



Serving the City of River Oaks

River Oaks News

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December 31, 2020

From the City of River Oaks

Application Filing Period Begins Jan. 13 for Place on River Oaks City Council May Ballot

Persons interested in running for a position on the River Oaks City Council May 1 ballot may pick up an application at River Oaks City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The filing period will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and the deadline to file applications will be Friday, Feb. 12.

Applicants may mail in their forms to City Hall, email pbagwell@riveroakstx.com or fax to 817-625-2790.

For more information, call River Oaks City Hall at 817-626-5421.

From the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Waiver for Vehicle Title and Registration Requirements Ends April 14, 2021

The temporary waiver of certain vehicle title and registration requirements, announced by Governor Greg Abbott on March 16, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will end on April 14, 2021.

If you have not renewed your expired vehicle registration, you should make plans to renew by that date. It is not necessary to wait until the deadline to complete any overdue transactions as motorists have several renewal options. Before renewing registration, Texans will need to obtain a passing vehicle inspection at the state vehicle inspection station of their choice, unless their vehicle is exempt from inspection requirements.

The expiring temporary waiver covers the following services: • Initial vehicle registration • Vehicle registration renewal • Vehicle titling • Renewal of permanent disabled parking placards • 30-day temporary permits.

From the City of River Oaks

Texas Department of State Health Services Issues Warning About Vaccination Scams

Texas Dept. of Insurance warns that since COVID-19 vaccinations are slowly becoming available, scams are already here.

Here is what to watch out for to avoid becoming a victim:

- If you get a call, text, email or even someone knocking on your door claiming they can get you the vaccine, do not respond. That is a scam, you cannot pay to get early access to a vaccine and you cannot buy a COVID-19 vaccination through the mail, online, or in stores.

- Do not respond to text messages about COVID-19 from people you do not know. Clicking on links in messages could download malware to your phone or let criminals know they have found a target.

- No one from a vaccine distribution site or insurance company will call to ask for your Social Security number or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up for a vaccine.

- Medicare will not call beneficiaries to offer COVID-19 related products, services, or benefit review.

- Some scammers pretend to be COVID-19 contact tracers. Legitimate contact tracers will never ask for your Medicare number, financial information, or try to set up a COVID-19 test for you and get payment information.

- Beware of anyone offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Always check with your doctor before paying for or getting any COVID-19-related treatment.

If you suspect fraud, report it to the Texas Attorney General Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-621-0508.

For information on when vaccinations will be available, visit the [Texas Department of State Health Services website](https://www.dshs.texas.gov).

Castleberry ISD students will return to classes on Monday, Jan. 4

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

100th Birthday Parade and Proclamation Presentation Planned for Local Resident

Margaret Mitchell was born on Dec. 30, 1920 in Fort Smith, Ark.

The oldest of her parents' four children and the only daughter, Mitchell spent her early childhood in Spiro, Okla. and graduated high school in Centerpoint, Okla.



Mitchell met her future husband, E.J. in the first grade at Centerpoint, and they were married in 1938. They moved to White Settlement in 1947 when E.J. was hired at Convair (later General Dynamics).

The couple had two sons and she was very involved in the PTA and the boys' extracurricular activities.

The Mitchells moved to Benbrook in 1986 after E.J.'s retirement from General Dynamics and they enjoyed traveling, gardening and keeping social with friends and family.

Margaret and E.J. were married for over 75

years when E.J. passed away.

Margaret is very proud of her family, including her five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

A drive-by parade is planned for Mitchell on Sunday, Jan. 3 where Benbrook's Mayor Dr. Jerry Dittrich will present a proclamation at 1:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend may meet at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Williams Road at 1 p.m.



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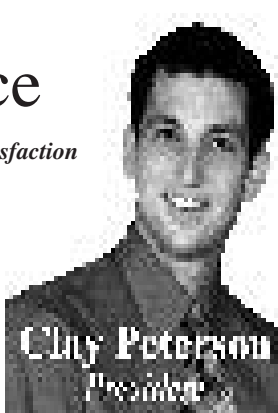
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From the River Oaks Police Chief Christopher Spieldenner

River Oaks PD Crime Report

Monday, Dec. 21

Officers were dispatched to the police department lobby to speak with a victim in reference to her car being burglarized. Upon arrival, the victim advised that his car had been parked overnight at a business in the 4700 block of River Oaks Blvd for service. The victim stated that when he picked up his vehicle today, he noted that his glove box was open and several items were missing from inside. Officers completed a report for Burglary of a Motor Vehicle and detectives will be working to identify the actor in this case.

Officers were dispatched to the lobby of the department to speak with a concerned citizen in reference to a found gun. Upon arrival, the concerned citizen advised he had found a pistol under trash bags outside of his house in the 1600 block of Denver in Fort Worth. Officers took possession of the pistol which was logged in and secured. Detectives will be notifying the Fort Worth Police Department as the pistol was located within their jurisdiction.

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 2200 block of Jacksboro Highway after

learning that the passenger of the vehicle had multiple warrants for his arrest. While speaking with the occupants of the vehicle, officers detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside. Subsequent investigation revealed the passenger was a convicted felon. He was armed with a handgun and in possession of 15.6 grams of methamphetamine. The subject was transported to the River Oaks Police Department where he was booked on the narcotics charge as well as the charge of felon in possession of a firearm.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Officers were dispatched to a hit and run accident in the 5300 block of Taylor Road. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who advised that his vehicle had been parked in the roadway in front of his son's residence. The victim advised that he observed a red colored BMW strike his parked vehicle and drive off. Officers completed an offense report for the hit and run accident. Officers were able to locate the red BMW but it was unoccupied. Detectives will be working for identify the driver.

Friday, Dec. 25

Officers were dispatched to a suspected intoxicated driver in the 5300 block of Amherst. Upon arrival, officers located the vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence. Subsequent investigation revealed the driver of this vehicle was in possession of over 90 grams of a substance believed to be methamphetamine. This subject was placed under arrest for Manufacture/Delivery of a controlled substance and transported to the River Oaks Police Department where he was booked.



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Texas History Minute

How Cultures Across the World Ring in a New Year *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

After a difficult 2020, a weary world looks to the end of the year and wonders what the new year will bring. Due to continuing quarantines and social distancing, celebrations may be more muted and there will be many observances as 2021 arrives. The start of each new year is marked with festivities around the world, but there are many different traditions surrounding the day.

Observances of the new year date back thousands of years as ancient peoples recognized the regular shifting patterns of stars at night and the sun in the day and their connection to particular seasons.

In some societies, the vernal equinox, the beginning of spring in March, was seen as the beginning of the new year as well as the time to begin planting.

The Babylonians were known as early as 2600 BC to mark this day with celebrations and new year's resolutions.

The earliest observances of Jan. 1 for the beginning of the year began with the Romans around 713 BC. The Romans named the first month of their lunar calendar year January after the Roman god Janus, who supposedly was the god of time and also the god of beginnings and transitions.

According to legend, Janus had two faces, one looking into the past and the other looking into the future.

In most countries throughout the world, Jan. 1 is an official holiday to mark the beginning of the new year. Even many non-western countries will observe Jan. 1 as New Year's Day because of the overwhelming influence of European and American business and culture for the past few centuries as they ultimately adopted the modern Gregorian calendar used throughout the West.

The Chinese New Year will not start until Feb. 12. Under the Chinese Zodiac system dating back many centuries, 2021 will mark the Year of the Ox. Where 2020 was the Year of the Rat, an animal known as a trickster in Chinese mythology, the ox is a respected symbol of strength. In China, fireworks are set off to mark the new year and to also scare off demons and forces of darkness.

Similarly, Feb. 12 will mark the traditional Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet. The

Vietnamese lunar calendar is very similar to the Chinese calendar. By tradition, a great feast is prepared, family reunions are held, and many celebrations are held in cities across the country. Many in Vietnam see Tet as the beginning of spring as well. Cleaning the home is also part of the traditional observances to symbolically clean out the bad spirits from the previous year.

Different types of foods are also associated with the New Year's celebrations.

In India, rice is eaten for prosperity in the new year. Buttered bread is supposed to be good luck in Ireland. In Spain, people traditionally eat 12 grapes at midnight, one at each chime, to bring luck for the year. In the American South, black-eyed peas are eaten for good luck for the new year.

In some cultures, it is also customary to exchange gifts on New Year's Day. In Ancient Persia, eggs were given as symbols of fertility in the new year. When observances of Christmas and religion were outlawed in the Soviet Union, Russians responded by shifting gift-giving from Christmas to New Year's Day. In Scotland, gifts of silverware or pastries are traditionally given for luck. In the Philippines, Christmas and New Year's Day are often combined.

There are many other superstitions for luck surrounding celebrations. In France, the weather on New Year's Day is supposed to be an omen for the year's weather. Brazilians wear white for good luck while households in Puerto Rico sprinkle sugar outside their homes to invite good fortune inside. In Scotland, the first person to enter the home in the new year is also supposed to symbolize a person's luck for the year.

To this day, New Year's Day is still a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the days ahead. And the world hopes for a better year with 2021 than with 2020.

