Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks to Ring In the Season with Parade, Tree Lighting and Community Coat Drive Dec. 6

The City of River Oaks will kick off the holiday season Saturday, Dec. 6, with the return of its annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting celebration, complete with Santa's arrival.

The parade is set to begin at 6 p.m. at Castleberry Elementary before rolling down River Oaks Boulevard.

After the final float clears the boulevard, the community is invited to gather at City Hall for the official tree lighting. The celebration will feature hot chocolate, a s'mores bar, food trucks and a special visit from the guy in the big, red suit.

Residents, businesses, car clubs and community groups are encouraged to take part in the parade. Floats, classic cars, unique vehicles and organizational entries can register online at the city's parade form. This year, parade organizers are partnering with a local charity to collect children's coats. Attendees are encouraged to bring new or gently used unisex coats to donate at the tree-lighting drop-off area.

For more information, contact event coordinator Yolie Rodriguez at 817-938-2404.

From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks Runoff Election: Early Voting Continues

The City of River Oaks early voting continues for the Dec. 13 runoff election, with multiple polling locations available to voters across Tarrant County.

Early voting is taking place now through Tuesday, Dec. 9 at three sites: the White Settlement Public Library, located at 8215 White Settlement Road, the Tarrant County ESD #1 (former annex and library) located at 4900 River Oaks Boulevard, and the Tarrant County Election Center at 2700 Premier Street.

Voting hours vary by day. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7. Extended hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. will be offered on Dec. 8 and 9.

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The publisher/editor reserves the right to reject or edit all copy submitted for publication. Advertising and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions, editorial policies or beliefs of the Publisher, Managing Editor or staff of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

• ***All Letters to the Editor*** must not be over 250 words, and include the author's name, address and phone number. *Only the name will be included.*

• ***Engagement Announcements*** must be published four weeks prior to the wedding. ***Wedding Announcements*** have a 350 word limit. ***Anniversaries*** are limited to 150 words.

• ***Obituaries*** are limited to 250 words and cost $100.

Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

From the River Oaks Police Department

River Oaks Police Department Reports November Activity

The River Oaks Police Department released an activity report for Nov. 3 through 16.

On Nov. 3, officers made two arrests: one for criminal trespass in the 5600 block of James Drive and another for narcotics in the 900 block of Keith Pumphrey Road.

Police responded to a sex-related offense on Nov. 6 in the 4900 block of River Oaks Boulevard. That same day, officers arrested a suspect for violating an emergency protective order in the 1000 block of Keith Pumphrey Road and made a narcotics-related arrest in the 1000 block of Yale Street.

A violation of an emergency protective order was reported Nov. 9 in the 4700 block of Hope Street.

On Nov. 10, officers investigated a theft in the 4710 block of River Oaks Boulevard and made an arrest for criminal trespass in the 2601 block of River Oaks Boulevard.

Police responded Nov. 11 to an evading arrest incident in the 4300 block of River Oaks Boulevard.

Two incidents were reported Nov. 14: a fraud case in the 600 block of Merritt Street and a narcotics arrest in the 1200 block of Churchill Road.

On Nov. 15, officers made two additional arrests: one for narcotics in the 4600 block of White Oak Lane and another for evading arrest in the 2601 block of Jacksboro Highway.

Police also reported recovering a runaway juvenile Nov. 16 in the 500 block of Frontier Street.

From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Palo Pinto Mountains to Offer First Day Hike Sneak Peek

New Year, New Park! Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, just outside of Fort Worth, is opening its gates on New Year's Day for guided First Day Hikes. Day passes to the park will be limited for this event, and advance reservations are highly encouraged. This sneak peek event will allow visitors to go on guided hikes through Palo Pinto Mountains State Park with a park ranger.

The Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is nestled on 4,871 acres of former ranch land in Stephens and Palo Pinto counties. The property features a special collection of rock formations, plants, animals and habitats, including 90-acre Tucker Lake.

On New Year's Day, parks across the state will host First Day Hikes, and many parks will limit admissions based on capacity. Day pass reservations can be booked in advance for any Texas State Park on the TPWD website.

For more information about Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, visit the park's page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Benbrook Cemetery to Join Wreaths Across America in First-Year Tribute to Veterans

Wreaths Across America, a national nonprofit founded to honor U.S. veterans, continues its year-round mission to *Remember the Fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach future generations about the value of freedom*. The organization coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies each December at cemeteries across the country, ensuring the service and sacrifice of veterans are never forgotten.

This year's theme, "Keep Moving Forward," is inspired by the final words of U.S. Army Capt. Joshua Byers, who was killed in action.

More than 5,200 locations nationwide will participate in the 2025 remembrance event. Benbrook Cemetery will join for the first time, thanks to the efforts of three volunteers from VFW Post 10429: Co-Location Coordinator Jamie Bengford, Location Coordinator Kelly Sears and Auxiliary Member Martin Gutierrez.

A ceremony will be held at Benbrook Cemetery on Dec. 13 at 11 a.m., followed by the laying of remembrance wreaths. This event is open to the entire community. Residents are encouraged to attend and take part in this solemn tribute.

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From the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

DAR Ceremony Honors Local Veterans With Quilts, Recognition on Veterans Day

A heartfelt tribute to military service took center stage this Veterans Day as the Mary Isham Keith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored area veterans with a ceremony filled with gratitude, recognition and a symbolic gift of comfort.

Honorary Regent Charlsey Holler delivered a program titled "*Quilts of Valor, Wrapped in Love*," sharing the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which provides handmade quilts to service members and veterans affected by war.

Holler then presented one of her own creations to Master Sgt. (Ret.) Scott Hodge, wrapping the quilt around him in a gesture meant to reflect the nation's appreciation for his service. Hodge attended alongside his wife, chapter member Karla Hodge.

Pictured at the ceremony are: (front, l-r) Greg Akin, Robin Akin, William Guy Craig, Thomas L. Crump, Cynthia Gray, Rick Irving; (back) Mark T. Maxwell, Robert Cushman, Christopher Gray, Scott Hodge, Lesley Pinckard-Maxwell, Dawn Needles and Kurt Tauzel.

Fourteen veterans were recognized individually during the ceremony. Regent Patricia Sinclair presented each with a certificate of appreciation, while Second Vice Regent Laura Tauzel honored them with veteran pins. Those recognized included: Greg Akin (Army), Robin Akin (Army), William Guy Craig (Air Force), Thomas L. Crump (Army), Robert Cushman (Air Force), Christopher Gray (Air Force), Cynthia Gray (Air Force), Scott Hodge (Air Force), Rick Irving (Army), Lesley Pinckard-Maxwell (Navy), Mark T. Maxwell (Navy), Dawn Needles (Army) and Kurt Tauzel (Air Force).

Air Force veteran Jim Hanlon was also honored in absentia.

In addition to the ceremony, members collected donations of snacks, hygiene items and T-shirts for Liberty House, a 30-bed transitional facility that supports homeless male veterans working toward recovery and stability. The organization provides a structured, drug-free environment for veterans facing substance abuse, mental health challenges or housing insecurity

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-political women's service organization for those who can trace ancestry to individuals who aided the fight for American independence. Those interested in membership may email mikregent2025@gmail.com for more information.

Pictured are: Honorary Regent Charlsey Holler, Scott and Karla Hodge.

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From the North Central Texas Council of Goverments

NCTCOG to Discuss Funding Opportunities at Dec. 8 Meeting

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) invites the public to provide input on recent transportation initiatives, including funding opportunities for electric vehicle charging stations and traffic signal improvements, during a hybrid public meeting at noon Monday, Dec. 8.

The meeting will be held in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington.

Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogDec25. Residents can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 1011.

Public comments will be accepted until Jan. 6.

The meeting will feature a staff overview of the end of the 2025 ozone season, along with next steps moving forward. The season came to an end Nov. 30, and the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Continued inability to reach attainment will increase challenges for projected regional growth.

Additionally, staff will present funding recommendations to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on public sector property in North Central Texas.

In July 2025, NCTCOG opened the North Texas Electric Vehicle Charging Station Call for Projects to award funding to build EV charging stations using funding from the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Program.

Finally, staff will provide an overview of the proposed funding process for the Traffic Signal Program, including agency eligibility requirements, the evaluation criteria for funding requests and the categorization of traffic signal improvements. The program aims to establish a structured process for evaluating and funding traffic signal initiatives as requests are received.

Residents planning to use transit to attend the meeting can take advantage of $6 round-trip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app. Visit ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand to download the app.

For special accommodations related to disabilities or language interpretation, please call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

From Suburban Newspapers Manging Editor, Emily Moxley

A Little History About Your Favorite Local Newspapers

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. has served suburban communities west of Fort Worth since the early 1940s. The company, currently headquartered at 7820 Wyatt Drive, was founded in 1939, according to business filings and public records.

Over the decades, Suburban Newspapers built a network of weekly community papers, most notably *White Settlement Bomber News*, as well as titles serving Benbrook, River Oaks and other Tarrant County locales.

The Bomber News, its flagship, dates back to at least 1939, with digitally archived issues beginning in 1956, giving the chain roots older than the incorporation itself.

As of 2020, Suburban Newspapers pivoted from print to fully digital distribution. Publisher Bo Underwood donated hundreds and possibly over 1,000 archival issues from across the chain, ranging from the 1950s through the 2000s, to the White Settlement Historical Museum. Much of the archive has since been digitized and made publicly available via the University of North Texas Libraries' Texas Digital Newspaper Program.

Today, Suburban Newspapers remains active as the publisher of the digital-only *White Settlement Bomber News, Benbrook News* and *River Oaks News*, providing local reporting, community notices, classifieds and legal advertisements.

Readers can help keep the newspapers free to all to read by encouraging local establishments to advertise and by signing up for a free subscription! Click here to subscribe.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

As Pearl Harbor's 84th Anniversary Nears, a Fading Generation Leaves Lasting Lessons

It came to be called the Day Which Will Live in Infamy. The attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, was a devastating loss for the nation. When the attack began at 7:55 a.m. by Japanese forces, the Americans on the scene realized that their lives in that moment had changed.

The American entry into World War II would transform the face of the war and forever alter the course of the nation and of the men and women who fought to protect it.

By December 1941, most of the globe was engulfed in World War II, while the United States tried to stay out of it. Nations on five continents were already embroiled in conflict. American military and political leaders somberly noted that the nation would likely be drawn into the fight as well while they watched Allied losses mount. To the last, America tried to avoid war. As the United States continued to negotiate for peace with Japan, Japan plotted a sneak attack.

Japan had unleashed sneak attacks at the beginnings of previous wars. And Japanese military officials hoped that crippling American naval forces while they went on a massive offensive across the Pacific would neutralize American advantages and allow Japan a quick victory.

In 90 minutes on what had been a quiet Sunday morning, the American fleet was wrecked. Four battleships were sunk with the other four crippled. Many other ships and planes were severely damaged. One hundred 59 planes were destroyed. And in the end, 2,403 Americans were killed.

One of the first Americans to spring into action was a Waco native and African-American named Doris Miller, who worked in the mess hall on the ill-fated USS West Virginia. As his ship was struck and men scattered, he leaped toward an unmanned anti-aircraft gun and started firing at as many Japanese fighters as possible before the crew had to abandon ship, most likely shooting down the first enemy aircraft of the war in the process.

But America sprang into action. The United States responded with its own declaration of war the next day. Many of the damaged ships saw action later in the war. And three things saved the Pacific fleet that day: the oil refineries that fueled the ships and planes were spared; and the aircraft carriers were on patrol, ships that acted as floating air bases that proved indispensable in the island-hopping campaigns that marked the Pacific war. The third factor was the unbreakable American resolve. Many of the ships sunk on Dec. 7 were able to be raised from the sea, repaired, and sent back into action later in the war.

Unfortunately, Doris Miller, did not make it home. He was killed in action in 1943 when his ship was struck by a torpedo. He was only 24. The Houston school district later named a school after him. In 2020, the navy named an aircraft carrier after him.

In 1958, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association was formed among the veterans who were there on Dec. 7, 1941. At its peak, the organization boasted 70,000 members. In the years after the war, special remembrance ceremonies were held at Pearl Harbor each year.

Time moved on in a nation that continued to grow in its freedom in the decades of peace that followed the war. The world was freed from the nightmares of mass executions, tortures, genocides, and bloodshed that the Axis Powers inflicted upon the world.

The Pearl Harbor generation had survived the worst challenges the nation had experienced, the Great Depression and World War II, and showed that there was nothing that the United States could not overcome. The principles of courage, unity, justice, and liberty became more than slogans for that time. They were ideas that saved humanity.

Many Texans served distinction in all branches of the service, including Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Denison native, who became overall Allied commander, and Adm. Chester Nimitz, a Fredericksburg native, who commanded the American naval fleet in the Pacific.

Only a handful of survivors remain. Aaron Cook of Fort Worth, one of the last, would spend his later years telling students about his experiences.

"I grew up in one day," Cook told Houston's ABC-13 in 2016. "I hope that they realize that, you know, it's something that we don't want to do again." Cook died in 2019 at age 96.

J.C. Alston of Troy, the son of farmers from the Texas Panhandle often said how important it was that people remembered what happened that day. "We've got to be alert and not let this happen again." Alston died at his home in October at age 98.

Now as the 84th anniversary approaches, a chapter in history prepares to close. It has been estimated that perhaps less than 20 still remain, each now past the age of 100. Those who were there and those who gave everything to protect the nation have a revered place in the collective American memory.

The millions who came after and grew up in a time of peace still salute those who were there. The lessons from that terrible day still resonate for American foreign policy but also for a nation decades later shaken by epidemics, economic chaos, and distrust: that there is nothing that America, when united, cannot overcome.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, Dec. 5:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Calm wind becoming S/SW around 5 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. S/SE wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday, Dec. 6:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. S/SE wind around 5 mph becoming W in the afternoon.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind around 5 mph becoming N/NW after midnight.

Sunday, Dec. 7:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 60. North wind around 5 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

Extended Forecast Click Here