



A newsletter for the residents of North Richland Hills

WINTER 2010

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## Door-to-Door Sales Ordinance Updated

**D**id you know, the City of North Richland Hills has an ordinance that regulates door-to-door sales and persons who distribute commercial handbills door-to-door? This ordinance was recently updated to provide additional protection for NRH residents.

Door-to-door solicitation and handbill distribution is permitted Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until sunset (as defined by the National Weather Service) or 8:00 p.m., whichever is earlier. Solicitation and handbill distribution are not allowed on Sundays, federal holidays, or any day where the Department of Homeland Security has declared an orange or red state of alert.

Door-to-door solicitors are required to obtain a permit from the city. Each solicitor will be issued a photo ID badge (like the one shown to the right) that is required to be worn at all times while soliciting in North Richland Hills. The ID badge will clearly identify the solicitor and the business he or she represents. Permits are not required for persons under 18 years of age if engaged in fundraising activities for non-profit organizations. Persons distributing handbills door-to-door must also register with the city and carry a registration card issued by the city.

Solicitors are required to step back and stand at least 3 feet from the door after knocking. They cannot act in an aggressive or intimidating manner and

they cannot say that the city endorses their product, or wants residents to purchase their product. Solicitors and handbill distributors may not solicit or leave handbills at premises where a "No Solicitors" or "No Trespassing" sign is posted.

If you have questions or complaints regarding door-to-door solicitors, please contact the City Secretary's Office at 817-427-6075. Please report suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the Police Department at 817-427-7000.

**SOLICITATION PERMIT**  
**CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS**  
**TEXAS**

**Permit No.** 12345

Name: John Doe  
Company: ABC Sales  
Address: 123 Main Street

Date Issued: 01-01-10  
Expiration Date: 06-01-10

**Solicitor**  
**IS NOT**  
**a representative of the**  
**City of North Richland Hills**

# NRH Crime Control & Prevention District

**T**he City of North Richland Hills is planning an election for May 2010 to renew the Crime Control & Prevention District and the half-cent sales tax that helps to fund local law enforcement services and programs.

The Crime Control & Prevention District was initially approved by North Richland Hills voters in 1996 for a 5-year period and it was renewed in 2001 for a 10-year period. State law allows voters to extend the Crime Control & Prevention District for up to 20 years.

Since its inception in 1996, the Crime Control & Prevention District has generated approximately \$51 million through the half-cent sales tax to fund law enforcement services and programs. This has allowed the Police Department to:

- Hire 27 additional police officers, 2 detectives, 18 support personnel and 1 school crossing guard;
- Instruct the D.A.R.E. Program at all NRH elementary schools;
- Provide school resource officers for the middle schools and high schools;

- Continue the Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs;
- Establish new crime prevention programs including the Crime Free Multi Housing program, the “Lock, Take and Hide” program, and others;
- Purchase 30 vehicles and refurbish 12 vehicles;
- Upgrade emergency radio and computer systems;
- Maintain competitive salaries for North Richland Hills police officers.

Since the Crime Control & Prevention District was created, calls for service have increased from 97,038 to 123,877 per year while response times to Priority 1 emergency calls have decreased from an average of 9 minutes and 42 seconds to 5 minutes and 18 seconds; in addition, there has been an increase in the percentage of crimes cleared each year.

North Richland Hills residents are not the only people who fund the Crime Control & Prevention District. People from other communities who patronize North Richland Hills stores and businesses also pay the Crime Control & Prevention District half-cent sales tax. Continuation of this



half-cent sales tax will allow the city to continue providing the same level of law enforcement service without raising other fees and taxes.

Community meetings will be held this Spring to provide residents with more information about the Crime Control & Prevention District. Voting times and locations for the May 2010 Crime Control & Prevention District Continuation Election will be included in the Spring NRH Newsletter, which will be delivered to residents in late April. For more information regarding the Crime Control & Prevention District or the upcoming election, please call the Police Department at 817-427-7000.

## NRH Race for the Cure Challenge

**J**oin fellow residents of North Richland Hills as we Race for the Cure on April 24, 2010 in downtown Fort Worth. The City of North Richland Hills is competing against the City of Hurst to see which community can get more residents and businesses to participate in the Susan G. Komen Foundation's annual Tarrant County event. We hope you will help us with this very worthy cause.

To register for Team NRH visit [komentarrant.org](http://komentarrant.org) and click “Join a Team” when registering. Select “Team NRH” to join the city’s official team.

Once you have registered, our team organizer will send you periodic updates on team happenings and what to expect on race day. Please help the City of North Richland Hills and the Komen Foundation fight against breast cancer and Race for the Cure.



# Mark Hindman Appointed as New City Manager

**N**orth Richland Hills welcomed Mark Hindman as its new city manager on October 1, 2009. Mr. Hindman replaced Larry Cunningham who retired at the end of September after 43 years of municipal service.

The appointment of the new city manager came after an extensive search process.

“We were fortunate to have a number of very qualified and experienced city management professionals who applied for this position,” said Mayor Oscar Trevino. “Out of the more than 100 applicants for the job, Mark stood out because of his strong financial background and his experience with economic development, community redevelopment and transportation issues. He is clearly the right individual to lead North Richland Hills through the challenges and opportunities that will arise over the next decade.”

Mr. Hindman began his career in public service in 1983 working for the Senate Finance Committee in Washington, D.C. After two years in Washington he completed management internships at the City of Olathe, Kansas and the City of University Park, Texas. He was then hired by the City of Lubbock

where he served for 8 years, working his way up from budget analyst to director of finance/support services. In 1995, he was hired as assistant city manager for the City of Mesquite. He served in this position for 14 years overseeing multiple city departments and numerous employees.



**Mark Hindman**  
City Manager

Mr. Hindman is a member of the International City/County Management Association, the Texas City Management Association and the Texas Recreation & Parks Society. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Geneva College in Pennsylvania, as well as a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Kansas. He is married with three children.

Mr. Hindman can be reached at 817-427-6003 or by e-mail at [mhindman@nrhtx.com](mailto:mhindman@nrhtx.com).

## Planning for New NRH Recreation Center Underway

**T**he City of North Richland Hills is planning for a new recreation center that will be opening in early 2012. We have begun the design process for this state-of-the-art facility, which will be centrally located near the North Richland Hills Public Library.

The new recreation center will offer amenities for all age groups including: a double gymnasium, indoor aquatics, fitness areas, a banquet hall, elevated walk/run track, multi-purpose rooms, pre-school and youth rooms, senior facilities, and a roof top terrace.

The project architect, Brinkley Sargent Architects, is completing the schematic design for the facility and City Council has reviewed the concept development plan which depicts the building “massing”, along with site amenities such as parking and drives.

The recreation center will incorporate sustainable design, achieving LEED certification. LEED certification recognizes that a building will be environmentally friendly by utilizing green building practices during construction.

Your new recreation center will create a civic core and an exciting sense of place within our community. Watch for updates on the new recreation center’s progress in future NRH newsletters and on the city’s web site at [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com).



**The new recreation center will be located near the North Richland Hills Public Library.**

# NRH Receives Numerous Awards in 2009

**S**everal city departments and employees were recognized for their outstanding service in 2009. Following are some of the awards and honors they received:

## Fire Department

- The Fire Department was presented the 2009 J. Robert Havlick Award for Innovation in Local Government from the Alliance for Innovation.
- The Fire Department was recognized by the Insurance Services Office for improving the city's Property Protection Classification from a "4" to a "2". Less than 4 percent of cities in the state and less than 4 percent of cities in the nation have a rating of 2 or better.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jase Smith was recognized by CareFlite as one of the top 100 First Responders.

## Police Department

- Police Officer Rodney McCrory was presented the Star of Texas Award by Governor Rick Perry.
- Dispatcher Laura Litzerman was presented the Silent Hero award from the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications.
- Police Officer Tom Cleveland brought home several trophies from the World Police & Fire Olympics.
- The Traffic Section won 10 trophies at the Gulf Coast Police Motorcycle Skills Championship.

## Budget & Finance

- The Finance Department was presented a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Governmental Finance Officers Association for the 25th year in a row.
- The Budget Department received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 19th consecutive year.

## Parks & Recreation

- The Parks & Recreation Department received the 2009 Arts and Humanities Award and the 2009 Promotional Award from the Texas Recreation & Parks Society.
- Recreation Center Manager Adrien Pekurney was awarded the 2009 Young Professional Award from the Texas Recreation & Parks Society.
- The Cultural Arts Division received the 2009 Programming Award from the Texas Recreation & Parks Society Region 2.
- Sharon Davis, Assistant Director of Parks &



The North Richland Hills Parks & Recreation Department was honored with several state and regional awards in 2009.

Recreation, was inducted into the Grand Prairie Parks & Recreation Hall of Fame.

- Iron Horse Golf Course was selected as the Best Public Golf Course in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram's* 2009 Reader's Choice Awards.

## Neighborhood Services

- The Consumer Health Division received the 2009 Award of Excellence in Food Safety from the Texas Environmental Health Association.
- The department received the Clean Air Silver Award from the North Texas Clean Air Coalition.
- Keep NRH Beautiful received the 2008-2009 Sustained Excellence Award from Keep Texas Beautiful.

## Public Works

- The Public Works Department was recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for exceeding requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Employees won several awards at a regional Public Works Equipment Road-E-O.

## Other Awards

- The NRH Public Library received an Achievement of Excellence in Library Services Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association.
- The Human Resources Department received the Champions in Health Workforce Wellness Award sponsored by the Health Industry Council of Tarrant County.
- Mayor Oscar Trevino received the Northeast Leadership Forum's Distinguished Leadership Award.
- Planning & Development Director John Pitstick was presented the 2009 Community Builder Award from the Smithfield Masonic Lodge #455.

# North Richland Hills 2009 Year in Review

**N**orth Richland Hills employees worked hard during the past year to provide excellent programs and services to the community. Following is a look at some of the accomplishments and notable events of 2009.

## New Facilities & Construction

- New traffic signal lights were installed at the intersections of Davis Boulevard and Bursey Road, Precinct Line and Amundson Road, and Precinct Line and Rumfield Road. The lights improve safety and access for several neighborhoods.
- The city celebrated the opening of Beachside Bay at NRH<sub>2</sub>O. The new attraction includes a tranquil swimming pool, with beautiful waterfalls and the area's first white sand beach.
- Construction began on a new lake at Liberty Park. Once completed, the lake will be surrounded by trees and landscaping and will be an attractive habitat for wildlife.
- Construction began on a new park across from the NRH Public Library. The park will include a plaza with seating, sidewalks, landscaping, shade trees, and a unique public art piece that is titled "Weather." The park will be named Stormy Plaza, which recognizes the historical significance of the old Mangham Airport and its owner Stormy Mangham.

## New Programs & Services

- The city entered into a partnership with the Community Enrichment Center, the United Way and the Isolated Seniors Resource Group to provide a new transportation service for senior citizens. This program uses volunteers to drive seniors to senior centers, shopping and for other personal needs. For more information about the Social Transportation for Seniors Program, please call 817-514-0773.



Iron Horse Golf Course celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2009. Improvements were made to the course throughout the year.

- The NRH Police Department joined with Haltom City, Richland Hills and Watauga to launch a new Crime Victim's Liaison Program. This program provides victims of violent crime with assistance to speed their recovery and aid in prosecution. For more details, call 817-427-7000.
- The Economic Development Department kicked off the Business Improvement & Growth Program. This program offers technical and financial assistance to help businesses improve their exterior appearance. Four projects were completed during 2009 and several additional projects are underway. The program is part of an ongoing effort to revitalize NRH's more mature corridors and neighborhoods. For more information, call 817-427-6090.
- The Green Teens Approved Business Program was created to encourage local businesses to implement environmentally friendly business practices. More than 50 businesses have been recognized through the program so far. For more details, call 817-427-6614.

## Other Accomplishments

- Iron Horse Golf Course celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Several upgrades were made to the course in 2009 and the restaurant was renamed "CA's Grill" in honor of former City Manager C.A. Sanford.
- The city adopted new Transit Oriented Development Codes for the Smithfield and Iron Horse areas. The codes will guide development around future commuter rail stations, which will provide service from Fort Worth to the north entrance of DFW Airport.
- Reinvestment Zone No. 1 was expanded to include 392 acres along Boulevard 26. The expansion will help fund public improvements and is part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the Boulevard 26 corridor.
- Three new pieces of loaned art were installed on Bedford-Eules Road. They include the "Armadillo" by Joe Barrington, "Passion Flower" by Jim LaPaso, and "Flower Log" by Delbert Beckham.
- The Economic Development Department launched a new web site, [www.nrhed.com](http://www.nrhed.com). The site includes helpful information for local businesses and those that are looking to move their business to NRH.
- The city celebrated the redevelopment of the Shoppes at Crown Point. The shopping center, located at the corner of Loop 820 and Rufe Snow Drive, was updated with a new, modern look.
- City employees raised more than \$42,000 for the United Way of Northeast Tarrant County. The contributions reflect the compassion that NRH employees have for our community.

# 2009-2010 City Budget & Tax Rate

**T**he North Richland Hills City Council has adopted the budget and set the tax rate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This action came after many months of planning by city staff, a budget work session and two public hearings to receive input from residents.

In preparing the budget, city staff kept in mind the City Council's goals and objectives, as well as areas of greatest needs found by the citizens' survey. Consideration was also given to the national and local economic climate and the impact budget decisions would have on local taxpayers. This year more than ever, city programs were placed under the microscope to determine if they are meeting the city's goals and continue to be cost effective.

To save money and help balance the budget this year, the city has:

- suspended several special events such as fall concerts in the park;
- eliminated 6 full-time and 4 part-time positions;
- reduced employee overtime, travel and training;
- made adjustments to employee compensation and benefit plans;
- delayed the replacement of some technology and vehicles.

The budget also absorbs increasing costs that are beyond the city's control, such as increases in electricity, tires, engine oil, asphalt and employee health and medical costs. City departments are absorbing as much of the cost increases as possible by increasing efficiency and using city buildings, vehicles and materials more wisely.

Overall, residents should not notice changes in core services provided by the city this year. With careful budgeting and planning, we are able to provide a balanced budget, without reducing core services to the community.

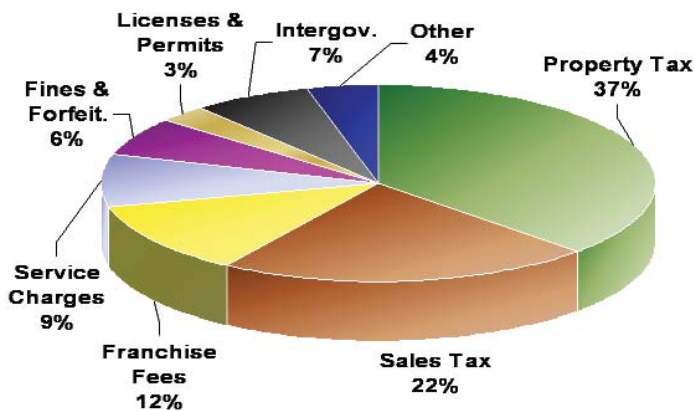
A primary source of funding for the city budget is property taxes. The City Council has set the property tax rate at 57 cents per \$100 property value. This is the 17th year in a row the city has maintained the same property tax rate. The property tax revenue helps to fund police, fire and EMS services, maintenance of public streets and street lighting, library services, park facilities and walking trails, the recreation center, animal control, environmental and health services, building inspections and much more.

Although the City's property tax rate remains the same for the coming year, residents should note that their property tax bill will change if the appraised value of their home has changed. The majority of NRH homes maintained the same property value as last year, or decreased slightly. Less than 10% of homeowners saw their property values increase. Property values are assessed by the Tarrant County Appraisal District, and not by the city. The average value of a home in North Richland Hills is \$150,862 this year, compared to \$149,808 last year. Property tax bills for senior citizens and disabled residents will not change unless they have purchased a new home or made additions to their home.

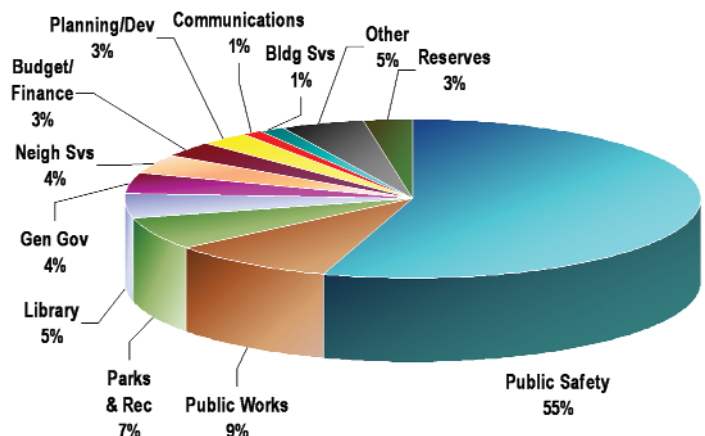
It is also important to note that the city tax is only a portion of the overall tax bill. NRH residents pay taxes to five different entities. These include the city, the school district, the county, the county hospital district and Tarrant County College. Property taxes are collected by the Tarrant County Tax Office in January of each year. For more information about paying your property taxes, please call the Tarrant County Tax Office at 817-884-1100.

The city's 2009-2010 budget is available for review on the city's web site at [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com). Copies are also available to review at North Richland Hills City Hall and the NRH Public Library. For more information, please contact the Budget Department at 817-427-6052.

**2009-2010 General Fund Revenues**



**2009-2010 General Fund Expenditures**



## 2010 Census: We're Counting on You

**D**id you know that more than 180 federal programs factor census counts into the formulas they use to disperse more than \$400 billion through Medicaid, highway repair programs, school lunch programs, assistance to low income households and more?

The city, county and school districts rely on census data, along with many non-profit organizations which provide social services to our community. Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities. Boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts are established based on census data as well.

Census forms will be mailed to all households in March 2010. The 2010 Census is the shortest questionnaire in census history with only 10 questions and it will take just minutes to complete. Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. Information collected is used for statistical purposes only and is not shared with any other local, state, or federal agency.

It is important that we get a complete count of our community in the 2010 Census. The City of North Richland Hills is counting on all households to complete and return their census forms.

## Production of Surgical Masks Returning to North Richland Hills

**P**restige Ameritech, L.P., the largest manufacturer of surgical masks in the United States, is expanding operations and moving to North Richland Hills. The company will occupy the facility at 7201 Iron Horse Boulevard starting in January 2010. The move will allow Prestige Ameritech to continue meeting the growing demand for surgical masks and respirators in the United States and around the world.

The North Richland Hills facility, where 87% of America's surgical face masks were once made, has sat vacant since Kimberly-Clark moved manufacturing and jobs to Mexico several years ago.

"We are thrilled to see this facility being re-occupied by a company that is working to protect our nation's health and security," said Mayor Oscar Trevino. "This is good for North Richland Hills and it is good for America."

Ninety percent of surgical masks used in the United States are currently made in other countries including Mexico and China. With recent threats of a global pandemic, Prestige Ameritech has become the largest domestic manufacturer of surgical masks and has outgrown its current facility.

Prestige Ameritech plans to occupy the 200,000-square-foot facility on Iron Horse Boulevard by January 31, 2010. The company will employ 400 plus workers by 2015 and will remain compliant with laws prohibiting the employment of undocumented workers. The City of North Richland Hills has provided an incentive agreement that will keep Prestige Ameritech and its 400 plus jobs in North Richland Hills for many years to come.

For additional information, please contact the North Richland Hills Economic Development Department at 817-427-6090.



**IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

## North Tarrant Construction to Begin in 2010

**T**he widening of North Tarrant Parkway between Davis Boulevard and Whitley Road is expected to begin in early 2010. This project will include reconstructing and widening the roadway to six lanes, plus much needed improvements to the North Tarrant Parkway and Smithfield Road intersection.

In North Richland Hills, there is a fairly wide right-of-way section for the project. This increased right-of-way width of 200 feet will allow for generous greenspace and landscaped medians, similar to those seen on North Tarrant Parkway between Davis Boulevard and Precinct Line Road. The wider right-of-way not only provides excellent landscaping opportunities, but also acts as a natural buffer between the existing neighborhoods and the roadway. There is also ample room for six-foot meandering sidewalks, benches, trash receptacles and light fixtures. The City of Keller will make similar improvements within their section of North Tarrant Parkway; however, the right-of-way section in Keller is roughly 115 feet in width.

This project is being funded by the City of North Richland Hills, City of Keller and Tarrant County. Construction bids are expected to be awarded in January 2010. City staff is optimistic that the project will receive extremely competitive bids and benefit from some of the lowest construction prices in years. This will translate into an overall savings for the residents of both communities. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 18 months, and two-way travel lanes will be maintained in the corridor during this time period. Additional information about this project is available online at [www.ntpkwy.com](http://www.ntpkwy.com) or by calling the NRH Public Works Department at 817-427-6400.



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## 2010 Meetings & Special Events

### January

- 1 City Holiday (No Trash Pickup)
- 6 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 7 Planning & Zoning Work Session
- 11 Teen Court
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 13 Youth Advisory Committee
- 14 CPR Class
- 19 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 21 Library Board
- 21 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 23 Parenting Solutions Workshop
- 25 City Council Meeting

### February

- 1 Park & Recreation Board
- 1 Teen Court
- 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 4 Planning & Zoning Work Session
- 6 Election Filing Begins
- 6 Daddy/Daughter Valentine Dance
- 8 Teen Court
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 10 Youth Advisory Committee
- 13 CPR Class
- 16 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 18 Library Board
- 18 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 22 City Council Meeting

### March

- 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 4 Planning & Zoning Work Session

- 6 Spring Landscape Seminar
- 6 CPR Class
- 8 Teen Court
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 8 Election Filing Ends
- 10 Youth Advisory Committee
- 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 15-19 Spring Break Camp @ Rec Center
- 16 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 18 Library Board
- 18 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 22 Teen Court
- 22 City Council Meeting
- 27 Easter in the Park

### April

- 1 Planning & Zoning Work Session
- 5 Teen Court
- 5 Park & Recreation Board

- 7 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 9 Spring Health Fair @ Dan Echols
- 10 Mayor's Fun Walk
- 12 Teen Court
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 14 Youth Advisory Committee
- 15 Library Board
- 15 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 16 Sounds of Spring Concert
- 20 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 23 Sounds of Spring Concert
- 24 Race for the Cure
- 26 City Council Meeting
- 26 Early Voting Begins
- 30 Sounds of Spring Concert

*Dates may be subject to change. To verify please call City Hall at 817-427-6000.*

## City of North Richland Hills

### City Council

- Mayor Oscar Trevino
- Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage
- John H. Lewis
- Ken Sapp
- Tom Lombard
- Dr. Tim Barth
- David Whitson
- Tim Welch

### City Manager's Office

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

### Newsletter

- Mary Peters, Public Information Officer

Residents may send their comments about this newsletter to [mpeters@nrhtx.com](mailto:mpeters@nrhtx.com) or Mary Peters, Public Information Officer, City of North Richland Hills, 7301 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX 76180. NRH newsletters can also be viewed online at [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com).