycles are ready for purchase. Combine that with the roughly 500 warehoused bikes waiting to be assembled and another 1,500 housed at nearby locations, and what results is a companywide inventory that rivals shops nationally and perhaps even globally, Smith said.

[RCT: Bridges, a new cultural outreach program](#)

Repertory Company Theatre, through a special grant from Ann and Charles Eisemann Arts Innovation Initiative, will host a new multicultural outreach program, BRIDGES , designed to bring cultural groups, arts organizations, artists and communities together through the arts. The two-part event is scheduled for February and March at RCT's new theatre on Coit Road. For more information, click [here](#).

[Read more](#)

[Member profile: Ben Isaac, Home Care Assistance of Richardson](#)

His doting grandma set Ben Isaac on a path of helping those in need.

As a small child in Liberia, Isaac lived with his grandmother, who, he admits, spoiled and pampered him. When her health began to decline, he watched, and helped, his mother as she took on the care caregiving role.



Today, Isaac and his wife own the local franchise, Home Care Assistance of Richardson . "I chose HCA because of their unique and robust approach to senior care," he said. "It emphasizes relationships, longevity and living a purposeful life in the non-medical care for the elderly."

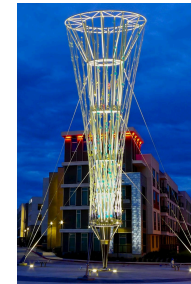
[Read more](#)

[Study finds Richardson's cultural arts sector a multimillion dollar business](#)

Community Impact

Richardson is often perceived as a tech-powered machine. But behind the city's digital facade is a bustling cultural arts community advancing the city's knack for innovation.

In 2015 national nonprofit Americans for the Arts released a study that quantified the economic impact of dollars spent in Richardson by arts and cultural organizations and their audiences amounted to \$20.6 million. Revenue to local government came in at \$831,000, while the state collected over \$1 million.



[Read more](#)

[News around Richardson in January](#) [Save the date: State of the City is Jan. 30](#)

Join Mayor Paul Voelker and the Richardson City Council at the annual State of the City Address at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30 at the Eisemann Center. The event and parking are free and open to the public, but space is limited, so be sure to arrive early.

[D-FW office leasing surged in the fourth quarter](#)

Dallas-Fort Worth office activity jumped in the fourth quarter with almost 1 million square feet of net leasing.

[City staff presents plan to implement zoning flexibility for innovation district](#)

A timeline for zoning changes and other land entitlement steps needed to deliver a 1,200-acre innovation district east of US 75 were presented to Richardson City Council at a Jan. 7 meeting.

[Read more](#)

New and renewing members

Please welcome our new and returning members from December.

New members

Welcome! We're so glad to have you!

PS Business Parks
Fresenius Medical Care Renner Rd.
Dialysis Center
Plano Symphony Orchestra
Vina Back Office Payroll
First Baptist Church Richardson
Parelli Marketing, LLC
David A. Kobilka
Lance Engstrom

40+ years

President's Club

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

30+ years

Solutions For Local Control
Arnold M. Stokol, O.D. and Associates

20+ years

Pioneer Bank
J. R. Black Properties, Ltd.
Ebby Halliday Realtors - Frederick

10+ years

President's Club

Reliable Chevrolet

Peloton Commercial Real Estate
City of Richardson Civic Center
Ethnos Bible Church
Ebby Halliday Realtors - Executive
Offices

5+ years

President's Club

State Farm
Afrah

Ace Hardware of Richardson
Regional Plastic Surgery Center
Dana Shepperd & Associates, LLC
Mass Group Mktg / Financial Benefit
Services, Inc.
LBJ Communications LC
Fox Byrd & Company
Leake CPA, PC
Canyon Creek Art & Frame
AIR - "Arts Incubator of Richardson"
Dream Angels, Inc.
Shutt Law Firm, PLLC
Autoflex Leasing
Photo Organizing Solutions
Neighborhood Credit Union

1-4 years

President's Club

Archer Western Herzog
Technifax Office Solutions
Holiday Inn Dallas-Richardson
Synexus

Align Right Chiropractic
The Chicago School of Professional
Psychology
Breckinridge Family Medical Group
Edward Jones - Williams
Aloft Richardson - CLSH 148, LLC
Ebby Halliday Realtors -Shuey
Group
Richland Real Estate
Apartment Association of Greater
Dallas
Evolution Academy Charter School
Hyatt House-Dallas/Richardson

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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