

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association**  
**2026 Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**March 24, 2026**  
**Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2026 Spring General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Berkner High School.

**Call to Order**

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

President, Gene Lawrence; Vice President, Stephen Beyer; Treasurer, Jano Pretorius; Secretary, Donna Buhr

**Leadership Team Members Present**

Membership Chair, Le Filler; Beautification Co-Chair, Judy Bergstrom; Beautification Co-Chair, J.J. Wampler; Social Chair Co-Chair, Allison Turner; Social Chair Co-Chair, Chris Chaillot; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence

**Visiting Dignitaries, Speakers, and Guests**

Richardson Mayor, Amir Omar

Richardson City Council Members:

- Place 1, Curtis Dorian
- Place 2, Jennifer Justice
- Place 6, Arefin Shamsul

Richardson Police Chief, Gary Tittle

Richardson Police Sergeant, Austin Galloway

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.

**Treasury Report** presented by Treasurer, Jano Pretorius

Beginning Balance January 1, 2026	\$ 16,103
2026 Deposits to date	2,030
Current Stripe Balance	-0-
Pending Deposit	60
2026 Expenses to date	(\$233)
Current Total Funds Available	\$ 17,960

**Guest Speaker: Richardson Chief of Police, Gary Tittle**

**Topic: Richardson Police Department Update**

Richardson Chief of Police, Gary Tittle provided a presentation on the Richardson Police Department. Chief Tittle's presentation focused on four areas: Organizational Structure, Communication and Partnerships, Management and Efficiencies, and Coaching and Performance.

## Presentation highlights:

### Organizational Structure

#### Public Safety Staffing

- 911 Dispatchers – Authorized: 25 | Actual filled: 22
- Sworn Officers - Authorized: 173 | Actual filled: 163
- Detention - Authorized: 16 | Actual filled: 17
- Staffing is down with the greatest loss through retirement.
- Quotes of note:
  - “RPD is very selective” in hiring the best staff – “ We want the best and only hire the good ones.”
  - “We (RPD) put the best out there for the City of Richardson.”

### Community Relations

- **Volunteers in Police service**
  - 116 active volunteers (2025)
- **Youth Citizen Police Academy**
  - 53 enrolled (2025)
- **National Night Out 2025**
  - Richardson placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nation
- **Women’s Self Defense Class**
  - A free self-defense program that teaches realistic techniques to recognize and reduce risk in potentially dangerous situations
  - Program is offered by trained instructors from RPD
  - Offered every 2-3 months
- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**
  - CIT is in addition to regular police duties.
- **Homeless Engagement Liaison Program (HELP)**
  - The City of Richardson is a member of both Housing Forward's All Neighbor's Coalition and the Collin County Homeless Coalition
- **Special Olympics**
  - RPD is involved and committed to Special Olympics such as volunteering at the Winter Games in Bee Cave, golf team at Top Golf Pro AM event with the athletes, NNO, Breakfast with Champions with the athletes, and assisted with the torch run at the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference
- **Upcoming Community Relations Events**
  - CPA Class – 2/3 - 4/21
  - Security Director/ Facility Manager Meeting - March
  - Summer Safety Kickoff/Hispanic Outreach – 5/22
  - Youth CPA – 6/8 – 6/12
  - Religious Leaders Meeting - June
  - Public Safety Expo – September
  - Coffee with a Cop – every 2-3 months
  - Cops and Rec at Huffhines and Heights Rec Centers – every 2-3 months

### Management and Efficiencies

- **Crime Scene**
  - 167 persons identified through the Universal Latent Workstation (ULW)
  - 415 times dispatched to process crime scenes
  - 136 completed requests for evidence processing
- **Crime Statistics 2024 vs 2025**
  - Total violent crime is down 8.8%
  - Total property crime is down 24.8%
  - Total overall crime is down 23.4%

- **Current Crime Trends**
  - Burglary Motor Vehicles (BMV) were the most widespread offense reported with most occurring in apartment and hotel parking lots.
    - Approximately 57% of BMVs involved unlocked vehicles.
  - Most business burglaries occurred at the retail and restaurant locations.
  - There is an increase in organized retail theft groups operating in the metroplex.
  - Most common target of auto thefts remain GMC products.
- **Property and Evidence**
  - 82,427 pieces of property/evidence in the RPD property room currently
- **Re-Accreditation**
  - Being “Accredited” means that the agency has proven that it meets or exceeds all the identified Best Practices for Texas Law Enforcement.
  - In 2009, RPD was the 19th agency in the State to receive accreditation, then re-accredited in 2013, 2018, and 2022.
  - The Department maintains the Re-Accredited status for four years while submitting annual reports and maintains Accreditation standards.
  - RPD is up for Re-Accreditation status - June 2026

## Coaching and Performance

- **Academy Training**
  - Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC)
    - RPD requires 10 hours of incumbent training every year.
- **Plano & Richardson Police Academy**
  - Plano and Richardson Police Departments utilize a shared training center, with operating expenses divided between them. Plano covers roughly 70% of the costs, while Richardson is responsible for about 30%.
  - The current police training center was built in 1990 and has never been renovated.
  - In 2025, Plano voters approved Propositions C that authorizes the city of Plano to issue \$51 million in bonds to fund a new police training facility.
  - The project is estimated to take 4 years to complete.
  - The estimated cost to the City of Richardson is \$15,595,000. This cost is determined by the number of authorized employees for the Plano and Richardson Police Departments.
- **World Cup Fifa 2026**
  - RPD stands ready for mutual aid request throughout North Texas.
  - Two Base Team locations in the Metro Plex.
  - Quote of note: “We (RPD) will be ready, but not sure what ready looks like. We are staffed up as much as possible, but we’re not sure exactly what will be needed.”
- **Detention Facility**
  - RPD is in partnership with the City of Addison for the detention center.
  - Currently there is an average of less than three detentions per day from Addison.
- **Handle With Care (HWC)**
  - HWC is a program with the Richardson Independent School District
  - Promotes law enforcement and school-community partnerships aimed at ensuring that children who are exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve academically at their highest levels, despite whatever traumatic circumstances may have endured.
  - The Youth Crimes Sergeant is the RPD HWC Program Coordinator and will be responsible for:
    - Maintaining a record of HWC notifications
    - Ensuring a designated SRO assigned to each RISD campus (JHS and HS) receives the notification.
    - Collaboration with the RISD HWC Program Coordinators

**Chief Tittle ended the informative presentation by addressing audience questions. He was assisted by Sergeant, Austin Galloway.**

## **Neighborhood or Member Complaint**

BPNA President, Gene Lawrence, introduced a complaint reported by neighborhood residents regarding noise disturbances.

- **Late Night Engine Revving Noise**
  - Coming from Buckingham Road
  - Vehicles speeding or racing
  - Between Plano and Jupiter Road
  - Noise penetrates neighborhood
  - Long term, on-going complaint

Chief Tittle and Sergeant Galloway discussed how the RPD is addressing the issue.

## **New Business - None**

## **Unfinished Business – Proposed Bylaw Amendment**

- Approve the proposed \$40 annual membership fee.
- The proposal was a topic of discussion at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- There were no objections or concerns stated at the meeting.
- The fee increase reflects today's cost of doing business.
- There have only been two fee adjustments over the 15 years of the Association.
- If approved, the increase will be effective for the year 2027 membership.

### **Bylaw Amendment – Section 10.01: DUES (amended March 24, 2026, see Section 11.02 (k)).**

“The Board may determine from time to time the amount of the annual dues, if any, payable to the Association by members. The dues shall not exceed \$40.00 annually.

New members shall be entitled to one free member yard sign when payment is received by the Association. Each residential homeowner and each tenant holding a leasehold interest in property in the Berkner Park Neighborhood that renew membership shall be entitled to one free member yard sign every five calendar years. Each residential homeowner and each tenant holding a leasehold interest in property in the Berkner Park Neighborhood publicly displaying the Association's member yard sign must be current in their Association dues.”

### **Section 11.02: AMENDMENTS. – (k) Section 10.01: DUES amended to increase Association dues from \$30 to \$40.**

**Gene Lawrence moved to amend Bylaw Article (k) Section 10.01: Following a brief discussion, the motion was seconded and carried with unanimous approval.**

## **Neighborhood Beautification Update**

**President Gene Lawrence provided an update on the Neighborhood, Matching Funds Beautification, (MFB) project:**

- MFB Project: Install Landscaping on the 1600/1700 Spring Valley median.
- This will be a multi-year phased project.
- Phase 1 is completed with the planting of 12 Desert Willow trees.
- Desert Willow is the same variety of trees planted on the 1800/1900 Spring Valley median.
- Water is temporarily supplied using water bags provided by the city at no cost to BPNA.
- This MFB project was considered the best value for our neighborhood and City providing an immediate visible neighborhood impact.
- Future projects: water system & flower beds; however, no timetable has been set.

## **Neighborhood or Member Concerns and Q&A**

The floor was open to members for Q&A

## **Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence**

- Trash Bash - Saturday, April 11, 2026, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - First United Methodist Church, 503 N. Central Expy
    - Please note that this year's event will only be accessible using Custer Road.
- Spring Fling – Saturday, April, 18, 2026
  - Berkner Park 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - Between Butterfly Garden & Pavillion
- Election Day Saturday, May 2, 2026
  - Early voting April 20, 2026 – April 28, 2026
- Interested in Crime Watch Patrol?
  - Contact, Clayton Rinderknecht at [clayton.rinderknecht@gmail.com](mailto:clayton.rinderknecht@gmail.com)

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.**

**Refreshments donated by Papa Johns located at 2105 Buckingham Road**