



City of Richland, Washington

2008 Annual Report

In 2008, Richland City Council and staff took the first steps on a journey of transformation to make our local government more responsive and effective for you and future residents. Based on what our citizens told us, through community surveys, at public meetings, in emails and phone calls, and at the grocery store, we visualized Richland in the year 2030. Then, we created a strategic leadership plan to reach that vision. We call our plan “Seven Keys To Unlock Our Future.” This 2008 annual report captures the first successes and challenges of our efforts.

These are the “Seven Keys To Unlock Our Future”

- Key 1: Financial stability and operational effectiveness
- Key 2: Infrastructure and facilities
- Key 3: Economic vitality
- Key 4: Central Richland and Island View district revitalization
- Key 5: Natural resources management
- Key 6: Community amenities
- Key 7: Housing and neighborhoods

City council and staff identified 28 five-year goals, with accompanying two-year objectives, to support these Keys. Richland’s 2009 budget funds the first of these objectives. You can find a list of the five-year goals on the city’s website at www.ci.richland.wa.us.

A few examples of 2009 objectives are: obtain funding for transportation improvements, open more land for industrial development, identify how to make the community more attractive to young professionals, strengthen code enforcement efforts, advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) school, and implement cost-effective solid waste programs that reflect the community’s environmental objectives.



CITY COUNCIL

2008-2009

Mayor

John Fox

Mayor Pro Tem

Ed Revell

Sandra Kent

Rita Mazur

David Rose

Sheila Sullivan

Bob Thompson

City Manager

Cindy Johnson

Basic services

We know that you, as a Richland resident or business owner, want to feel confident that you are getting the best value for your tax dollars. As our population grows (5.9% since 2005), we seek improved operational effectiveness instead of adding proportional numbers of staff.

We also know that you expect water

and electricity at the turn of a faucet or flip of a switch, garbage collection on a regular basis, rapid police and fire response when you call 911, safe streets, clean parks and playgrounds, and plenty of books to borrow from the public library.

We know that you want to feel safe in your city: Last year, serious crime in Rich-

land dropped to an eight-year low, as did crimes per 1,000 residents (25).

Every day, city staff works to provide these services, and many others, as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

City council and city staff consistently strive to make you proud to call Richland your home.



Fireworks in Howard Amon Park concluded Richland's 50th anniversary. *(kim fetrow photography)*

50th anniversary celebration

Throughout 2008, Richland celebrated 50 years of incorporation as a First Class City with a mix of community projects and events.

Anniversary partners helped sponsor events or teamed with the city to enhance the celebration. They were Allied Arts Gallery, Atomic Ale Brewpub & Eatery, Bechtel Group Foundation, Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc., CH2MHILL Hanford Group, Chervenell Construction, Collings Foundation,

Cool Desert Nights, Entertainment Fireworks, Inc., Foster Pepper PLLC, Mix 105.3, Northwest Rentals Center, Inc., Port of Benton, Port of Kennewick, Racing Limos, Red Lion Hotel Richland (Hanford House), Richland High School Club 40, Richland Public Library & Foundation, and Tri-Cities Stamp Club.

Thank you to these community supporters! And, thanks to all our residents who attended anniversary events.

Traffic flow improvements

Participants in Richland's 2006 Community Survey and 2007 Mini Survey identified transportation issues, including traffic flow and street conditions, as the top challenge facing the city.

In 2008 to improve traffic flow, the city activated 13 new or replacement traffic signals, including four on George Washington Way.

The city also overlaid portions of Wil-

liams Boulevard and Van Giesen Street, as well as several residential streets, and crack sealed other streets to prevent their deterioration.

We awarded a contract for 2009 Leslie Road improvements, continued to partner with City of Kennewick in designing phase 1 of Steptoe Street, and acquired construction funding for widening Keene Road between Queensgate and West Richland.



The city continued its pre-construction work on the Duportail bridge, which will span the Yakima River.

Economic development successes

Richland made several economic development strides during 2008 and laid the groundwork for others.

Accomplishments include sale of 25 acres in the Horn Rapids Master Planned Community for \$565,000, completion of backbone electrical work for Horn Rapids Business Center and sale of 7 acres there, and signing of a sales agreement

with Con Agra Foods Lamb Weston for 8.53 acres on Columbia Point.

We rezoned the Central Business District and the Island View subarea to attract private investment in balanced development of mixed residential, business and retail neighborhoods.

Growth included several retail businesses at CityView, along Aaron Way and

on Gage Boulevard, and two professional buildings in Spaulding Business Center.

To attract and retain younger workers and families, the city continued its support to Young Professionals of the Tri-Cities, a networking organization for people in their 20s and 30s.

The city also completed affordable housing projects for 28 households.

Community appearance and amenities

Participants in Richland's 2006 Community Survey and 2007 Mini Survey also identified community appearance/code enforcement as a significant challenge. Specifically, residents called attention to neighborhood decay.

To help address the problems, the city looked at successful code enforcement in other communities and formed a cross-departmental team to coordinate enforcement; it will step up efforts in 2009.

The city added a park ranger program to enhance park use compliance and initi-

ated a program that uses seed-eating insects to control specific invasive weeds.

With thanks to its partners, the city also completed streetscape improvements at the Howard Amon Overlook, dedicated a statue at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Overlook, added landscaping and/or other improvements along Aaron Drive, Is-



land View Riverfront, Gillespie Parkway and Keene Road Trails, and Desert Rim,

Claybell and Trailhead Parks, added playground equipment at Columbia Playfield and Sturgeon Cove, and planted 51 trees at city parks.

Artistically carved trees in Howard Amon Park (one is pictured at left) enhanced the city's outdoor art collection.

Daily life

The City of Richland always strives to improve programs and services that our growing population needs. Whether the task is to repair roads or to maximize technology to serve you through our web site, our goal is to invest wisely – to provide for today and to plan for tomorrow.

Here are just a few of the other accomplishments from 2008 that you may find useful or enjoyable:

- "Park and ride" area on Columbia Park Trail, with Ben Franklin Transit
- videoconferencing capability at Richland Community Center

- crime mapping on the city's website
- more information on living "green" on the city's website
- Richland Rotary Centennial Plaza in north Howard Amon Park
- reading program with therapy dogs at Richland Public Library.

Richland by the numbers in 2008

46,080

Residents

34.4 miles²

Geographic area

230

New houses

2,356

Park acres

271

Road miles

2.3%

Population



9.5%

Ambulance calls



-.5%^B

Sales tax

62

Parks

339

Pothole repairs

98%^A

Feel safe

32,762

Police calls

1

Olympian*

66%^A

Visited library

4,048

Licensed pets

This report is a
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publication
of the

City of
Richland, WA

www.ci.richland.wa.us



* Richland native Hope Solo, 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist in Women's Soccer, greeted fans and signed autographs at Richland City Fair in October 2008. City Fair showcased city services, projects, programs and equipment.

A These percentages came from the City of Richland's 2008 Community Survey: 98% of residents said they feel safe in their neighborhoods during the day; 95% feel safe at night. **B** The city's share of sales tax declined from \$7,756,348 in 2007 to \$7,715,680 in 2008.