



NRH



A Newsletter for the Residents of North Richland Hills

FALL 2016

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TEXRail Service Coming to NRH

North Richland Hills city officials joined officials from Fort Worth, Grapevine and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority on August 24, 2016 for the groundbreaking of the 27-mile TEXRail commuter rail service that will run from downtown Fort Worth to DFW Airport.

TEXRail will travel along the existing Cotton Belt route and will have nine stations, including two in North Richland Hills. The Iron Horse station will be located on Iron Horse Boulevard, just north of Loop 820. The Smithfield Station will be located in the 6400 block of Smithfield Road.

The City of North Richland Hills is working with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority and their contractors to establish Quiet Zone crossings through North Richland Hills. With the Quiet Zones, significant safety improvements will be made to existing crossings, including the addition of medians and new railroad crossing warning signage. Much of the railroad bed will also be reconstructed and concrete rail ties installed. This will reduce the sound

coming off the track itself. The train that is being used for TEXRail is a "Diesel Motor Unit" (DMU) system. This type of train is also used by the Denton County Transit Authority on their A-Train service between Denton and Carrollton. The DMU is far more quiet than the car-and-locomotive system that is used for the TRE line between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Property near both rail stations in North Richland Hills will be developed or re-developed with a mix of uses. Along Iron Horse Boulevard, construction is expected to begin soon on approximately 100,000 square feet of new commercial space and more than 1,500 new residential units including apartments, townhomes and patio homes. In the Smithfield area, 93 new townhomes and patio homes are under development within 1/3 mile from the Smithfield station, with more residential and commercial development being planned.

The new TEXRail service may start by the end of 2018. See a map of the TEXRail line on Page 7 of this newsletter. Find more information and construction updates at www.TEXRail.com.



New City Hall Provides Convenience, Efficiency

The City of North Richland Hills is seeing improved convenience and efficiencies with the opening of our new City Hall earlier this year. Located off of Boulevard 26 at 4301 City Point Drive, the three-story, 180,000-square-foot facility brings together most city departments into one easy to access location including:

- City Hall offices previously located at 7301 NE Loop 820;
- Police Department and Jail, previously located at 7301 NE Loop 820 and 7200D Dick Fisher Dr. S.;
- Fire Administration and Emergency Management, previously located at 7202 Dick Fisher Dr. N.;
- Municipal Court, Parks Administration and Citicable, previously located at 6720 NE Loop 820;
- Neighborhood Services, previously located at 6801 Glenview Dr.
- Public Works construction inspectors, previously located at 7200A Dick Fisher Dr. S.

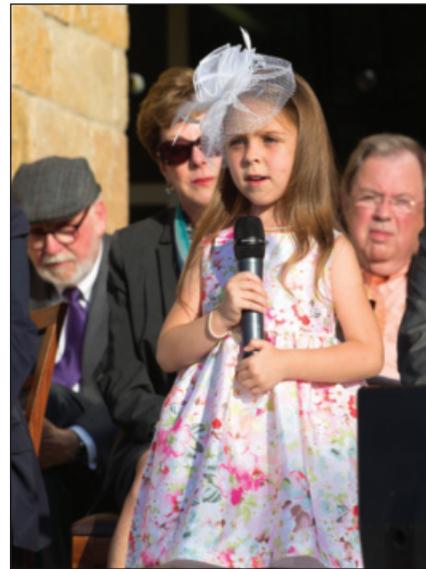
City departments moved into the new facility this spring and hundreds of residents attended the grand opening celebration on May 13, 2016. The event included an open house, ribbon cutting and free concert on the plaza in front of the building.

North Richland Hills voters approved construction of the new City Hall in May 2012. A Municipal Complex Oversight Committee oversaw the project to ensure that it remained within budget and consistent with the intent of the voters who approved it. The committee was made up of three council members and four citizens including: Councilman Scott Turnage, Councilman Tom Lombard,

Councilman Tim Welch, Steve Koons, Janet Golightly, Whitney Harding and Jay Bruner.

The vacant land surrounding our new City Hall is privately owned and represented by ARA Newmark, a national commercial real estate brokerage with local offices in Dallas. The city is working closely with ARA Newmark on marketing the property and meeting with prospective parties interested in purchasing and developing it.

The city property vacated at 6720 and 7301 NE Loop 820 will be redeveloped with commercial uses. The former Fire Administration building on Dick Fisher Drive now serves as a public safety training center and backup dispatch and emergency operations center.



At the grand opening of our new City Hall on May 13, North Richland Hills resident Sofie Luttrull recited the poem "Freedom's Plow" by Langston Hughes and received a standing ovation from the audience. The celebration included streamers and fireworks as the ribbon was cut. Hundreds of residents were in attendance for the special day.



2 New Restaurants Coming to NE Loop 820

The North Richland Hills City Council has given approval for Babe's Chicken Dinner House and Sweetie Pie's Ribeyes to be built on Loop 820, just east of Rufe Snow Drive at the former municipal court, library and recreation center site. Both restaurants are expected to open sometime in 2017.

Babe's Chicken is a family style and family owned restaurant with 9 locations in DFW and is ranked by Zagat as the most popular restaurant in the DFW Metroplex.

Sweetie Pies, which is owned by the same family, is a steakhouse with one location currently in Decatur. It was recently featured in *Texas Highways* magazine. The restaurant is known not only for its steaks, but for its baked potatoes and pot pies.

The addition of these restaurants furthers the redevelopment efforts along our Loop 820 corridor. It also addresses a primary request from recent citizen surveys for more quality, sit-down restaurants in our community.

Other new businesses opening soon along the corridor include Total Shooting Sports in the former Home Depot



The vacant building at 6720 NE Loop 820 was recently demolished to make way for construction of Babe's Chicken Dinner House and Sweetie Pie's Ribeyes. The new restaurants are anticipated to open sometime in 2017.

Expo building at 7901 Boulevard 26 and Painted Tree Vintage Market in the former Office Depot building at 7800 Boulevard 26.

For more information about redevelopment along NE Loop 820, please contact the North Richland Hills Economic Development Department at 817-427-6090.

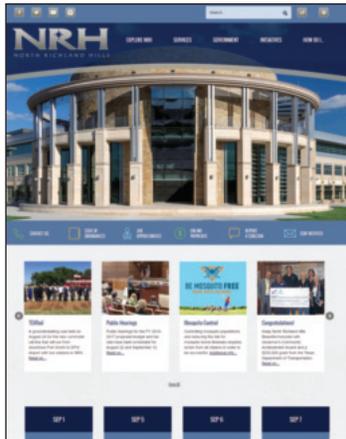
City's Website Gets New, Improved Look

Users of the city's website, www.nrhtx.com, will notice a new look and navigation. The site was recently redesigned to better showcase North Richland Hills as a dynamic and growing community.

Improvements were also made to help the website display better on all types of mobile devices.

The city's website receives more than 50,000 visits monthly, with about 38% of those visits outside of our normal business hours. Around 45% of visits are from mobile devices and 55% from desktop computers. The website's most popular features including job postings, online payments and report a concern are still easily found on the home page.

We value your input. Please feel free to email communications@nrhtx.com with any suggestions or comments about the city's website.



Election Calendar

Voters will decide several county, state and federal races this November. Here are key election dates to remember:



- **October 11, 2016**
Last day to register to vote for those not already registered
- **October 24 - November 4, 2016**
Early voting
- **October 28, 2016**
Last day to apply for ballot by mail (received, not postmarked)
- **November 8, 2016**
Election day

For voting times and locations, contact the Tarrant County Elections Office at 817-831-8683 or go online to www.tarrantcounty.com/evote.

NRH Investing in Street Infrastructure

Streets are a vital part of the city's infrastructure supporting our residents, businesses, public safety, recreation and ultimately the economic vitality of the community. The City of North Richland Hills makes significant investments in maintaining and improving our streets.

Smithfield Road, between Davis and Mid-Cities

The Smithfield project consists of realigning a portion of Smithfield Road so that it connects directly to Bridge Street at Davis Boulevard in accordance with the city's Master Thoroughfare Plan. In addition, the Smithfield Road pavement will be widened from the new connection at Davis Boulevard to a point just north of Mid-Cities Boulevard. The project also includes the modification of two signalized intersections to accommodate the new Smithfield configuration, along with continuous sidewalks and a drainage system. Franchise utility relocation is underway. We anticipate that construction may begin as early as November 2016, if franchise work progresses as expected.



Rufe Snow Drive, north of Mid-Cities

A project to widen and improve Rufe Snow Drive between Mid-Cities Boulevard and Ridgetop Road began in May 2016. It includes widening the existing 5-lane roadway to 7 lanes with three travel lanes in each direction, plus a center turn lane. The street will be reconstructed with concrete pavement, sidewalks and signalization improvements. Roadway construction will take about two years to complete. Motorists should plan extra time when traveling in this area, or seek alternate routes. This project is funded through federal grants, with the city paying approximately 20% of the cost.

Rufe Snow Drive, south of Loop 820

After significant delays due to unexpected conflicts with a high pressure underground pipeline, the Rufe Snow Drive project just south of Loop 820 will be finishing up in September 2016. The road has been enhanced with right-turn lanes and improved signalization at Meadow Lakes Drive. Sidewalks and new street lights are also being added to provide pedestrian connectivity.

Main Street

A project to improve drainage and prevent flooding began early this summer along a portion of Main Street. The existing 18" and 21" drainage pipes that carry storm water off of Main Street between Chilton Drive and Crane Road are being replaced with larger 30" to 48" pipes that can carry more water. Additional storm drain inlets are also being added along Main Street. A branch of the new drainage system will extend up Jerry Court and connect to existing drainage infrastructure.

Because much of the storm drainage system is underneath the street, the pavement had to be cut to access and replace the pipes. Once the new drainage system is in place, the street will be repaired and overlaid to provide a uniform pavement finish and look. Some driveways and curb, gutter and sidewalks will be reconstructed.

Construction is anticipated to be complete this fall. There will be some additional lane closures at various points throughout the project. Please watch for workers and obey warning signs when travelling in this area.

Lynda Court

Lynda Court was recently reconstructed as part of the city's involvement in the Community Development Block Grant Program. The asphalt pavement was replaced with a new concrete street. In addition, utilities were reconstructed and sidewalks were added.

Questions about these or other street projects may be directed to Development Services at 817-427-6400.

Help Neighbors in Need During Fall Fix it Blitz

Make a difference in your community by being part of the 2016 Neighborhood Initiative Fix It Blitz on Saturday, October 22, and Sunday, October 23. The annual Fix It Blitz coincides with Make A Difference Day, the largest day of community service when volunteers around the world unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others. It is a day to celebrate the power of people to make a difference!

Fix It Blitz volunteers will make a difference by helping the elderly, disabled, single parents and veterans who are struggling to complete needed minor exterior property repairs and yard work. Projects may include mowing, tree trimming, fence repair, debris removal, light construction, painting, etc. There will be projects for all skill levels. Please pre-register online by October 7 to be assigned a project and receive your free t-shirt.

To volunteer, make a donation or see if you qualify for assistance, visit www.nrhtx.com/NIP, call 817-427-6651 or e-mail dyork@nrhtx.com. If there is inclement weather, the Fix It Blitz will be rescheduled to November 5 and 6, 2016.

The North Richland Hills Neighborhood Initiative Program would not be possible without the generous support of our community.



During last year's Fix It Blitz, 175 volunteers completed projects helping 16 elderly and disabled homeowners.

Thank you to the following sponsors:

VIP Level (\$10,000 donation)
LIFE Church

Diamond Level (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
The Home Depot Foundation

Platinum Level (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Alpine Tree Service
Covenant Life Church
McDonalds
Marvin and Jill Smith
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Wal-Mart

Gold Level (\$500 - \$999)

North Hills Hospital
Beck's Plumbing, Inc.

Silver Level (\$250 - \$499)

Fort Worth Community Credit Union
Hamilton Duffy
John Brittain
J. Davis Tree Service

Bronze Level (\$249 or less)

Archie's Donuts
Harbor Freight
Kroger
North Hills Family Practice
Sam's Club

Fall Community Clean Up Set for Oct. 15

Con Saturday, October 15, 2016, North Richland Hills residents can get rid of unwanted bulky items during the annual Fall Community Cleanup. Items can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tarrant County College-Northeast Campus, 828 Harwood Road (Parking lot E.1 by tennis courts). Proof of North Richland Hills residency (driver's license or water bill) must be presented.

Residents may get rid of brush, furniture, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, containerized bricks, rocks or concrete and other bulky items. Tires (without the rims) and fire extinguishers will also be accepted for proper disposal.

Goodwill Industries will be on site to collect

donations. Televisions, computers, printers and small electronics may also be dropped off for recycling.

Paper shredding will also be offered at this event. North Richland Hills residents can bring up to five average-size file boxes of paper to be securely shredded on-site and then recycled. This service will be available from 9 a.m. to noon or until the truck is full.

Hazardous waste will not be accepted.

The bulky item collection event is typically held twice each year. Many bulky items can also be placed curbside for pickup with your normal trash collection. If you have questions or would like more details, please contact the Code Compliance office at 817-427-6663 during normal business hours.

Program Encourages “Fixer Uppers” in NRH

If you like HGTV’s “Fixer Upper,” you might be interested to know about an innovative program that encourages “fixer uppers” right here in North Richland Hills.

The NRH Neighborhood Revitalization Program provides incentives for homeowners to transform older properties needing some T-L-C into more functional and modern residences. The focus area for the program includes neighborhoods that are inside Loop 820, east of Rufe Snow Drive and north of Glenview Drive.

The program encourages home ownership and re-investment in older properties that might otherwise become rental homes. It also helps to improve the overall appearance and value of NRH neighborhoods.

Program incentives include a 20% grant of up to \$10,000 for the completion of well-designed home renovations which result in at least a 40% increase in property value. The final home values must exceed \$120,000 and be above Tarrant Appraisal District’s average market value for the immediate area.

Since the program began last year, 10 fixer uppers have been completed resulting in \$865,398 in increased property value within the target area. The total incentive paid to participants by the city was \$100,000. Another 6 homes are currently under construction with the program’s total increase in property value by year end expected to exceed \$1,300,000.

For more information about the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, please visit www.nrhtx.com/nrp or contact Kristin James at 817-427-6015.



These before and after photos show an amazing kitchen transformation in a home that was recently improved through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

NRH Police, Fire Hosting Community Events

In continued partnership with the community to enhance public safety, the North Richland Hills Police and Fire Departments encourage residents to participate in the following community events this October:

National Night Out

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. This annual event brings together citizens, law enforcement agencies, local officials and businesses to increase anti-crime awareness and strengthen community partnerships.

Residents are encouraged to turn on their porch lights and gather with their neighbors to show unity against criminal activity. Please call the Police Department Community Services Section at 817-427- 7021 or visit www.nrhtx.com/NNO for more information.

Fire Department Open House

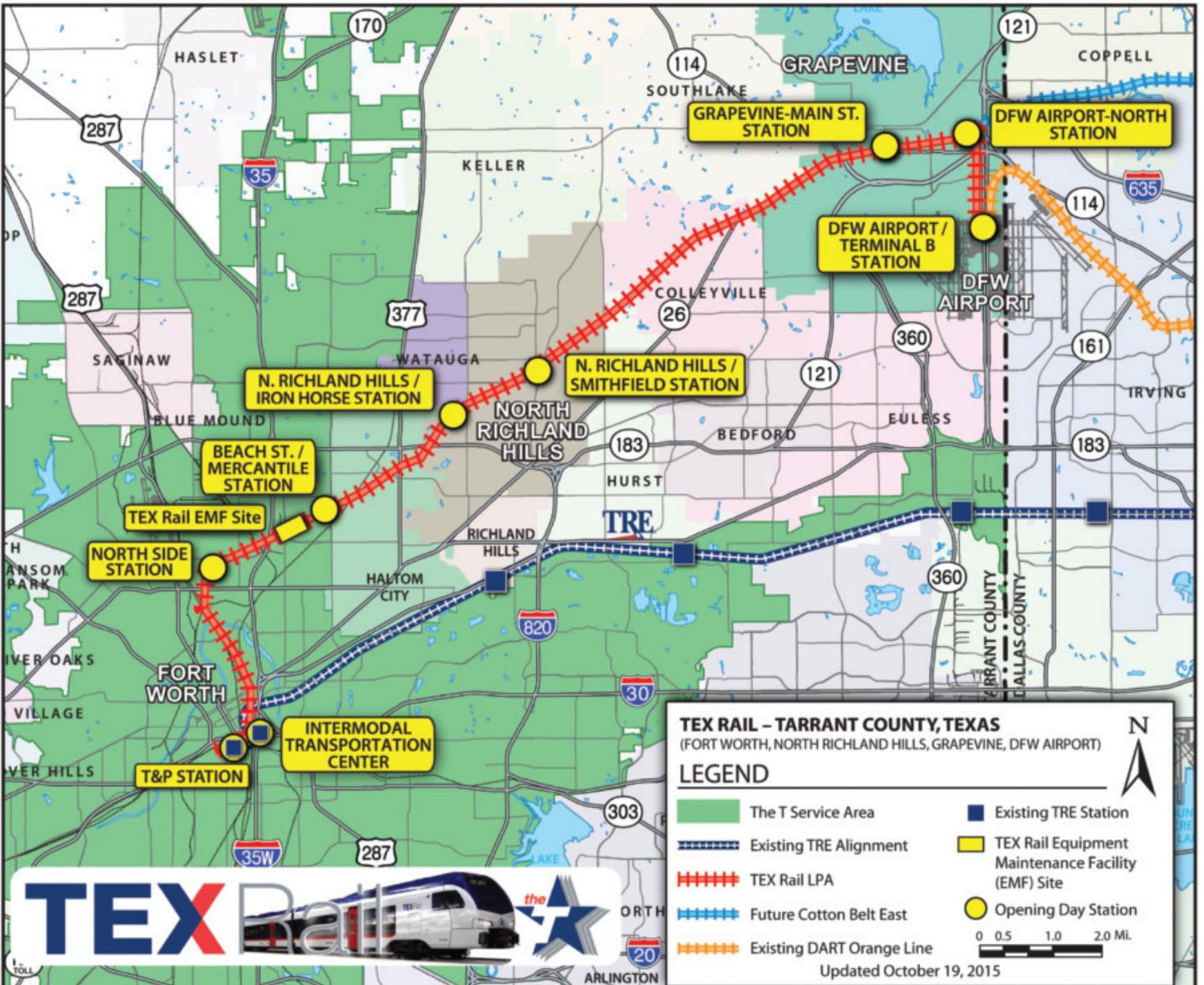
The North Richland Hills Fire Department will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The open house will take place outside the North Richland Hills Public Safety Training Center and Fire Station #5, both of which are located at 7202 Dick Fisher Drive North.

Families are invited to meet our local first responders and learn about the many services they provide to the community. There will be fire trucks, an ambulance and an air ambulance on display. There will also be demonstrations of vehicle extrications and technical rescues. Children will enjoy a bounce house, dunking booth, face painting, balloons and more.

Questions about the open house may be directed to North Richland Hills Fire Administration at 817-427-6900.



Members of the North Richland Hills City Council and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority Board broke ground for the TEXRail line and NRH stations on August 24, 2016.





City of North Richland Hills
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 North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

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Calendar of Meetings & Special Events

For more information, please visit www.nrhtx.com or call 817-427-6000.

October

- 1 NRH Road Runner 5K
- 3 Teen Court
- 3 Parks & Recreation Board
- 4 National Night Out
- 5 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 6 'Round the Town with Oscar
- 6 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 7 Parent's Night Out, NRH Centre
- 7 Book Sale Preview, Library
- 8 & 10 Annual Book Sale, Library
- 8 CPR Class
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 12 Youth Advisory Committee
- 15 Fall CleanUp Bulky Item Drop Off
- 17 Teen Court
- 17 Fall Concert Series, Library
- 18 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 20 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 20 Library Board
- 22 Neighborhood Initiative Fix-It-Blitz
- 24 Early Voting Begins
- 24 City Council Meeting
- 24 Teen Court
- 29 Hoot & Howl

- 8 Election Day
- 9 Youth Advisory Committee
- 11&12 Annual Apron Celebration, Library
- 11 Veteran's Day Celebration
- 10 CPR Class
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 14 Teen Court
- 15 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 17 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 17 Library Board
- 21 Fall Concert Series, Library
- 24 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
No Garbage / Recycle Collection
- 25 City Holiday
- 30 Christmas Tree Decorating, Library

- 1 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 3 Run Run Rudolph 5K Run/Walk
- 3 Night of Holiday Magic
- 3 CPR Class
- 5 Parks & Recreation Board
- 5 Teen Court
- 7 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 8 Business Appreciation Luncheon
- 9 Parent's Night Out, NRH Centre
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 12 Teen Court
- 14 Youth Advisory Committee
- 15 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 15 Library Board
- 19 Holiday Concert Series, Library
- 20 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 26 City Holiday

December

- 1 Christmas Tree Decorating, Library

November

- 1 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 3 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 4 Early Voting Ends
- 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends, Fall Back
- 7 Teen Court

City of North Richland Hills

City Council

- Mayor Oscar Trevino
- Mayor Pro Tem Tim Welch
- Tito Rodriguez
- Rita Wright Oujesky
- Tom Lombard
- Tim Barth
- David Whitson
- Scott Turnage

City Manager's Office

- Mark Hindman, City Manager
- Karen Bostic, Assistant City Manager
- Paulette Hartman, Assistant City Manager
- Jimmy Perdue, Director of Public Safety
- Mike Curtis, Managing Director

Stay Connected

- 817-427-6000
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