

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.

Upcoming events

Feb. 3 -- Deadline to register to vote
Feb. 21 -- Annual Meeting
March 4 -- BizNet at the Drury (every Wednesday)
March 4 -- Women in Leadership at the Drury
March 9 -- Public Policy
March 25-- Growth & Mobility
March 26 -- International Concierge Committee
April 1 -- Census Day
April 1 -- Business deadline for Mayor's Internship
April 30 -- RYP Color Games
June 3 -- Women in Leadership
June 12 -- Annual Bowling Tournament
Sept. 2 -- Women in Leadership
Oct. 27 -- Annual Golf Classic

[See what's on the calendar.](#)

Richardson in the news

State of the City presentation

A recap of news from and about Richardson. Read about the new Innovation District, DART updates and the 2020 Census.

[Read more](#)

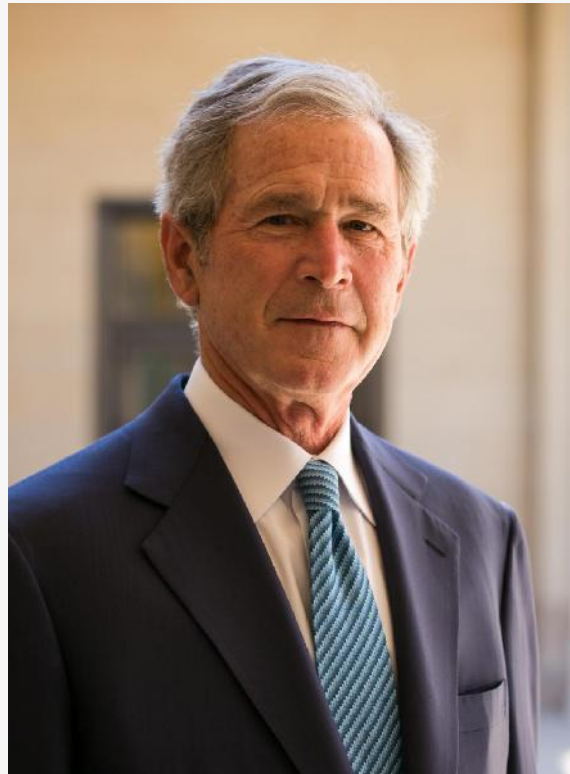
Member news

A broad recap of happenings and accomplishments from various chamber members in the media. Texas Instruments, Methodist Richardson Health Center, UTD, State Farm and more.

[Read more](#)

In this issue:

- New name for innovation district
- Booming financial firms spreading wealth
- Richardson creates a land for future giants
- Applications open for Mayor's summer internship program
- iDream speakers continue to inspire students



Annual Meeting to feature President George W. Bush

This year's Annual Meeting will be a 26-year return engagement from when he first spoke at the Annual Meeting in 1994 as a gubernatorial candidate.

President Bush will be featured in a fireside chat on Friday, Feb. 21 at the Renaissance Hotel Dallas-Richardson presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

A few things have changed, and Mr. Bush will share his perspective about a variety of topics, predominately his passion for helping military veterans. Attending companies are encouraged to invite their employees who are veterans to attend.

Sponsors include Fujitsu, KDC, Lennox, State Farm, Texas Instruments, UT Dallas, Methodist Richardson Medical Center,

- Business network helps members build working relationships
- Howworth to focus on international business
- Ambassador profile: Vicki Ratliff
- Sproull named to Governor's Broadband Development Council
- Economic outlook for 2020
- Census 2020
- Election news 2020

Qorvo, Associa, and Adolfsen & Peterson.

Individual tickets will go on sale Monday. All sales are final by Feb. 7.

[Read more](#)

President's Club Platinum



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas
Through it all.

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Board sets 2020 goals

It's time for putting into play organization goals. Our processes are similar to those of our member businesses. Our focus is making decisions that best engage and benefit our members.

[Read more and watch video>>](#)

Rezoning of innovation district unanimously approved by Richardson City Council, new name introduced



From Community Impact Newspaper

Richardson City Council ratified a yearlong process when it voted to approve the comprehensive rezoning of a 1,200-acre industrial area in Richardson.

Bill Sproull, president and CEO of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, and Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker announced the name of the district at a special ceremony Jan. 28.

The goal of the rezoning effort was to maximize redevelopment potential in the Collins-Arapaho Innovation District, an area east of US 75 where city leaders plan to create a thriving tech hub. Prior to this change, 90% of the district was zoned for industrial and office purposes, according to Planning Projects Manager Doug McDonald.

[The IQ: Richardson Innovation District unveils new name and branding \(Dallas Innovates\)](#)

[KRLD interview with President Bill Sproull](#)

[Read more](#)

Big names, big footprints

D-FW's booming financial firms are

Richardson creates a land for future

spreading the wealth

from *The Dallas Morning News*

In many North Texas cities, finance and insurance companies are among the largest employers. Their jobs pay well, too.

Technology and upstarts are creating disruptions in the financial sector, resulting in cutbacks in some areas and slow job growth nationwide. But in Dallas-Fort Worth, finance and insurance jobs are booming — and the bounty spreads throughout the region.

Some firms in the sector are among the largest employers in local cities, including State Farm in Richardson, Citigroup in Irving, Capital One in Plano and Fidelity Investments in Westlake.

Together, those four workplaces accounted for just over 24,000 jobs last year, according to annual reports compiled by the cities.

[Read more](#)

giants

from *D Magazine*

In June, the city of Richardson joined the Better Block Foundation to throw a party in a burgeoning neighborhood. Inside what's for now being called the Collins/Arapaho Transit-Oriented Development and Innovation District—a place filled with generally uninviting, aging, one-story manufacturing buildings—workers trotted out food trucks, brought in live music, and invited anyone who works in, lives in, or visits the area.

More than anything, the block party served as a preview of what the city wants this pocket to become. It was held behind the buildings on grass, where a couple of temporary bridges brought together both sides of a stream that has long split the development with the other. Employees have been known to walk around the area's many parking lots after lunch for exercise, but here, they were made privy to a new trail the city plans to install, weaving back and forth across the stream. Chairs and picnic tables added some needed life to the green space. "I was incredibly impressed with the turnout," says Krista Nightengale, managing director at the Better Block.

[Read more](#)



Applications open for Mayor's summer internship program

Employer sign-up deadline is April 1

The Mayor's Summer Internship Program has opened the application process for the 2020 session. Now in its third year, the program is a collaboration between the city, RISD and the Richardson Chamber of Commerce.

It enables incoming high school seniors to receive eight weeks of paid summer employment at a local business, non-profit or government agency.

Students gain invaluable real-world experience and exposure to careers in which they've expressed an interest, work 20-40 hours per week and earn a minimum of \$10 per hour. *(Photo from Alliance Architects)*

[Read more](#)



iDream speakers continue to inspire students

Third time's a charm, and it certainly was for the iDream program.

iDream is an initiative between the Richardson Chamber's Education and Workforce Committee and the Richardson Independent School District.

More than 400 7th-graders from Forest Meadow, Lake Highlands, Apollo and Liberty schools attended iDream 2020 at Richland College to learn about careers and the different paths to success.

[Read more](#)

Business network helps members build

Tri-chairs

Grant Tonne, the son of BizNet chamber liaison and relationship coordinator, Ginger Tonne, is the founder of J. Grant Insurance. J. Grant Insurance Agency, LLC provides auto insurance, home insurance and commercial insurance to the Dallas metro area and all of Texas.

Marvin Thornton, Harrington Insurance Solutions, LLC. We are a team of licensed agents that are brilliant at making health insurance easy.

Luke Hamlett, senior loan officer, Supreme Lending. Established in 1999, Supreme Lending is a full service mortgage lender with licenses in all 50 states and branches throughout the U.S.

It's all about the networking (and the food).

One of the easiest and simplest benefits of chamber membership is meeting other business people and developing positive working relationships.

One very successful group is **Richardson Business Network Breakfast**. With more than 40 members strong, the group meets from 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. every Wednesday. Currently, the group meets at the chamber, but will begin meeting at the Drury Hotel, a title sponsor of the group along with Meredith Davis DDS, starting March 4. The group is on pace to have 65 active members by the end of the year.

Each week, a local business or agency representative presents information relevant to the Richardson community.

The format moves between networking with attendee "commercials," business topic roundtable discussions, a speaker series and some road trips to chamber member locations. Attendees can expect door prizes and plenty of networking opportunities.

Entry is free for chamber members. Guests are \$5. Other sponsors include supporting sponsors Autoflex Leasing and John O'Haughtery, SRS of the Coldwell Banker Residential group.

[Read more](#)



Howorth joins chamber to focus on international business

Please welcome the newest member of the chamber team.

Lawrence Howorth has made a smooth transition into the role of vice president of international business development. He fills the big shoes left by Mike Skelton, who has retired. He also serves as director of the Mayor's Office of International Business for the chamber's sister unit, the Richardson Economic Development Partnership.

Lawrence has worked in international business for 40 years. He has worked side-by-side with Mike for many



Ambassador profile: Vicki Ratliff

Hands up! How many of you have "make a will" on your 2020 to do list? How many years has it been on your annual to do list?

Chamber Ambassador Vicki Ratliff makes it easy to check off.

Vicki is an estate planning and probate attorney. "I am a mobile attorney who goes to my clients rather than the other way around. I offer [wills on wheels](#)."

Vicki joined the chamber in 2018 after attending the initial Senior Service Networking group. She has since been a speaker as well.

years through his personal business, [Howorth International LLC](#), which he still continues.

[Read more](#)

She recently became an official ambassador. "I get to hang out with cool people," she said. "I get to learn about all the new businesses in the city. I love attending ribbon cuttings and meeting new people."

[Read more](#)

Sproull named to Governor's Broadband Development Council

Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed Chamber President and CEO Bill Sproull, to the Governor's Broadband Development Council for terms set to expire August 2024.

The council was created following the 2019 state legislative session to advise the legislature about steps needed to improve Internet access in rural areas.



[Read more](#)



The Growth & Mobility Luncheon is held at the chamber on the third Wednesday every other month beginning and focuses on current economic development activities and transportation issues impacting Richardson and the surrounding area. Cost is \$15 per person; please register online. Chamber members and special guests only. The next luncheon is slated for March 18.

The purpose of the Growth & Mobility committee is to provide RCC members with the latest information involving economic development and transportation affecting the Richardson area and to promote greater awareness of economic development and transportation issues.

Economic outlook for 2020

By *Hank N. Mulvihill, Jr. CCM®, CWS®, CFP®*
Director and senior wealth advisor
Smith Anglin Financial, LLC

Presented at January's Growth & Mobility Luncheon

This year looks poised to be a good year for U.S. growth. This is important because most of Richardson's economic well-being depends on a healthy national economy, and funding for technology development.

Many economies around the world are struggling with low growth and negative interest rates. The U.S. is likely to outperform the other advanced economies.

[Read more](#)



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Census
2020

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place

Census Day 2020 is April 1.

An accurate count is essential to driving the future of Richardson.

The once-a-decade population count affects local representation in government, determines how much funding a community receives and provides data to help businesses plan.

[Read more](#)

Register to vote in 2020;

Deadline is Feb. 3

2020 is set to be the biggest election year in recent memory.

It kicks off March 3 as Texans head to the polls. Republicans and Democrats have filed for their respective primaries. Richardson residents, depending on where they live, can vote in certain state and county races.

Candidate forums about education

Raise Your Hand Texas, a statewide advocacy group working to reinvent public education and offer a level playing field for all students, is hosting a series of candidate forums that will be focused solely on education. The forums are non-partisan as all candidates in each race have been invited to participate to participate.

The chamber is sponsoring the Feb. 4 forum at Fretz Park Branch Public Library.

[Read more](#)



President's Club Gold



A very special thank you

Salute to our largest-investment members

The Richardson Chamber companies in the top tiers of investment are true business and community leaders who have chosen to go the extra mile in their volunteer leadership and financial support of the chamber.

This month, we want to showcase our government and education partners: **the City of Richardson, Richland College of the DCCD and the University of Texas at Dallas.**



By working together, these entities and the chamber help create significant economic opportunities and help prepare students for the workforce of the future. Through their ongoing commitment, these members help the chamber realize its vision to enhance the business environment for its members and the community. Many chamber activities would not be possible without their involvement.

[Read more about the City of Richardson, Richland College of the DCCD and the University of Texas at Dallas.](#)



New and renewing members

Please welcome our new and returning members from November and December.

New members

Welcome! We're so glad to have you!

CareNow
Carrollton Springs
City Central

10+ years

President's Club

KDC Real Estate Development & Investment

Metroplex Self Storage
Regional Plastic Surgery Center
Richardson Dentistry
Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and School
Shutt Law Firm, PLLC

Five Star Ford Dallas
Heather Adcox
Hyatt Place Dallas/Park Central
Lauren McCarthy
Phase Dynamics, Inc.
Rockport Construction Group
Six Springs Tavern

40+ years

President's Club

Lennox International Inc.

Credit Union of Texas
Education Service Center Region 10

30+ years

AlphaGraphics
Blanchard and Associates
Network
Solutions For Local Control

20+ years

Advancial Federal Credit Union
Ebby Halliday Realtors - Frederick
Judd, Thomas, Smith & Company, PC
Pioneer Bank

City of Richardson Civic Center
Convention & Visitors Bureau (City of
Richardson)
Eisemann Investments
Ethnos Bible Church
KDC Real Estate Development &
Investment
Photo Organizing Solutions
Preferred Business Solutions
Sherwin-Williams
The Wellington at Arapaho

5+ years

President's Club

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema DFW

Ace Hardware of Richardson
Autoflex Leasing
Blair Group Real Estate
Canyon Creek Art & Frame
Dream Angels, Inc.
Entex Pest Solutions
Evolution Academy Charter School
Kirin Court
Kirkpatrick Group
LBJ Communications LC
Leake CPA, PC
Logotology
Mass Group Mktg / Financial Benefit
Services, Inc.

Spine Team Texas
UT Southwestern Clinical Center at
Richardson/Plano

1+ years

President's Club

Archer Western Herzog
Ryan, LLC
The Arkenstone

BBVA Compass Bank - Coit Rd.
Breckinridge Family Medical Group
Cambria Hotel Richardson - Dallas
Dimensional Payments
Ebby Halliday Realtors - Marilyn Jones
Goetz and Sons Inc
Herbert Law Group PLLC
Heroes for Children
Idea Fountain
Pizza Americana / Vestals Catering
Plains Capital Bank - Douglas Ave
Richland Real Estate
Service Experts
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
WaFd Bank Texas

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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