

# The Richland Meadows Buzz

Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring 2007

---

## General Membership Meeting

**When:** Thursday, May 24 – 7 PM  
**Where:** Richland Elementary School  
550 Park Bend Rd

### Agenda Topics

- We will conduct necessary business for the association, including election of officers for the year.
- There will be a presentation of information and activities of RMNA.
- We will have information available on applicable city regulations on maintenance of property and parking in the neighborhood.
- There will also be a presentation by a Texas Master Gardener discussing the aspects of living in North Texas during drought times. The presentation will include information on insect control and suggestions for the best plants and gardening practices during our drought conditions.
- Refreshments will be provided and there will be door prize drawings at the conclusion of the evening. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

### Please Note

The RMNA by-laws require seven days notice of the General Membership Meeting. This notice will be placed on the RMNA Web site and will also be included in a flyer.

---

## Architectural Review Committee

RMNA is pleased to announce that Ken Milligan, 616 Sunningdale, has volunteered to serve on the Architectural Review Committee. Ken will serve with Imran Suleiman, one of the two permanent members of the committee. At the last meeting of the committee, members reviewed a proposed remodeling and expansion project at the home at 907 Lahinch Circle. Following a complete review of the plans and materials proposed, the committee notified the homeowner that the project was approved.

The committee reviewed two instances of apparent violation of covenant requirements and requested that contact be made with residents concerning placement of television dishes and the absence of landscaping. It was determined that new residents to the neighborhood may not have received copies of the covenants and may not have been aware of the need to request approval from the architectural review commission. This was referred to the Board for action.

The committee also discussed the best ways to obtain information from the City concerning residents who may apply for a permit and to be able to contact residents about the Committee review. This matter is to be discussed with City Planning Department.

The Architectural Committee decided to meet prior to the annual meeting, at a date to be determined.

There are currently six non-permanent members of the committee. Any resident who would like to volunteer, or is interested in working with the committee, should contact Evan Thomas or Gerald Bright with their interest.

We are always interested in providing opportunities for service to residents and committee membership may be changed or expanded.

## **Dues are Due!**

If you have not submitted RMNA dues for 2007, please do so. Dues are for a calendar year and remain a bargain at \$25.

Membership dues are used to fund community picnics, support membership meetings, provide holiday decorations, publish newsletters, support welcoming programs for new residents, and neighborhood activities.

Dues payments may be made payable to:

RMNA Treasurer  
626 Ashfield  
Richardson, TX 75081

We encourage you to provide contact information with your payment.

---

## **New Huffines Center**

Construction on the new recreation center for Huffines Park is scheduled to begin in July with a completion date in 2008. The current facility will be torn down and the new facility is planned for placing south of the current facility in the park. The City has upgraded all community swimming pools and plans upgrades or replacement of recreation facilities and improvements at the senior center to provide increased residential services.

---

## **Did You Know?**

The Network of Community Ministries will provide free bread products to any resident of Richardson over the age of 65. Residents need only bring evidence of residency and age to the Network of Community Ministries at 411 S. Sherman on Thursday morning to receive the bread products.

## **Summary of Previous Board Meeting**

The following is a summary of the RMNA Board at the last meeting on March 21.

The Richland Meadows Neighborhood Association Board met on March 21, 7 PM at the home of RMNA President, Evan Thomas. Eight members were in attendance. Three members were out of town.

### **2006 Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for 2006 was reviewed and approved. The balance on hand at the close of the year was \$5,572. Of the balance, \$3,000 is reserved for payment to the City for landscaping when the matching fund project is completed.

### **Membership and Nominating Committee**

It was reported that 72 members have responded to the membership letter for 2007. A follow-up notice for dues will be sent after the membership meeting for those unpaid at that time. The general membership meeting was scheduled for April 17 at Richland elementary. The nominating committee will be requested to submit names of candidates for office. In addition to the program, it was determined that the association should offer door prizes for residents who attend. The Board voted not to accept an offer from a local realtor to provide refreshments for the meeting.

### **Damage to Perimeter Wall**

The damage to perimeter wall on Audelia, caused by a vehicle involved in a traffic accident, has been reported to the City. The City will contract for repairs and it may be some time before the project is completed. It was noted that there has been difficulty in obtaining matching brick for repair projects and that we may anticipate having another section that does not exactly match. The Board discussed the actions taken by the City to provide reinforcing metal in the base of perimeter fencing and the continuing difficulty in maintaining the "caps" on the fence.

### **New Neighborhood Signs**

The Board also discussed the possible replacement of the current signage for the association. Damage has occurred to two of the signs and it has become difficult to maintain the signs without water damaging the boards. The Board requested that information be obtained from other associations as to the sources and costs of signs for their associations and asked that the matter be docketed for the next meeting.

*(continued on next page)*

### Summary of Previous Board Meeting (continued)

#### Realtor Signs

The Board asked that it be clarified where realtor signs can be placed in the neighborhood, other than on properties for sale, and what signs may be posted on weekends. City regulations will be reviewed, as well as requirements for No Solicitor sign requirements for residences. to assist those residents who wish to preclude having items left on their doors. The meeting adjourned at 8:40. The next meeting will be on May 15.

#### Architectural Review Committee

A report was provided on the work of the Architectural review commission and alternatives discussed for ensuring that new residents are aware of the requirements for Architectural review of proposed projects. The Board will consider posting a copy of the neighborhood covenants on the Web site and will check with realtors who list homes in the neighborhood to ensure that they are aware of the covenants and so advise purchasers. The Board approved the continuing membership of the association with the Richardson Chamber of Commerce. The Board agreed to participate in the Trash Bash, neighborhood clean up on April 7.

#### Railroad Quiet Zone

It was reported that the railroad quiet zone program had been implemented in Richardson and that signs announcing that horns did not sound at Richardson railroad crossings had been posted. Engineers retain the responsibility to use warning measures, i.e. horns, at any crossing where they feel there may be a safety concern and residents may still hear horns on some occasions.

#### Holiday Decorations

The Board expressed concern that the holiday decorations in use for seven years are in need of replacement. Bows have been purchased annually for several years for the program, but it is now obvious that a wholesale replacement is warranted. Local purchase of the supplies will be made when available.

### What's Happening in Richardson?

#### Water Restrictions Continue

The continuing drought has required us to postpone the landscaping project for the retention pond area. As you may recall, the RMNA Board approved a matching fund project with the City to plant trees in the retention pond area to enhance the appearance and more clearly identify the proposed utilization of the property. The project has been approved, and funds are available for the association share. However, the City is prohibited from planting during Stage 3 water restrictions because they would be unable to water the trees.

The water restrictions have also delayed upgrading the landscape in the neighborhood entry ways as well as the replacement of hedge in the park area at Audelia and Centennial.

Gerald Bright, one of our neighbors, is a member of the Richardson Parks and Recreation Board and keeps us updated on these projects.

#### When Can I Water?

The City continues to enforce Stage 3 water restrictions in our community. Residents of Richland Meadows are only permitted to do exterior watering on Monday and Thursday and only before 10:00 AM and after 6 PM on those days. Volunteer Police monitor water use in the community and violators of the restrictions may be fined.

---

### Annual "Trash Bash" Day

The City sponsored a community clean up day on April 7. The annual "Trash Bash" was led by the City Health Department.

Several of our residents participated. Despite the cold weather, residents were able to clean the open area on Horseshoe Bend, the neighborhood entry ways, and the small park at Audelia and Centennial.

The City provided trash bags and as a bonus, also provided refreshments for participants following the event.

Mark your calendar now for participation in the neighborhood cleanup for 2008, which will be on April 5.

## **RMNA Board News**

RMNA currently has an opening for the Secretary position. Anyone who is interested in serving in this capacity is encouraged to contact any member of the Board with their interest.

Fred Speno, our previous RMNA Secretary, has moved from Richland Meadows and therefore submitted his resignation. His resignation was accepted at the August 2006 Board meeting.

The Board is also seeking someone to work with the Treasurer as a Membership Committee Chair to help with notices, information for new residents, and ideas for developing interest in our organization.

In addition, the Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates to serve on the Board for nomination at our annual meeting.

The nominating committee is in contact with residents concerning service in these capacities. Anyone who would like to serve, or who has recommendations for service, may contact Donna King-Bohlcke, Karen Lacy or Wes Sanders.

### **Current RMNA Board**

---

<b>President:</b>	Evan Thomas
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Michael Wilson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Donna King-Bohlcke
<b>Secretary:</b>	Open
<b>Crime Watch:</b>	Gerald Bright
<b>Social Committee:</b>	Asad Islam
<b>Architectural Review:</b>	Imran Suleiman Ken Milligan
<b>Board at Large:</b>	Jenny Markham Don Rotermund Edith Rutledge Wes Sanders Liz Strong
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Bob Townsend

## **Crime Watch**

The following crimes have been reported in our neighborhood during the last six months:

03/06/2007 07:00 AM

Theft from a motor vehicle  
Lahinch Circle

02/28/2007 11:00 PM

Theft of motor vehicle parts  
Pine Valley

01/23/2007 07:30 PM

Attempted theft of motor vehicle parts  
Sunningdale

10/14/2006 10:45 PM

Attempted theft from a motor vehicle  
Horseshoe Bend

---

## **National Night Out**

We encourage everyone to participate in National Night Out this year!

The date and more details will be available soon on our association web site and in the next newsletter.

This year the City will be encouraging residents to contribute non-perishable food items for the Network of Community Ministries Food Bank. For a bit of information about the Network of Community Ministries, see "Did You Know" on page 2.

---

## **City Election Results**

Bob Townsend won his race for re-election. The other winners are Mayor Gary Slagle, Rhea Allison, John Murphy, and Steve Mitchell from the current Council. Dennis Stewart defeated John Sweeden for one seat and the place 5 seat will involve a runoff.

## **Pet Information**

The City has published an information brochure for Richardson pet owners.

The brochure includes licensing requirements and available services, as well as details about restrictions on pet activity.

The brochures are available through the City Health Department and at the Public Library.

Copies will be available at our next membership meeting as well.

Make sure your pet has the required immunizations and proper licensing.



---

## **Check Us Out on the Web**

Check out the RMMA Web site at | [www.richlandmeadows.org](http://www.richlandmeadows.org)

You can check the Web site for information on neighborhood events and use it as a ready link to the City for information on community activities.

We welcome your suggestions and recommendations. RMNA Vice President Mike Wilson, with some able assistance from other residents, has reworked the Web site and is maintaining it. Many thanks to Mike for his help on this!

## **Sexually Explicit Businesses: The Debate Continues**

The Richardson City Council continues to deal with the difficult question of how to control the operation of sexually explicit businesses in the community. There is currently one such business in town operating under an agreement with the City for limited time while the City and the firm litigate the cities requirement for a special use permit.

The City has proposed to create a limited area within the City where the operation of such businesses may be authorized but neighborhood objections have arisen and the City is reconsidering its plan. Residents are encouraged to read the correspondence from the City regarding their proposed actions and to attend council meetings and work sessions if they have opinions on the issue which they wish to present. The RMNA Board has not taken a position on the City proposal, which includes strict limitations on hours and methods of operations for businesses in the designated zone.

There continues to be continuing correspondence from the City regarding sexually related businesses in Richardson. There have been a couple of letters to the City residents. Everyone is encouraged to let their council members know their views on this issue.

---

## **Thank You Mike! Welcome Nancy**

RMNA gives a big thanks to Mike Lancaster for his generous service in his duties as our newsletter editor. Mike has done an outstanding job keeping us all informed with a great newsletter!

Mike deserves a well-needed break and has passed his touch to Nancy Whatley, who is our new editor of the RMNA Buzz.

Mike has graciously agreed to continue sharing his talents with us by photographing events for our organization. His continued interest in helping out is greatly appreciated.