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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.



Chamber board announced for 2020

Congratulations to the Chamber members who were newly elected or re-elected to serve on the Richardson Chamber board of directors and executive committee. Their term will begin or resume in January 2020. Join us as we welcome and appreciate their commitment of time and energy.

Chairman of the Board - Stan Bradshaw - US Freedom Capital

Economic Division - Susan Kassen - Ebby Halliday Realtors
Member Services - Eric Peltier, Legacy Texas Bank
Community Division - Jan Arrant, Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Business Services - Monica Scott, Logotology
Budget/Finance - Manasseh Durkin - Durkin Enterprises
Past Chair - Kory Aoyama - Blue Cross Blue Shield

[Congressmen Taylor and Allred meet with chamber delegation](#)

Freshman Congressmen Collin Allred (D-TX 32nd District) and Van Taylor (R-TX 3rd District) met with Richardson business people and Chamber members last month to discuss their introduction to Washington and federal policies that directly impact the North Texas region.



Both congressmen agreed that major priorities include passing additional infrastructure funding for the North Texas region. Texas is projected to double in population by 2050. New highways, bridges and investments in infrastructure will be critical to support Texas' prosperous economic growth.

[Read more](#)

[Architecture and Construction Careers academies kick off first school year](#)



The inaugural freshman class of the Architecture and Construction Careers Academies at Richardson and Lake Highlands high schools is under way.

This group of students will be the first to graduate four years from now with the new curriculum that includes 60 hours of dual credit. They will exit high school with an associate's degree and be ready to join the workforce. Compensation for these new hires is expected to be in the mid-\$30,000 range, and they will not have any debt from school.

The Richardson Chamber served as a facilitator bringing together future employers and educators to identify skill needs and develop appropriate curricula.

[Read more](#)

[Empty office buildings chip at Richardson's commercial occupancy rate](#) *from Community Impact Newspaper*

Roughly 15% of Richardson's 23 million square feet of office space was available for lease in the second quarter of 2019, according to commercial real estate database CoStar. The city's vacancy rate is compounded by several large office buildings that are either totally empty or contain large swaths of contiguous vacant space.

According to CoStar, there are 19 buildings with at least 50,000 square feet of available space. Ten of those buildings have more than 100,000 square feet of vacant space. These commercial vacancies are more a sign of success than failure, said John Jacobs, executive vice president of economic development at the Richardson Chamber. Available space is key to maintaining a healthy and thriving market, he said.

"The analogy I make is if I'm running a car dealership, I want my parking lot full of cars ready to sell," he said.

[Read more](#)



A broad recap of happenings and accomplishments from various chamber members in the media and unofficial word of mouth. Anniversaries, moon dust and mobile apps, oh my!

[Read more>](#)

[President's Club profile: Afrah](#)

Restaurants come and go quickly as consumers' tastes change at the speed of the latest Yelp review.



In Richardson, one restaurant has remained a favorite for almost 20 years: Afrah Mediterranean Restaurant and Pastries. The family-run restaurant offers rich, exotic and authentic Lebanese fare influenced by a variety of Mediterranean flavors. Most of the dishes on the menu evolved from the recipes of the owners' mother.

"We started as a pastry shop in February of 2002," said Ayad Elhor, owner and manager of Afrah. "Our Mediterranean sweets became so popular that we decided to provide more of our family's southern Lebanese recipes to our customers. Eventually we evolved into the full-service restaurant we are today."

[Read more](#)

[UT Dallas ranks high in positively impacting students' economic growth](#)

by UT Dallas

Not a day that goes by that we do not hear about the cost of higher education. But is the cost of a college degree worth it? In other words, does it pay to invest in yourself (or have someone invest in you)? We believe the answer to that question is yes, and especially so at The

University of Texas at Dallas which is both highly selective and capable of economic transformation of its students. But don't take my word for it, let's turn to the data.



[Read more](#)



[Mayor's intern program almost doubles in second year](#)

In just its second year, 41 teens have completed the Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program. They were honored by Mayor Paul Voelker at a celebratory luncheon at the Eisemann Center for

Performing Arts. The program has grown from 24 internships and 24 employers/sponsors in its first year to 41 internships and 45 employers/sponsors today.

[Read more](#)

[Rich Talk Podcast](#)

Hear success tips from Richardson's business community, including business leaders, government officials and successful community contributors who can help you and your business. Our podcast with Mayor Paul Voelker is available. Sometimes we'll load the audio from an event that we found particularly educational. Available on Apple Podcast, Google, Spotify or Stitcher.



[Women in Leadership, preparing for the next stage](#)

At the September Women in Leadership event, a panel spoke to women from millennial to pre-retirement, including legal and financial experts, to find out how you can be prepared for your

future. Examples include Kathy Tran who runs a business at 25 years, Amanda who had cancer by 25, and Kristen whose husband was in the military.

[Listen](#)



[Nominations are being accepted for the Education & Workforce Hero Award](#)

Nominations are being accepted for the second annual Education & Workforce Hero Award.

The award recognizes an organization or individual that has provided significant support for education initiatives and projects that advance the Richardson Chamber of Commerce's education and workforce goals.

Ken Hutchenrider, city councilman, president of Methodist Richardson Medical Center and former chairman of the Richardson Chamber, was the first recipient of the award.

[Read more](#)

[Leadership Richardson kicks off Class XXXV](#)

LR Class 35 kicked off its year with the Amazing Richardson Road Rally and welcome dinner in August. Grouped into small teams, class members followed clues and puzzles to points of historical and other significance as they learned more about Richardson.

Dinner was hosted by Dr. Kay Eggleston and Richland College. Guests included chamber CEO Bill Sproull, Chamber Chairman Kory Aoyama, Mayor Paul Voelker and City Manager Dan Johnson. Follow the class's progress at #leadrich on Twitter.

[Read last month's LR profile.](#)



[Richardson in the news](#)

- Groundbreaking held for Main Street Revitalization Project
- Richardson named a top 10 U.S. recession-proof housing market
- Richardson ranked 10th best small real estate market in U.S.
- Cottonwood Art Festival announces musical acts
- DART silver line Q&A available
- RISD's Dr. Jeannie Stone wins Superintendent of the Year from Texas PTA

[Read more](#)

[Tech Titans celebrates North Texas' best and brightest at awards gala](#)

14 companies, organizations and individuals honored for significant contributions to their industries

Tech Titans recognized outstanding technology companies and individuals in the North Texas area who have made significant contributions to their industries at its annual awards gala Friday, Aug. 23.

Beyond business winners, the university STEM winner receives \$25K and a high school teacher receives \$4K.



Pictured are city council members, Tech Titans gala chair Deborah Sawyer, and Richardson finalists: Denyse Carpio from UTD's Institute of Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Rym Zalia-Wenkstern from UTD's Dept. of Computer Science.

[Read more](#)



[Health & Wellness Expo shapes up Richardson, Oct. 18](#)

Join us at the Richardson Civic Center and find your local doctor, dentist, dietitian or gym. Weight, body mass index and blood pressure screenings as well as healthy snacks will be available.

Last year, almost 50 vendors participated in the free event to inform consumers about products and services that encourage good health and fitness, increase mobility, address special needs care and provide nutrition.

Methodist Richardson Medical Center is this year's presenting sponsor. Platinum sponsors are **Visiting Angels** and **Celebration Magazine**. Gold sponsors include: Meredith G. Davis,



DDS, Fitness Together Richardson, The Plaza at Richardson, Appletree Court, Twin Rivers Assisted Living & Memory Care and Cottonwood Creek Healthcare.

For more information

Field Day...for grown-ups!

Remember the unbridled anticipation of field day at school? The Richardson Young Professionals (RYP) are hosting an adult field day that will make your inner child burst with excitement! On Friday, Sept. 27, RYP will host its first-ever RYP Color Games at CityLine.



The field day + color dust + team building mashup will allow teams of 4-6 individuals to engage in a series of 10 games that incorporate color dust. Think field day meets color run. Join us for an afternoon of fun and games, followed by a post-games happy hour at a nearby restaurant.

Register as a team or as an individual. Individual registrants will be paired with one another to be on a team together. Registrants will receive a white-RYP Color Games t-shirt and sunglasses.

To register

32nd annual Richardson Chamber Golf Classic coming Oct. 29



Come rub shoulders with the best of Richardson at the 32nd annual Richardson Chamber Golf Classic. Spend a day on the links, shoot your ball from an air cannon, play games, and enjoy the networking happy hour and awards ceremony.

The tournament is a scramble format with four players per team. Open to members, prospective members, and your customers and clients. This popular event was a sell-out last year, so register early to reserve your spot.

This high visibility event is a great way to gain valuable exposure to business and community leaders. Sponsorships are available at all levels, beginning at \$200, and many can be selected through the registration link.

To register



Barbara Tunstall joins member services team

Barbara Tunstall has joined the Richardson Chamber full time supporting our member services effort. Barbara has been a long-time volunteer with the Richardson Chamber and Tech Titans. She has a long history of working in client-centric industries such as academia (Brookhaven College), restaurant, retail & wholesale apparel (Jones New York), real estate (new home sales and properties manager), technology (Impiger Technologies), transportation (Bubbl) and healthcare (Assisting Hands).



[Read more](#)

Ambassadors of the month

A special thank you to our hard-working ambassadors. By maintaining a strong connection with our members, ambassadors develop business relationships and maintain networks that strengthen the chamber, as well as offer considerable benefit to ambassadors and their businesses.

Our summer ambassadors of the month are **Mark Kobilka, Vivan Plumlee and Amy Taylor**.

[Read more](#)

New and renewing members

Please welcome our new and returning members from July and August.

New members

Welcome! We're so glad to have you!

- Alterra
- American Benefits Exchange, LLC.
- ATM Depot Inc
- Christ Community
- ClearCaptions
- Dispatch Health
- Drury Plaza Hotel Dallas Richardson

10+ years

President's Club

- Adolfson & Peterson Construction
- Reliant, an NRG Company
- Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano
- Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Store
- Einstein's Eyes Web Design
- Grand Brook

1-4 years

President's Club

- Ryan, LLC
- Stephens & Associates
- Adams Surveying Company, LLC
- Anchor of Hope Hospice
- Atria Richardson
- BB&T - Garland
- Bridge Builder Academy

ER Near Me - Richardson
 Labor Finders of Dallas
 Lockwood Distilling Company
 New York Life - Network Blvd.-Frisco
 Pineda's Mexican Cuisine
 Primrose School of Breckinridge Park
 Principal Financial Group
 Six Springs Tavern
 Society190
 Sylvan Learning of West Richardson
 The Core Theatre
 The Ron Toye Team at Mid America
 Mortgage
 VerbaCom

30+ years

EVS Supply
 Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager &
 Smith
 Solutions For Local Control
 Texans Credit Union

20+ years**President's Club**

Fossil Group
 Granite Properties

Apex Supply Company
 DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit)
 Residence Inn by Marriott -
 Richardson-Waterwood Dr.
 Richardson Bike Mart
 Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse
 Warren Center

Kish, Manktelow & Bailey PC
 Linebarger, Goggan, Blair &
 Sampson, LLP
 McNeff Commercial Real Estate
 Plaza of Richardson
 Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel
 RISD Excellence in Education
 Foundation Inc.
 Smith Anglin Financial, LLC
 Texas Bank and Trust
 Texas Restaurant
 Trinity Bible Church
 Twin Rivers Senior Living

5+ years**President's Club**

Dorian Bahr / Dorian Development

Afrah Restaurant
 Al's Fair and Square Home Repair
 Altrusa International, Inc
 Citadel Partners, LLC
 CityLine Dental Center
 Commissioner Dr. Teresa Daniel
 Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate
 Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy
 Lemons & Hallbauer, LLC
 Richardson Arts Alliance
 Richardson Woman's Club Charitable
 Foundation Inc.
 Speedpro Imaging Richardson
 Tejano Brothers Black Tie Catering
 Urban Eatz
 US Freedom Capital

Care N' Care
 Coldwell Banker Realtor-John
 O'Haugherty
 Edward Jones - Mark Hendrick
 El Dorado Senior Living Community
 Farmers Insurance - Roy
 Stringfellow Agency
 Firewheel Town Village
 Go Gourmet Catering
 Guitars & Growlers
 Happy Tails Pet Pal, LLC
 J Hilburn
 Jasper's
 Law Offices Richard C McConathy
 Lawson Event Rentals
 LMC Park Central at The Briscoe
 Lockwood Real Estate Partners LLC
 Mohr Partners, Inc.
 Nothing Bundt Cakes Richardson
 Painting with a Twist - Richardson
 REMAX Select Homes
 Skiles Group Inc.
 Snuffer's
 Spring Valley Athletic Association
 Synexus
 Texas State Optical Custer Creek
 Topgolf Allen
 Vila Brazil Restaurant
 Village at Mapleshade, The
 Will on Wheels/Vicki S. Ratliff, PC

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.

Richardson Chamber of Commerce | (972) 792-2800 | www.richardsonchamber.com
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