

Message from your city council

No phrase sums up the state of Richfield better than Bob Dylan's, "The times they are a changin."

Over the past year, the city elected a new mayor, Maria Regan Gonzalez, saw the retirement of a long-time city manager and experienced an economic boom. Residents can also see out their windows the investment in redevelopment and infrastructure, whether it be new housing, businesses, roads or parks.

Services have been expanded by the city, including the creation of the organics recycling program, the adoption of an affordable housing ordinance and participation in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity initiative.

In 2018, Richfield also received its fair share of accolades being named the hottest housing market in the Twin Cities by the Star Tribune and best suburb by City Pages.

While change is certainly challenging, it also is an opportunity to invest in the long-term future of our community and it's future generations.

Richfield has always been great, and we're excited to leverage the opportunities that lie ahead to build a better community together!

Maria Regan stz

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Simon Trautmann
Ward 1 Councilmember

Mary B. Supple

Mary Supple At-Large Councilmember

Edwinas Darcia

Edwina Garcia Ward 2 Councilmember



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Organics recycling debuts

Richfield's residents started recycling their organics on November 15, 2018. The organics recycling program was created to provide residents with an opportunity to reduce their carbon footprint by recycling hundreds of items most households send to the landfill.

As of December 31, 2018, 550 Richfield residents had signed up for the organics recycling program. These eco-friendly residents recycled 2.6 tons of organic waste during the last six weeks of the year.

Residents bring their organics waste, which can include everything from food scraps to pizza boxes, to one of the city's two drop-off sites. The drop-off sites are located at Hope Church, 7132 Portland Avenue, and the Wood Lake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Drive South.

"The Richfield community has truly embraced the organics recycling program," explained Minnesota Green Corps member Rachel Lindholm, who is shepherding the new organics recycling program. "Initially, we had planned for the organics recycling dumpsters to be picked up once every two weeks, but with all the residents participating in the program, we are now having multiple pickups a week to make sure there is enough space for all the organic material being dropped off."

Organics recycling is good for the environment. Approximately one-third of the garbage deposited at land-fills could be recycled as organics. Also, the rapid decomposing that takes place during commercial organics recycling reduces the amount of methane released during the process.

The success of the program predominantly lies with the outreach work done by the city's Organics Recycling Taskforce, which includes city staff, city council members and members of the community.

"Residents are amazed at the amount of trash they can recycle through the new program," said Wood Lake Nature Center Manager Karen Shragg. "The city's new organics recycling program has shown residents that most of the waste they generate does not need to go to a landfill."

The city's organics recycling program was made possible through a \$15,000 Hennepin County Recycling Grant. Organics recycling in Richfield coincides with Hennepin County's goal of curbside organics pickup for all businesses by 2020 and residential properties by 2022.

To learn more about the organics recycling program or to register, visit www.richfieldmn.gov/organics.

City council doubles down on protecting the city's affordable housing

Access to affordable housing bolsters the wellbeing of families. It fulfills the basic human need for shelter. Studies also show that children in stable housing do better in school and are less likely to experience a disruption in their education due to unwanted moves.

"As a city council, we know that quality, stable, affordable housing for both renters and homeowners is the foundation of a strong community," said Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez. "A lot of barriers exist that prevent residents from accessing affordable housing options. We are working to eliminate as many of these barriers as possible in Richfield."

City policymakers and staff have spent the past year considering multiple solutions to strengthen the city's affordable apartment communities and provide protections to renters most vulnerable to rising housing costs and declining availability.

In 2018, the city incorporated two new tools that should help tenants at risk of being displaced and increase affordable housing choices: a tenant protection ordinance and an inclusionary housing policy.

The new tenant protection ordinance applies to affordable rental apartment buildings when they are sold. The new owner is now required to provide notice to all tenants of any proposed changes in rents or screening policies, as well as offer a 90-day period before those changes take effect.

The ordinance applies to apartment buildings with three or more units. Also, the ordinance applies only to





apartment buildings where at least 20 percent of the units are at or below 60 percent of the median income.

"The tenant protection ordinance is geared towards our existing residents who rent. As buildings change ownership, the ordinance offers a reasonable period of time for tenants to adjust to increases in rent and changes in screening policies, or to find a new place to live if the changes force them to move," said Housing Manager Julie Urban.

The inclusionary housing policy applies to new housing developments seeking financial assistance. The policy requires developers to provide at least 20 percent of their units as affordable or make a financial contribution to the housing and redevelopment fund.

"Both the tenant protection ordinance and inclusionary housing policy are aimed at meeting the goals the council set for strengthening the city's apartment communities," explained Urban.

In a recent study session, the city council asserted that they wanted to strengthen Richfield's apartment communities by: preserving and improving the quality of existing affordable housing while discouraging displacement of residents, diversifying the housing stock through targeted redevelopment to provide a variety of rental housing opportunities at a range of income levels, strengthening protections for renters in order to promote housing stability, and providing support to renters and apartment owners and managers to facilitate successful apartment communities.

"The city has been a leader in protecting, preserving and promoting affordable housing options. We want to make sure that if you want to live in Richfield, you have options," affirmed Regan Gonzalez. "In the future, the council will be looking to provide additional resources to both renters and homeowners living in affordable housing."



City manager Steve Devich retires

For the past 38 years, Richfield residents could be certain of three things: death, taxes and that the city was in Steve Devich's capable hands.

During his tenure as city manager, Devich had one goal, to make Richfield a better place for the people that lived and worked here. Looking back over the decades, residents can say with certainty, "Mission accomplished!"

On November 30, Devich called it a career in service to the residents of Richfield.

Devich started with the city in 1980 and held a variety of positions throughout his career including assistant city manager, human resources manager and administrative services director.

He turned the reins of the city over to incoming city manager, Katie Rodriguez, who started on January 2, 2019.

New winter farmers market

Most cities have summer farmers markets. However, when the weather turns cold these markets shutter until the days get warmer.

Last winter, the city launched a winter farmers market at the Richfield Community Center.

"We have been thinking about doing a winter market for a long time," said former Recreation Services Director Jim Topitzhofer. "We are happy we could finally make it happen."

In the summer, Richfield hosts the third oldest farmers market in the metro area, behind only Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Residents love our summer market," said farmers market coordinator Bonnie Hanna-Powers. "Over the past several years, more cities have started holding winter farmers markets and it seemed like something our residents would enjoy."

Hanna-Powers used the city's fall boutique to solicit feedback from residents on whether they would be interested in attending a winter farmers market.

"Both boutique patrons and vendors were enthusiastic about the possibility," said Hanna-Powers.

Many of the vendors at the winter farmers market should be familiar to residents because they are also part of the summer market.

"We also brought in new vendors with some very unique offerings," advised Hanna-Powers.

Residents can purchase locally-grown lettuces, fish, eggs, honey, pickled products and much more.

The winter farmers market also offers more than just access to local goods. It offers residents a chance to socialize with their neighbors.

"In the winter, many of us go into social hibernation for three to four months where we stay at home and don't do a whole lot," said Hanna-Powers. "Coming to the Richfield winter farmers market allows residents a chance to get out and get social."





Richfield Liquor makes upgrades at several stores

Customers to any business want a pleasant shopping experience. In that vein, Richfield's Liquor Operations Department has undertaken an extensive renovation that is finally coming to fruition.

Most residents know that the City of Richfield operates four municipal liquor stores, but these stores have received few updates since the 1970s. In an effort to provide residents with a enhanced shopping experience, the city's Liquor Operations Department started a renovation project five years ago.

The store located at 6444 Lyndale Avenue was the first to be remodeled in 2013. The 6600 Cedar Avenue store followed in 2016. By 2018, the final store requiring an extensive renovation, 6444 Penn Avenue, went under construction.

"We stripped the Penn Avenue store down to the studs," said Liquor Operations Director Bill Fillmore. "We added windows, relocated the entrance, replaced the parking lot, supplanted the roof and added a state-of-the-art beer cooler."

All of the city's liquor stores also received an extensive rebranding that included uniform exterior signage, staff uniforms, shopping carts and carrying baskets.

"The branding efforts look very nice," remarked Fillmore. "It gives residents a clear image of who we are."

The Penn Avenue store reopened in late June and customers are enjoying the difference. Residents also had the opportunity to experience the changes first-hand during Penn Fest.

"Customers are very pleased with the renovation. They are staying in the store longer and spending more money," explained Penn store manager Ryan Shogren. "In fact, since we reopened our sales have been up 10 percent."

Increased sales mean more park improvements because municipal liquor store profits are invested into the city's parks. Park additions such as the bathhouse at the pool, trail updates at the Wood Lake Nature Center and the play equipment at Veterans Park were all made possible through liquor store funding.

It is important to note, the renovations to the city's liquor stores did not add to the tax levy. It was all paid for through store profits.



Minnesota's first Latina mayor

Richfield has had a lot of historical moments since its founding in the 1850s. However, electing Minnesota's first Latina mayor might be its finest.

Maria Regan Gonzalez was elected Richfield mayor on November 6, 2018. In her race, she received 96.25 percent of the votes cast.

Previously, Regan Gonzalez had represented Richfield's east side residents as the Ward 3 councilmember since 2016.

Even prior to serving on the city council, service was always a big part of Regan Gonzalez's life. Her parents encouraged her to get involved in her community. That passion for service eventually led her to run for a seat on the Richfield City Council.

"Originally, I ran for city council because I wanted

to make sure that city services were accessible to all residents," remembered Regan Gonzalez.

Though her time on the city council has been brief, Regan Gonzalez and her city council counterparts have shepherded in many initiatives and projects that will impact Richfield for decades to come.

They have passed ordinances aimed at protecting youth from tobacco products, expanded affordable housing options, authorized reconstruction of some of Richfield's busiest roads, and ushered in a redevelopment boom of more than \$200 million.

However, it is the smaller accomplishments that Regan Gonzalez is most proud.

"It is an honor to contribute to major changes in Richfield, but it is just as rewarding to connect



residents with staff to accomplish day-to-day and quality-of-life improvements," admitted Regan Gonzalez. "Recently, I was informed that a heavily used bus stop on the east side did not have a shelter to protect its patrons from inclement weather. Residents, myself, along with city staff, were able to work together to re-purpose a shelter from another less utilized stop. It is solutions like that I truly enjoy."

Regan Gonzalez's vision for Richfield revolves around the rapid change the city is experiencing.

"A lot of new families and businesses are moving to Richfield. This has led to many changes within the city. Both new and long-term residents are anxious about these changes," said Regan Gonzalez. "My biggest priority is to build bridges between residents of different backgrounds, facilitate the change the city is experiencing in a way that will benefit all and to make sure everyone feels welcome and safe."

She also wants to engage more residents in the change process by getting their input early in the development of city-wide initiatives.

Regan Gonzalez believes that one of Richfield's biggest strengths for today and the future is its diversity.

"Richfield is growing and diversifying," acknowledged Regan Gonzalez. "As a city, that provides us with a lot of world views and assets that we can leverage to help Richfield thrive."

Upon taking office, Regan Gonzalez became Minnesota's and Richfield's first Latina mayor, but she credits strong female trailblazers such as the current Ward 2 council member Edwina Garcia, the Richfield League of Women Voters, and former mayor Debbie Goettel for leading the way.

As Regan Gonzalez takes office she wants residents to take pleasure in the opportunity that is ahead of Richfield, as a city.

"I ask residents to please join their neighbors, the city council, staff and other organizations in navigating the changes that are happening in the city together," declared Regan Gonzalez. "We have the opportunity to work in partnership to come up with creative solutions to produce the best outcomes for Richfield moving forward."

Regan Gonzalez was sworn in on January 8, 2019. Residents interested in contacting mayor Regan Gonzalez can do so by emailing mregan@richfieldmn.gov.



T21 comes to Richfield

On June 12, the city council voted unanimously to increase the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products, and tobacco related devices, from 18 to 21 years of age. At the time, Richfield became the tenth city in the state to pass a T21 ordinance.

A T21 ordinance raises the legal minimum sales age of a tobacco related product to 21 in a state, county or municipality.

"Smoking is still the number one cause of preventable death in this country," said Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez, who championed the T21 ordinance from the beginning. "The new ordinance is about preventing initiation among youth by putting purchasers outside the social circle of most high school students."

Throughout the process, the city's Advisory Board of Health wanted to make sure any T21 law would be tailored to the needs of Richfield residents. One of the unique aspects to the T21 ordinance deals with enforcement.

"The ordinance eliminates purchase, use and possession penalties. Research has shown that these types of penalties do not deter tobacco use in young people," explained Community Health Services Administrator Jennifer Anderson. "The enforcement aspect of the ordinance is directed toward retailers under the guise of compliance checks to make sure they are adequately checking IDs."

The city's Advisory Board of Health, along with several other community partners, explored the possibility of becoming a T21 city for more than a year.

Several neighboring cities, including Bloomington, Edina and Saint Louis Park have passed similar ordinances increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21.

Nationally, more than 300 municipalities and five states have passed laws increasing the age necessary to purchase tobacco products.

"The T21 ordinance protects the youth of Richfield from a lifelong addiction to tobacco. Any step toward prevention is a step in the right direction," said Anderson.



More than 75 cities, counties and providences have participated in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) initiative since it was established. The initiative aims to eliminate institutional and structural racism in government agencies.

Richfield started its GARE journey in 2018.

The city's GARE team consists of nine employees representing almost every department within the city.

The first year of the GARE experience is about learning the history of racial inequity and how to combat it. GARE teams develop an action plan for rooting out inequities in their agency's practices and procedures.

"Most of Richfield's organizational practices were created decades ago," said Executive Aide/Analyst Jared Voto. "The city's demographics have changed dramatically over the past 30 years and we need to make sure that the new population has the same access to services as their predecessors."

Last spring, three staff members attended the national GARE conference to learn what other cities are doing to combat institutional and structural racism.

"Every city participating in GARE is in a different place," said Support Services Supervisor Jennifer Anderson. "The concept of racial equity, by itself, is so complex. It was great to hear how other cities, both big and small, are tackling this important issue."

Unlike other finite projects that have a beginning,

Unlike other finite projects that have a beginning, middle and end, increasing equity in the city's practices is an ongoing effort that never comes to an

end. Success is ongoing.

Thankfully, government leaders throughout the country, including Richfield, understand the importance of this kind of work.

"It is easy to get caught up in the millions of possibilities the GARE project could lead to for the city," said Anderson. "However, it is important that we come up with solutions that will work

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- Jared Voto

for Richfield."

Currently, the GARE Team is investigating the city's hiring and recruiting practices utilizing a racial equity toolkit, which helps the team ask questions to make sure a certain practice is impartial.

The team is reviewing job descriptions, minimum requirements and where jobs are advertised.

The city is also working with Hennepin County to receive training on non-biased interviewing, as well as reaching out to Somali and Latino organizations to advertise positions to those specific communities.



RPD raises \$12,000 in support of Special Olympics

The road to the Special Olympics Summer Games involves a lot of hard work and training for participating athletes. Many people support them along the way, including the Richfield Police Department.

In the run-up to the games, the department held four events including two Tip-A-Cop gatherings, a Polar Plunge and a Torch Run, as well as selling apparel, to raise money for the Special Olympics, which to date has netted more than \$12,000.

The police department's Special Olympics coordinator, officer Miranda Soldow, credits the overall success of the fundraising efforts to the willingness of the department's officers to contribute both time and money, being able to put a face to the cause and having a very supportive command staff.

"As a department, we have supported numerous charitable causes throughout the years, but I have to say that the Special Olympics is probably our favorite. Our officers are extremely passionate about supporting the Special Olympics," explained Police Chief Jay Henthorne.

The support for the Special Olympics went well beyond the officers in the department. Numerous members of the community participated, as well as other city staff. The city council also promoted and lent words of support for the department's efforts at council meetings and in the community.

Officers Miranda Soldow and Hailey Quanbeck attended the opening ceremony of the Minnesota Special Olympics Summer Games.

"The slogan for the Special Olympics is 'Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,' which is spot on when you see how sup-

portive and inclusive the event was," remembered officer Soldow. "My 'hug-meter' was through the roof and my hand was a little sore from all the high fives I received from the athletes."

Throughout the fundraising efforts more than just money was raised to support the Special Olympics, lasting friendships were forged.

"I have made so many new friends through the department's work with the Special Olympics," said Soldow. "One of the athletes I got to know, Dave, texts me on a regular basis. He is one of the most thankful and kind people I have ever met."

The department's support for Special Olympics is another facet of the RPD's robust community policing initiative, which aims to build lasting relationships with residents through consistent interactions, thus creating partnerships that reducing crime.

"Community policing is very important to the Richfield Police Department," said Police Chief Jay Henthorne. "It builds trust and increases transparency with the community."



Two Richfield firefighters help deliver one of the city's newest residents last summer

While the rest of Richfield was either on their way to work, waking up or still reminiscing about the fun they had at the jampacked Red, White and Blue Days, the Richfield Fire Department was dispatched on a very special call on the 7100 block of Clinton Avenue at 8:39 a.m. on July 5.

Gina Erickson, who was 39 weeks pregnant with her first child, woke up in the middle of the night experiencing some minor pain, but after consulting

with her midwife and doula decided that labor was not imminent and tried to go back to sleep.

Fast forward to 7 a.m., her husband, Matthew, woke to Gina experiencing frequent contractions that were growing in intensity. Both believed they still had time to make it to the hospital prior to the baby's arrival.

While making preparations to leave for the hospital they realized that the baby was coming now.

At that point, Mathew contacted their doula and 911. "By the time I answered the third question from the dispatcher, the Richfield Fire Department was already at the door," recalled Matthew Erickson. "Definitely a perk of living only a few blocks from the fire station."

Firefighters Brian Weinholz and Mike Ziskovsky knocked on the door and assessed the situation.

"As first responders, we go on a fair share of imminent birth calls. Typically, we assist the expecting mother until the paramedics arrive and she is transported to the hospital," explained Weinholz. "Based on the information we had from dispatch, we were expecting the call to play out similarly. However, after we met Mr. Erickson at the door we realized that their baby was going to be born then and there."

Matthew brought Weinholz and Ziskovsky back to the bedroom where Gina was located. The firefighters opened their obstetrics kit, started monitoring vitals and proceeded to prepare the area for the paramedics.



The paramedics arrived shortly thereafter.

"Once it was determined that the baby was going to be born at home both Mom and Dad were calm and focused. Mrs. Erickson did all the work. We were just there to help," remembered Weinholz.

After only being on the scene for approximately 30 minutes, Finley Alexander Erickson was born at 9:11 a.m.

Throughout the delivery process Weinholz and Ziskovsky assisted the

paramedics by timing contractions, making sure Gina was comfortable, providing post-birth suction, stimulating the baby to achieve good skin color, as well as administering oxygen.

Directly following Finley's birth, Weinholz, Ziskovsky and the paramedics made sure both mother and child were in good health before they were transported to the hospital by paramedics.

"Gina and I are grateful to have had such a great team of support for the birth of Finley, despite the very unexpected experience," explained Matthew.

Fittingly, as both firefighters returned to the station, Ziskovsky cleared the call with dispatch by stating, "The world is now plus one."

Weinholz and Ziskovsky both received stork pins to signify that they assisted in a home birth.

"I have been a firefighter for 21 years," explained Assistant Fire Chief Mike Dobesh. "I have been on a lot of imminent birth calls, but never experienced a home birth. The entire Fire Department was excited for firefighters Weinholz and Ziskovsky. They did a great job in assisting the Ericksons."

When reflecting on the overall experience, the irony that the Erickson's called 911 and that Finley was born at 9:11 a.m. was not lost on Matthew.

"The calling 911/Finley being born at 9:11 a.m. is really unbelievable," reminisced Matthew. "Finley will grow up hearing about his birth, right here in our family home, for the rest of his life."



Better Richfield

Back in 2014, the city established a 10 year master plan to update and improve its infrastructure. Most residents know this initiative as Sweet Streets.

The project, which to most residents may have seemed daunting at the time of its launch, is going very well, with most elements ahead of schedule. The project is also addressing the needs of a 21st Century population.

"When the city's transportation infrastructure was laid out in the decades that followed World War II. the car was king," explained City Engineer Jeff Pearson. "Now, residents want transportation options when it comes to getting from point 'A' to point 'B'."

With this in mind, the city adopted a complete streets policy. A complete streets policy requires

Richfield is experiencing a redevelopment boom

When the economy is humming along nicely, commercial and residential developers look for places and properties to cultivate. In the case of Richfield, this has led to a city-altering development boom. Currently, more than \$200 million of redevelopment work is occurring within city limits.

"Richfield has the challenge of being a fully-developed city, meaning the city has no vacant space," explained former Mayor Pat Elliott. "It took the right developers and some creativity on the part of city staff to get the ball rolling on redevelopment in Richfield. However, this is just the beginning when it comes to redevelopment; it is not going to end any time soon."

The city has more than a dozen projects under construction, which amounts to nearly \$80 million of economic development. New construction projects include: the Primrose preschool, Dunkin Donuts, Plaza 66. The Chamberlain and Havenwood. The Cedar Point Target just completed a multi-million dollar interior remodel. Six single-family homes are under

construction or undergoing rehab through the city's Richfield Rediscovered and New Home Program.

Richfield's largest project currently under construction, The Chamberlain, will cost \$43 million to construct. The housing development will add 284 new apartments to the city, and will renovate 33 existing apartments without displacing current residents.

"We have a need for both market rate and affordable housing options," explained Community Development Director John Stark. "The Chamberlain project will provide additional housing options for residents that fall into a variety of income levels."

Three additional projects have received final approval by the city council and are expected to break ground in the coming months. Of these, Morrie's Automotive Group's Jaguar and Land Rover dealership is the most notable. The project will cost \$25 million and, when completed, will encompass 105,000 square feet over two stories.

"Commercial development and redevelopment is the lifeblood of a city's tax base. A thriving commercial tax base is vital for the city to maintain its infrastructure, while not over-burdening single-family homeowners," said Assistant City Manager Pam Dmytrenko. "Morrie's Automotive is a perfect example of the kinds of commercial development we are

streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

"A little over a decade ago, Richfield constructed its first bike lane and it was only four blocks in length," said Public Works Director Kristin Asher. "Today, the city is home to 15 miles of on-street bike lanes and 17 miles of off-street bike trails."

Pedestrians are also reaping the benefits from the changes to the city's transportation system.

"Residents used to contact us all the time with concerns about how difficult it was to cross our busier streets," said Pearson. "People that lived a couple blocks from Veterans Park would drive there because it was too difficult to cross the street."

Converting streets like 66th Street and Portland Avenue from four lanes to three, and the addition of roundabouts, accommodates the same amount of traffic volume, while reducing speeds. Modern high visibility crossings were also added.

Many of these projects will save the city money in the long run.

The mill and over lay project repaves residential streets without the high cost of a full reconstruction.

Additionally, the city is about to start lining its sewer system. Replacing the sewer system would require the reconstruction of numerous roads, as well as high cost of purchasing sewer pipes. Lining the system will save money and insulate the city from having to replace the sewer system for decades.

City services are more efficiently and effectively delivered because of the streetscape changes.

"Prior to adding the boulevards and moving the sidewalks back from the roads, our plow crews had nowhere to put the snow. They would have to plow four to five times to get the roads in good shape," remarked Operations Superintendent Chris Link. "Now, crews only have to plow one or two times to achieve similar results."

Lastly, Sweet Street projects enhance the city's aesthetics. The tree lined boulevards appear to come straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting and give the city its "Urban Hometown" feel.

"A city's roads are its face to visitors and residents, alike," mused Link. "A good transportation system, like the one we have here in Richfield, is something the community can be proud of."

To learn more about the Sweet Streets initiative, visit: www.richfieldsweetstreets.org.

trying to attract to the city."

Two additional housing projects are in the final planning and zoning phase. Lyndale Gardens and RF64, across from Target, will add an additional \$90 million investment in Richfield.

A number of other projects, including the redevelopment of the HUB, located on 66th Street, are in the proposal stages. So, it's unlikely Richfield's economic boom will be ending any time soon.

Community Development Department staff are continually working with developers interested in investing in Richfield to bring appropriate residential, commercial and recreational amenities to the city.

This influx in redevelopment should prove beneficial to residents in a number of ways. It is difficult to estimate the exact effects the ongoing projects will have on the tax base, but it will no doubt provide tax relief to single-family homeowners. The addition of more restaurants and shops will also provide residents in the surrounding area with more amenities.

"Richfield is a dynamic community and significant changes are happening every week," said Stark.
"The city is in an admirable position to add millions of dollars in commercial development over the next several years and it is our belief that the city will remain attractive to developers moving forward."



Richfield is #1

Outgoing mayor, Pat Elliott, used to say, "Richfield is the best kept secret in the Twin Cities." Well, if 2018 was any indication, the secret is out! Over the past 12 months, the Urban Hometown was voted the best suburb in the metro by City Pages and the hottest housing market for the second consecutive year by the Star Tribune. Since then, current and former residents have reached out to staff and expressed their opinions on why Richfield is the best city in the area...maybe the world. We boiled the reasons down to: location, housing market, niche businesses, restaurants, rich history, picturesque parks, neighbors that look out for each other, kept up infrastructure, family-friendly activities and a community that celebrates its diversity. Sounds like a perfect place, to us.

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