



RICHARDSON TODAY

City offers Home Improvement Incentive

The Richardson City Council approved an ordinance in February establishing a Home Improvement Incentive Program. The program provides an economic incentive to homeowners to encourage reinvestment in residential neighborhoods.

All homeowners in single-family zoned areas are eligible to participate, except those who are delinquent in taxes or other fees.



“Richardson’s program is unique, unlike any other in the state,” Neighborhood Services Director Don Magner said. “The goal of the program is to encourage reinvestment in the community by providing an incentive worth 10 times the amount of the increase in city property taxes that result from an improvement being completed.”

To qualify for the incentive program, an improvement project involving the reconstruction or remodeling of a single family home must (1) commence after Feb. 12, 2007, (2) cost at least \$20,000 and (3) be completed within 24 months of project approval.

To participate in the incentive program, a homeowner is required to submit an application to the Neighborhood Services Department, provide a cost estimate for the improvement project, consent to periodic inspections during construction and verify final construction costs.

If the application is approved, the homeowner is required to execute an economic development agreement with the City prepared and approved by the city attorney.

A one-time rebate equal to 10 times the amount of the increase in City property taxes will be paid to the homeowner based on the property’s pre-construction and post-construction appraised value. The appraisal district will determine and certify the home’s appraised value.

The rebate will be paid to the homeowner pursuant to the economic development agreement on April 1 of the first full calendar year after completion of the approved project.

Example:

Assume that a home improvement project is completed in June 2007. Further assume that the 2008 property taxes increased \$300 above the 2007 property taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable value of the improvements. The total incentive would be \$3,000 and would be paid on April 1, 2009.

“This is a win-win proposition,” Magner said. “The homeowner receives cash back on his investment and the home and neighborhood are improved. This kind of reinvestment in our existing housing stock promotes economic development, which is so important in keeping Richardson one of the most desirable cities to live and work.”

For more information on the Home Improvement Incentive Program contact Neighborhood Services at 972-744-4166 or online at www.cor.net.



Celebrate Cottonwood Art Festival May 5-6

We’re celebrating art May 5-6 from 9 a.m.–6 p.m. with the prestigious Cottonwood Art Festival. Some of the best local, national and international artists travel to Richardson to transform Cottonwood Park into an outdoor fine art gallery with its own lakeside courtyard, café, fine cuisine, live entertainment and even a children’s area.

Art aficionados will find one-of-a-kind and limited edition works in paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, fine glass, woodwork, mixed media and photography. This year’s featured artist is painter and sculptor Guilloume. His emotion-filled style uses modest forms and textures to portray a vast array of human feelings.

Cottonwood Art Festival not only strives to bring art to the community, but to educate the community as well through its outreach program, ArtBeat. This art education program was designed to encourage children to become involved in the visual arts. Components of the ArtBeat program include Visiting Artists, ArtStop, Art at the Eisemann and new for the spring: Emerging Artists.

The Visiting Artist program welcomes the show’s exhibiting artists into the classrooms of all RISD schools. Teachers are paired up with artists who in turn volunteer their time to share their talent by way of presentations and demonstrations. To date, more than 350 Cottonwood artists have shared their knowledge benefiting more than 10,000 students.

ArtStop is the unique hands-on children’s area at the festival. With the help of 100 volunteers, ArtStop becomes every child’s dream. Your imagination can run wild as you create a masterpiece to keep forever. This spring children can dabble in some or all of the following activities: Plaster Casting, Throwing on a Pottery Wheel, Clay Works, Sculpture Hats, Tile Painting, and even a little Easel Drawing. Simply cross the bridge and head towards the signature tie-dyed strands.

Art at the Eisemann is a twice yearly exhibit of select Cottonwood artists who display their works in the Forrest & Virginia Green Mezzanine-Gallery. This pristine area is the perfect indoor setting to give visitors a glimpse of what to expect at the festival.

In addition to celebrating the talent of accomplished artists, Cottonwood Art Festival proudly introduces its Emerging Artists program. New for the spring show, the program is an innovative and resourceful tool that mentors students in the art world. Students are encouraged to express themselves artistically and learn the process of exhibiting. The uniqueness of Cottonwood Art Festival’s Emerging Artists program is that it is only available to high school and college art students. Interested students are required to develop an art concept, an artist statement and produce slides of their work. This package is submitted to their teacher for review and then sent in for jury to Cottonwood Art Festival. This spring, select Emerging Artists will display their works in the Forrest & Virginia Green Mezzanine-Gallery at the Eisemann Center for the month of April.

Cottonwood Art Festival has it all...Art, Music, Food, Education, and Fun....for the entire family. It all happens right here in Richardson one block east of Coit Road on Belt Line Road. Admission and parking are free. Visit www.cottonwoodartfestival.com for more information.



Guilloume

Briefs

IRS forms available

Income tax forms are available at the Richardson Public Library. There is no charge for the forms, and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. IRS telephone assistance can be obtained by calling the following numbers:

Recorded refund information:

1-800-829-4477

Form ordering only:

1-800-829-3676

Dallas main IRS office:

1-800-829-1040

Internet access:

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>

To receive forms by fax:

1-703-368-9694

The North Dallas IRS office is located at 4050 Alpha, Suite #110. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The best times to call are 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

AARP offers free tax preparation service

AARP will provide free tax preparation assistance to low and middle-income taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and over. Counselors will be available at the following locations through April 17:

Richardson Public Library

Mondays—noon-4 p.m.

Audelia Public Library

Tuesdays—noon-4 p.m.

Richardson Senior Center

Fridays—noon-4 p.m.

Forest Green Library

Thursdays—11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

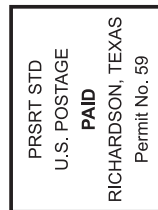
Persons seeking tax preparation assistance should bring last year’s tax return, Social Security cards, W-2 and 1099 forms and expense records as appropriate. No appointments are necessary. For other locations or more information call 1-888-AARPNOW.

Home Chemical Collection Center accepts fluorescent light bulbs

Take your fluorescent light bulbs to the Home Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Rd., Dallas, 214-553-1765.

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday	9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday/Thursday	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
2nd/4th Saturday	9 a.m.-3 p.m.



THE CITY OF RICHARDSON
P.O. BOX 830309
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75083

Postal Customer
Richardson, TX

LIBRARY



Thank you!
 Director of Library Services Jane Merz accepts a volume of Albanian literature from Gjeke Marinaj, president of the Society of Albanian American Writers. The group recently donated 70 volumes to the Richardson Public Library's world languages collections.

Library acquires Albanian collection

By Gjeke Marinaj
 President of the

Society of Albanian American Writers

The Richardson Public Library and the Society of the Albanian-American Writers have joined forces to provide a new avenue for learning and ideas. The Writers Society has recently donated a collection of 70 Albanian language titles to the Library to better serve the Library's Albanian-American customers.

The number of Albanians living today in Richardson and the surrounding community is five times larger than Richardson's total population in 1947 when the first Library in Richardson was established. Thanks to new technology and the nationwide networking of public libraries, more than a million Albanian readers will benefit from RPL's new Albanian collection through the inter-library loan program.

Most of the books are authored by members of the Society of the Albanian-American Writers, a Richardson-based non-profit organization, and include poetry, short stories, novels, diaries, history, philosophy,

sports, fables, and reference works. Several important national Albanian authors including Ismail Kadare, Rudolf Marku, Ali Podrimja, and Visar Zhiti are also represented in the collection.

Kadare, a world-renowned Albanian writer, was awarded the Prix mondial Cino Del Duca in 1992 and won the inaugural Booker International Prize in 2005. For the last few years, he has been a leading candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature. His book "The Weight of the Cross" (*Pesha e Kryqit*) is one of the most valuable volumes in the Albanian collection.

Of special interest to researchers is writer Prenk Gruda who emigrated from Montenegro to Albania as a youth. He documented Albanian life and political struggles in his diary for nearly 40 years (1937-1976). Gruda's "Diary of a Wounded Heart" is a rich and vital contribution to contemporary world literature and history.

The new Albanian language collection can be found in the world languages collection of the Richardson Public Library on the third floor.



POETRY MONTH FUN WITH MOTHER GOOSE

Date : Month of April 2007
 Ages : Preschool to age 11

In celebration of National Poetry Month children preschool to age 11 are invited to memorize and recite a Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme at the Richardson Public Library Children's Desk and receive a free sticker.

New at the Library

Books and Babies

Books and Babies is for Richardson resident walkers ages 12-24 months and their parents. Children must be 12 months and walking by April 1.

Books and Babies is a six-week program to introduce infants and their parents to the world of books and nursery rhymes. Each session meets for 15 minutes once per week and includes stories, rhymes, fingerplays, music and other activities in the Children's Program Room. Active parent participation is required.

Please make arrangements for younger siblings during this time.

**Required registration began
 Monday, March 26.**

Books and Babies begins April 2 and ends May 7. A valid RPL Library Card is required for registration. Parents may register their own children in the Children's Department or by calling 972-744-4358.

Groups limited to 25 children will meet Mondays 10:15-10:30 a.m.; 10:45-11 a.m. and 7-7:15 p.m. Please choose one session.

Friends of the Library Book Sale April 26-29

The Friends of the Library (FOL) will hold a Book Sale April 26-29 in the Basement Program Room. April 26 is for FOL members only, but new members can join at the door. Hours for the sale are 5:30-8:30 p.m. April 26; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 27-28, and 2-5 p.m. April 29.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
 7-8 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2
 CELEBRATE
 CINCO DE MAYO
 AT THE RICHARDSON
 PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

POETRY POWER

Power to the Poet

AWARD CEREMONY & POETRY READING

**7 p.m., Thursday, May 3
 featuring Marilyn Stacy
 and 2007 RPL Poetry Contest Winners**

Calling all poets for the 7th annual Richardson Public Library POETRY COMPETITION

Adult and High School-age poets (age 16 and/or in 10th grade or older) are invited to submit an original poem to the Richardson Public Library from Saturday, March 24 to Saturday, April 21.

- One entry per author/one author per entry.
- Poems should not exceed 50 lines in length.
- Submit three copies with name, address and phone number on the back of each copy.

Winners will be notified before May 1.

Prizes include: \$50-First \$40-Second \$30-Third
 \$25-Fourth \$20-Fifth, Sixth, Seventh & Eighth

April Calendar

<p>2 Richardson Civic Art Society Board Meeting, Second Floor Conference Room, 6:45-9 p.m.</p> <p>2, 9, 16 AARP Tax Help Program, Basement Program Room, noon-4p.m.</p> <p>4 First Wednesday Book Club, Second Floor Conference Room, 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>4, 11, 18 Family Storytime, Children's Program Room, 6:45-7:15 p.m. Family Storytime ends April 18.</p> <p>5 Family Game Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Basement Program Room.</p>	<p>7 Dewey Knit Knitting Group, Basement Program Room, 2-3:30p.m.</p> <p>April 7-May 19 Richardson Civic Art Society 50+ Show, Second Floor.</p> <p>13 Introduction to the Internet, 9-11 a.m. Registration required. Call Scott Thomson, 972-744-4357.</p> <p>14 Searching the Internet, 9-11 a.m. Registration required. Call Scott Thomson, 972-744-4357</p> <p>16 Writer's League of Texas, Basement Program Room, 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Richardson Civic Art Society Demonstration, Barry Benton-Acrylics, 6:45-9 p.m., Basement Program Room.</p> <p>19 Richardson Historical & Genealogical Society, Basement Program Room 1:30 p.m. Roger Fortney reviews "1776."</p> <p>20 Introduction to Microsoft Word 9-11 a.m. Registration required. Call Jennifer Davidson, 972-744-4357.</p> <p>21 Introducción al Uso de Microsoft Word en Español, 9-11 a.m. Favor de registrarse con Penny Manly al 972-744-4357.</p>	<p>26-29 Friends of the Library Book Sale, 5:30-8:30 p.m. April 26 (members only; join at door); 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 27-28; 2-5 p.m. 29. Basement Program Room.</p> <p>27 Introducción al Uso del Internet en Español, 9-11 a.m. Favor de registrarse con Penny Manly al 972-744-4357.</p> <p>28 Job Searching on the Internet 9-11 a.m. Registration required. Call Ludmila Pospelova, 972-744-4357.</p>
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