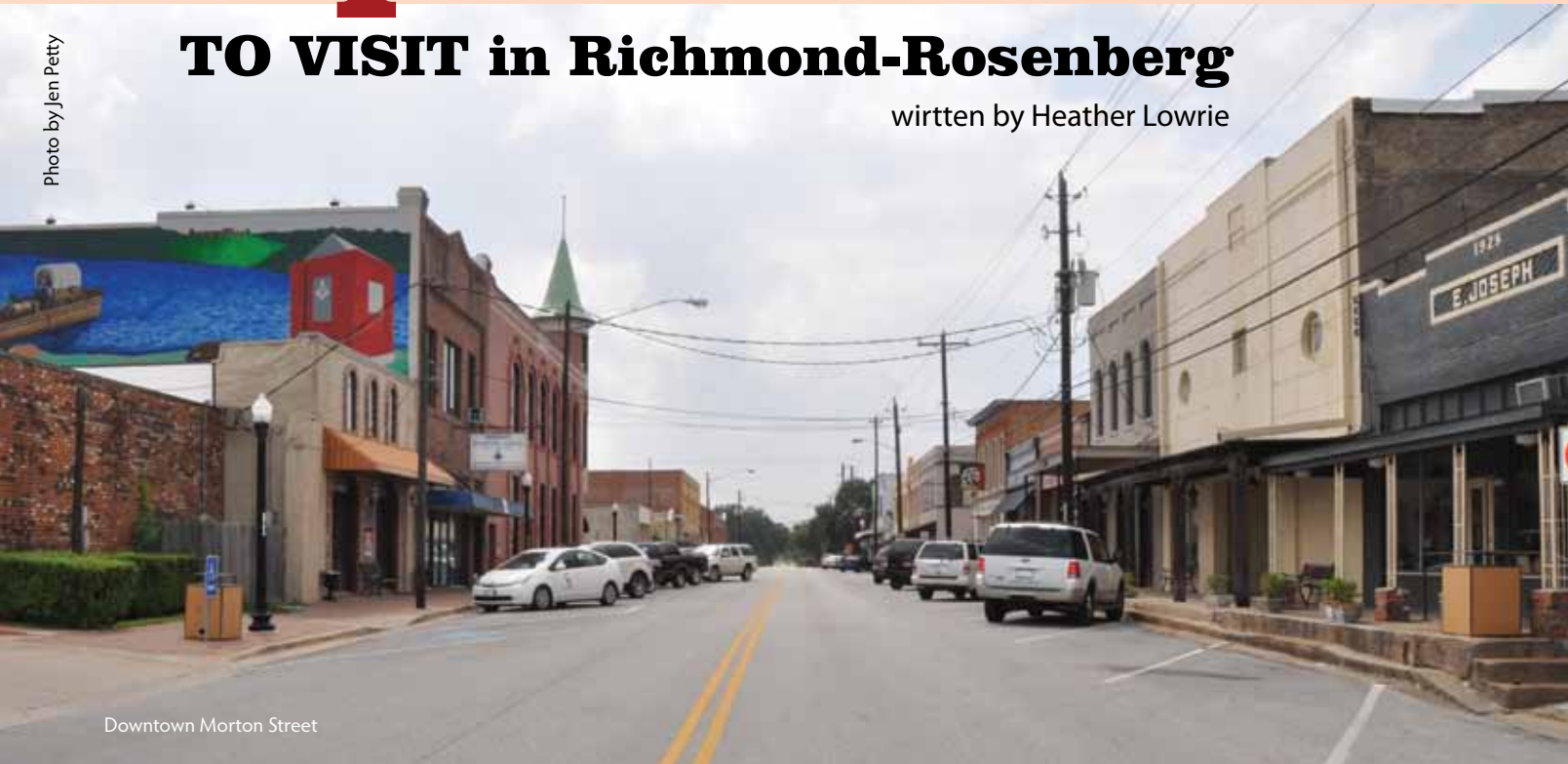


# Top 5 PLACES

## TO VISIT in Richmond-Rosenberg

written by Heather Lowrie

Photo by Jen Petty



Downtown Morton Street

### 1 Morton Street

Richmond

If you are looking for great food, unique shops, antiques, and authentic scenery Morton Street is the place to spend the afternoon. Historic Downtown Richmond can be found just one block north of the Fort Bend County Courthouse. If you're in the mood for a retro 70's café complete with comfort food and plenty of eye candy, then The Flying Pig should be your first stop. The Italian Maid Restaurant offers authentic Italian food, while Sandy McGee's is a popular restaurant that has been around since 1986. The Richmond Coffee house can't be missed with the authentic train in the parking lot and don't miss the open mic nights and live bands on the weekends. The Morton Street Gallery hosts local artists that specialize in sculpture, jewelry, paintings and even provides art lessons as well. A curious peek into the barber shop, even if you don't need a haircut, will reveal pictures of famous celebrities who have visited this nostalgic shop. From the post office, to the antiques, art and even unique restaurants, this is one street that you'll be glad you didn't miss.



Photo by Jen Petty



Morton Street Cheers from Sandy McGee's

Photo courtesy of CFBCA.org



Photo by Jen Petty

The Railroad Museum is modeled after the original depot



## 2 Rosenberg Railroad Museum

1921 Ave. F • Rosenberg • 281-633-2846  
rosenbergrrmuseum.org

For the kid at heart, or the history fact finder in the family, the Rosenberg Railroad Museum is a fantastic community addition that transports you back in time. The museum building itself is modeled after the original depot that served the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads from 1883 until 1917. The yard around the museum features several rail cars including an 1879 Rail Car, and the Education Station has a giant N-scale replica of Fort Bend. The Tower 17 building that controlled the railroad crossings is complete with an interlocking machine which controlled railroad signals and switches. This is one stop that is not to be missed. It is more than just a museum, it's an interactive place where history is brought to life.

## 3 The George Ranch Historical Park

10215 FM 762 • Richmond • 281-343-0218  
geogeranch.org/visit

Did you know there is a 23,000 acre working ranch in Richmond? The George Ranch Historical Park is a visual piece of history full of authentic artifacts and historic homes that has become a landmark in the county. Visitors can see the changing faces of Texas history as they visit the 1830's Jones Stock Farm, the 1860's Ryon Prairie Home, the 1890's Davis Victorian Mansion complete with sharecropper farm and a working blacksmith shop, and finally the 1930's George Ranch House, which stands where it was built and where visitors will be able to see many of the furnishings from the George family. There are also special events and reenactments that take place throughout the year. Two of these, the Texian Market Days and Lone Star Stomp are annual fundraisers held at George Ranch that benefit the Fort Bend Museum Association. Take a trip out to the ranch and enjoy a day taking in the historic sprawl of the greatest landmark in our county.

## 4 The Fort Bend Museum

500 Houston St. • Richmond • 281-342-6478  
fortbendmuseum.org/visit

Take a giant step back in time through the historic era of Stephen F. Austin's colony in 1822 through the World War II in 1945. The Fort Bend Museum is a hidden treasure under the cascading oak trees that line the streets of Richmond. Stop by the Long-Smith Cottage, one of the oldest buildings in Richmond, then continue to the John C. Moore home that was built in 1883, which was also where Richmond's First Baptist Church was organized. In December, taking a candlelight tour of the Moore home makes any holiday season special. From Children's Day at the museum, educational programs for kids of all ages, and even a program for those who wish to be a Junior Docent for the museum, there is something for everyone.



George Ranch Texas  
History Interpreter Cullen  
Eversole conditions the  
leather on his saddle at  
the tack house



The Swinging Door opened in 1973

## 5 The Swinging Door

3818 FM 359 • Richmond • 281-342-4758  
[swingingdoor.com](http://swingingdoor.com)

What would a trip to the Richmond/Rosenberg area be without some famous 100% pecan-smoked BBQ. The Swinging Door opened its doors to the public in 1973 with just 12 seats. There is a reason they won the BBQ cook-off in 1979, and for the great people in this town we are fortunate enough to be able to enjoy it in our own backyard. Driving down 359, the barn-like structure will catch your eye and the smell of pecan smoked BBQ will permeate the air and let you know you've found the right place. Make sure when you make the trip that you save room for the unbeatable homemade blackberry cobbler. Catering, parties, special events, and even a dance hall, this is the place to have a great time with friends and fantastic food in a relaxed atmosphere that everyone can enjoy.

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# Rose-Rich Fast Facts

## Richmond

**Mayor:** HILMAR MOORE (SINCE 1949)

**Population:** 13,493 (2008)

**History:** NAMED AFTER RICHMOND, ENGLAND

1 OF 19 CITIES FIRST INCORPORATED BY THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS IN 1837.

RICHMOND RECEIVED ITS CHARTER AT THE SAME TIME AS HOUSTON.

HISTORICAL RESIDENTS INCLUDE JANE LONG, DEAF SMITH (WHO IS ACTUALLY BURIED HERE), AND MIRABEAU LAMAR.

**Popular Events:**

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS

LONE STAR STOMP

CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS

## Rosenberg

**Mayor:** JOE M. GURECKY (SINCE 1995)

**Population:** 33,595 (2008)

**History:** NAMED AFTER HENRY VON ROSENBERG, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE GULF, COLORADO, AND SANTA FE RAILROAD, WHO MIGRATED IN 1843 FROM SWITZERLAND TO THE UNITED STATES.

**Popular Events:**

ROSENBERG CZECH FEST ON THE FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY

FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR, OCTOBER

The Saylin family of Sugar Land waits for the train at the Ryan Prairie Home at George Ranch



Renee Butler, owner of Another Time Soda Fountain serves up coffee to Sandy Matthews and Kristin Weiss



Richmond's first Baptist Church was founded at the Moore home

The George Ranch Historical Park holds Texas' "big" stories—from cattle to cotton crops to oil, from the Texas Revolution to the Civil War to World War II. Come see what life was like in the 1830s, 1860s, 1890s and 1930s! Also, make plans to join us for these exciting upcoming events:

**October 24, 2009**  
Texian Market Days: A Living History Festival

**December 11, 12, 18 & 19, 2009**  
Campfire Christmas

www.geogeranch.org  
10215 FM 762 in Richmond  
(281) 343-0218 | info@geogeranch.org

**Fort Bend MUSEUM**  
500 Houston Street • Richmond

**Special Events:**  
November 23  
Texian Golf Classic

December 4 & 5  
Candlelight Tours at the Moore Home

www.fortbendmuseum.org • (281) 342-6478 • info@fortbendmuseum.org



Tour Guide Ed Richards tells a group about the Moore home



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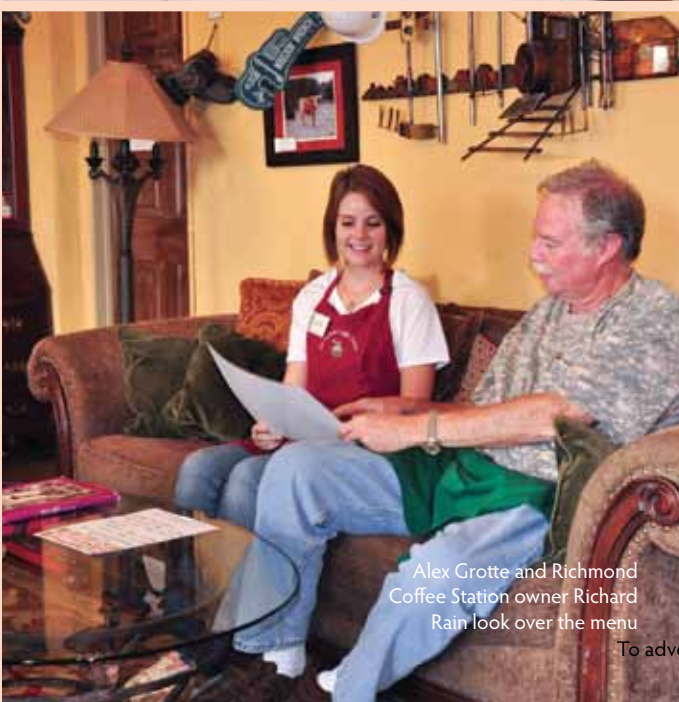
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Colt Eversole gives Glen Jackson a trim at the Richmond Barber Shop, which has been around since 1883



# Richmond Snapshots



Alex Grotte and Richmond Coffee Station owner Richard Rain look over the menu