Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From the North Central Texas Council of Governments

Ground Broken on $25 Million Meandering Road Project to Improve River Oaks Connectivity and Safety

Pictured above (l-r): Capt. Beau Hufstetler, commanding officer at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth; Dan Kessler, assistant director of transportation at North Central Texas Council of Governments; Fort Worth City Councilmember Macy Hill; Herman Earwood, former River Oaks mayor; Glen Whitley, former Tarrant County judge; and River Oaks Mayor Darren Houk.

A long-awaited transportation project that will reshape one of River Oaks' most important corridors is officially underway.

Community leaders joined regional, county and military officials in April to celebrate the groundbreaking of the $25 million Meandering Road Improvements Project, a major infrastructure investment designed to improve safety, mobility and connectivity for River Oaks residents for decades to come. *(continued on page 3)*

From the River Oaks Event Center

River Oaks Food Bank Distribution Continues Twice Monthly at Event Center

The City of River Oaks hosts Food Bank distribution days on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive. Participants are asked not to line up before 8:30 a.m. and to follow the designated traffic route.

Drivers should remain in their vehicles throughout the process and avoid blocking residential driveways or cross streets to ensure access for police and emergency services.

For additional information, residents may call 817-732-5885.

From the City of River Oaks

Celebrate America's 250th with a Festival & Fireworks

River Oaks residents will have two opportunities to celebrate America's 250th anniversary later this month as the city hosts an evening of family activities, food, live entertainment and fireworks on June 27.

The community celebration will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at two locations: the River Oaks Event Center, 5300 Blackstone Drive, and Victory Church, 5116 River Oaks Blvd.

City officials are encouraging residents to bring lawn chairs, blankets and the entire family for what promises to be an evening of community spirit and patriotic fun.

A variety of free attractions will be available throughout the evening, including a waterslide, mini train ride, tiki plunge and water obstacle course. Live music will also be featured, providing entertainment for attendees as they enjoy the festivities.

For those looking to grab dinner while attending the event, food vendors will offer traditional summertime favorites such as hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos. Both cash and credit card payments will be accepted.

The celebration will culminate with a fireworks display beginning at approximately 9:30 p.m. at Victory Church. The fireworks show, provided by the City of River Oaks, is expected to serve as the highlight of the evening and cap off a day dedicated to honoring the nation's semiquincentennial.

Because several attractions involve *(continued on page 3)*

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

Meandering Road (continued from page 1)

The federally funded project will reconstruct portions of Meandering Road and Lt. J.G. Barnett Road in River Oaks and Fort Worth, creating safer travel routes for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists while strengthening connections between surrounding neighborhoods and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

For River Oaks residents, the improvements represent more than just new pavement. The project will enhance traffic flow, improve intersection safety and add new pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including connections to the Trinity Trails system along the West Fork of the Trinity River. The upgrades are expected to make it easier and safer for residents to travel throughout the community while expanding recreational opportunities.

The groundbreaking marks a major milestone in an effort that has been more than a decade in the making. Originally constructed by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1948, Meandering Road has remained largely unchanged for nearly 80 years. Recognizing the need for modernization, local and state leaders began working toward improvements in 2012. The project ultimately became a collaborative effort involving the City of River Oaks, the City of Fort Worth, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation Council and numerous elected officials throughout the region.

Officials said public input played a key role in shaping the final design, with extensive outreach conducted among residents and businesses located along the corridor. Lamb-Star Engineering led the design process.

Construction is expected to continue through late 2028, ultimately delivering a safer, more connected transportation corridor that will serve River Oaks residents, businesses and visitors well into the future.

Fireworks (continued from page 1)

water activities, organizers recommend that children bring swimsuits and towels. Residents are also encouraged to invite friends, family members and neighbors to participate in the community-wide celebration.

Admission to all attractions and activities is free!

The June 27 event is part of local observances commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States and offers residents an opportunity to gather, celebrate and create lasting memories with friends and neighbors.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Reminds Residents of Summer Landscape Watering Schedule

As temperatures rise and summer irrigation demands increase, City of River Oaks officials are reminding residents and businesses to follow the community's landscape watering schedule designed to conserve water while maintaining healthy lawns and landscapes.

Under the city's current watering guidelines, outdoor landscape watering is limited to twice per week, and irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., when evaporation rates are highest.

The schedule varies depending on whether a property is residential or commercial.

Commercial customers may water landscapes only on Tuesdays and Fridays. Residential customers are assigned watering days based on the final digit of their street address.

Residents whose addresses end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Those whose addresses end in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 may water on Thursdays and Sundays.

No landscape watering by any customer is permitted on Mondays.

City officials note that certain forms of hand watering are exempt from the restrictions. Watering with a handheld hose equipped with a nozzle, as well as drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses, is allowed at any time. However, sprinklers attached to hoses are not considered hand watering and must comply with the designated watering schedule.

Properties that utilize private wells are also exempt from the city's watering restrictions, provided the well is registered with the city and displays the required private well identification sign.

The watering schedule is intended to promote responsible water use while ensuring adequate supplies are available during the peak summer season. Residents are encouraged to review their assigned watering days and adjust irrigation systems accordingly.

For additional information regarding water conservation requirements or private well registration, residents may contact River Oaks City Hall.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Boating Danger Families Need to Know

As summer temperatures climb and families head to area lakes for recreation, safety experts are reminding boaters about a potentially deadly hazard that often goes unnoticed: carbon monoxide poisoning.

Known as the "silent killer," carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas produced whenever fuel burns. On boats, it can accumulate around engines, generators and exhaust systems, creating dangerous conditions for passengers, particularly children.

According to boating safety organizations, carbon monoxide poisoning remains one of the most preventable causes of boating-related injuries and deaths. Yet many people fail to recognize the symptoms until it is too late.

Children face a greater risk because of their smaller body size and developing respiratory systems. They can also be less likely to recognize or communicate symptoms when exposure occurs.

One of the most common boating activities associated with carbon monoxide exposure is "teak surfing" or swimming near the rear of a boat while the engine is running. Even when passengers are not directly behind the vessel, dangerous concentrations of exhaust fumes can collect in enclosed cabins, beneath canvas covers or in areas where airflow is limited.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for dehydration, heat exhaustion, motion sickness or fatigue, all common complaints after a long day on the water.

Warning signs include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Weakness
- Excessive tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Confusion
- Blurred vision
- Loss of coordination
- Loss of consciousness in severe cases

Parents should pay particular attention if a child appears unusually sleepy, complains of a headache or becomes disoriented after boating. Because the symptoms closely resemble other summertime ailments, exposure may go unrecognized.

"Many families assume a child is simply tired from swimming and being in the sun all day," boating safety advocates note. "But if symptoms seem unusual or worsen after boating, carbon monoxide exposure should be considered."

The danger does not necessarily end when the boat is docked. Symptoms can continue or become more noticeable hours after exposure. Anyone who develops persistent headaches, dizziness, nausea or unusual fatigue after spending time on a boat should move to fresh air immediately and seek medical evaluation.

Emergency responders recommend calling 911 if a person loses consciousness, has difficulty breathing or exhibits signs of severe poisoning.

Fortunately, there are several steps boat owners and passengers can take to dramatically reduce the risk.

Boaters should ensure engines, generators and exhaust systems receive regular inspections and maintenance. Cracked exhaust components, leaks and poorly functioning engines can increase carbon monoxide production and exposure.

Carbon monoxide detectors approved for marine use should be installed and tested regularly, especially on boats with enclosed cabins or sleeping quarters.

Passengers should avoid sitting, playing or swimming near engine exhaust outlets while engines or generators are operating. Children should be closely supervised around the stern of the boat, where exhaust gases can accumulate.

Proper ventilation is also essential. Opening hatches, windows and canvas enclosures can help improve airflow and prevent dangerous gas buildup. Boat operators should be aware that certain wind and boating conditions can create a "station wagon effect," in which exhaust fumes are drawn back into the boat rather than dispersed behind it.

Experts also recommend taking symptoms seriously. If multiple passengers begin complaining of headaches or nausea at the same time, carbon monoxide exposure should be suspected immediately.

Families can add carbon monoxide awareness to their boating safety checklist alongside life jackets, sunscreen and hydration.

The National Safe Boating Council emphasizes that education remains one of the most effective tools for prevention. Understanding where carbon monoxide originates, how exposure occurs and what symptoms to watch for can save lives.

As lakes, rivers and reservoirs fill with boaters this summer, safety officials hope greater awareness will help prevent tragedies caused by a hazard that cannot be seen, smelled or tasted.

A day on the water should end with memories of fishing, swimming and family fun, not an emergency room visit. By recognizing the warning signs and following basic safety precautions, boaters can help ensure everyone returns home safely.

For parents, the message is simple: If a child seems unusually sick, dizzy or exhausted after boating, don't dismiss the symptoms. The invisible danger of carbon monoxide poisoning may be the cause, and quick action could make all the difference.

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From the White Settlement Historical Society

Patriot Marker Dedication Ceremony to Honor Revolutionary-Era Ancestors at Thompson Public Cemetery

As the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of American independence, local residents will have an opportunity to honor the men and women whose sacrifices helped establish the United States during a special Patriot Marker Dedication Ceremony on June 20.

The event, presented by the Fort Worth Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and the White Settlement Historical Society, will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Thompson Public Cemetery, 6505 Westworth Blvd. in Fort Worth.

Organizers say the ceremony is part of the nationwide America 250 commemoration, which marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The dedication will recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of patriot ancestors who contributed to the founding of the nation during the American Revolution.

The Patriot Marker serves as a permanent reminder of the courage, commitment and perseverance demonstrated by those who helped secure American independence. The ceremony will provide an opportunity for descendants, history enthusiasts and community members to reflect on the legacy left by the nation's earliest patriots.

Located behind Panera Bread on Westworth Boulevard, Thompson Public Cemetery is one of the area's historic burial grounds and provides a fitting setting for the commemorative event.

The dedication is expected to draw members of local historical organizations, descendants of Revolutionary War patriots and residents interested in preserving and celebrating the nation's history as America approaches its semiquincentennial anniversary.

Community members are invited to attend and participate in recognizing the enduring contributions of the patriot ancestors whose service helped shape the United States.

The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

John Hancock: The Man Behind America's Most Famous Signature

It became one of the most famous signatures in American History. John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence in the summer of 1776, a name that stood out among all the others that followed. The man behind the signature led a life as a successful shipper and noted statesman.

John Hancock was born in Massachusetts in 1737, the son and grandson of Anglican ministers. In 1744, at age 7, his father died. Afterward, he went to live with his uncle, Thomas Hancock, a wealthy and successful merchant.

The younger Hancock completed Boston Latin Grammar School in 1750. Afterward, he graduated from Harvard in 1754 at age 17. As a young man, he joined his uncle's business and learned about shipping. He gradually became acquainted with the leading members of the local business community. In 1760, he went to live in England for a year to better learn the shipping business and to build business relationships.

When his uncle died in 1764, Hancock inherited his business and his entire fortune, making him one of the wealthiest men in the colonies. After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, Britain was deeply in debt and looking to the colonies to help pay off its wartime expenses.

As the British Parliament's tactics became increasingly heavy-handed, Hancock slowly began to speak out. In 1765, he was elected a selectman for Boston and elevated to the colonial House of Representatives in 1766. In the legislature, he began working closely with Samuel Adams, long an outspoken critic of the British.

The ports became the center of British abuses, as customs collectors harassed sailors and raided docked ships in the belief they were sneaking out of port without paying the required taxes. In 1768, the British targeted Hancock, accusing him of smuggling, and attempted to seize one of his ships. He was tried by a vice-admiralty court, a board of naval officers, instead of a civilian court. With John Adams as his lawyer, the panel soon dropped all charges.

After the Boston Massacre in 1770, Hancock led a legislative committee demanding that all British troops withdraw from Boston. The troops were temporarily withdrawn, which led to an easing of tensions. By 1773, after the passage of the Tea Act, giving special tax breaks to one British company, tensions and mistrust rose again. As discontent grew, Hancock delivered fiery speeches demanding action. "Let every man do what is right in his own eyes!" he said on the eve of the Boston Tea Party.

He married Dorothy Quincy in 1775. The couple had two children, but both died in childhood.

When the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia in May 1775, fighting had already erupted between Britain and the colonies. Hancock was selected by the other delegates to become president of the Continental Congress, a position similar to the modern role of Speaker of the House and not the current chief executive under the modern system. He replaced Peyton Randolph of Virginia.

By 1776, the colonies decided reconciliation with Britain was impossible, and it was time to declare independence. Though independence was declared on July 2, the document itself was not approved until July 4, the day that has been celebrated since. However, the signing of the Declaration of Independence did not take place immediately. Delegates to the Continental Congress signed it only a few at a time and over the course of several weeks. Hancock signed it first, boldly and in huge letters at the bottom. As president of the Continental Congress, he believed he had a responsibility to sign it first and make the colonies' intentions known to the British government and to the world.

Whether Hancock said anything at the time of signing or not has been a matter of argument since that time. Only one other person was present when he signed. He realized his signature was itself a statement, one that meant the gallows if the Americans lost the war.

The war was a difficult time. In 1776 and 1777, Hancock had to evacuate the Continental Congress from Philadelphia because of British troops. He volunteered for military service; but nearing 40 and with no experience, his appeals were denied. Nevertheless, he raised money and recruited troops for the cause.

He also continued to support widows and children orphaned by the war. The Continental Congress began acting as a national government, and a constitution was written to guide it. Thus Hancock also signed the Articles of Confederation in 1777 before returning to Massachusetts.

Shortly after his return to Boston, voters returned Hancock to the legislature. He co-founded the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1780 with John Adams, Ben Franklin, and others. In 1780, he was elected governor of Massachusetts, serving for five years. In 1785, he returned to Philadelphia and served as president of the Continental Congress for one more year.

Hancock's health gradually failed. He was re-elected governor in 1786 and would serve for seven more years. He was unable to attend the Constitutional Convention in 1787, but he made many important public statements in favor of ratification that convinced Massachusetts to ratify.

He died in Boston in October 1793 at age 56. Samuel Adams stepped in as acting governor, proclaimed the day of Hancock's burial to be a holiday in honor of his friend.

Hancock did not leave many writings or letters behind, so he faded from prominence in the decades after his death. However, four cities were named for him as well as two naval vessels.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, June 12:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. Heat index values as high as 100. S/SE wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday, June 13:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 98. South wind around 10 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 76. South wind 10 to 15 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday, June 14:

AM - A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible. Sunny, with a high near 95. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 20%.
PM - Showers likely, possibly a thunderstorm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 70%.

Extended Forecast Click Here