Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Police Share Summer Safety Tips to Prevent Property Crimes

As summer vacations begin and more families spend time traveling or enjoying activities away from home, the River Oaks Police Department is encouraging residents to take steps to help prevent property crimes.

According to the department, communities across Texas often experience an increase in vehicle burglaries and residential burglaries during the summer months. Police officials note that many of these offenses are crimes of opportunity that occur when valuables are left visible or homes and vehicles are left unsecured.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim, residents are encouraged to lock vehicle doors and remove *(continued on page 5)*

River Oaks City Hall and the Event Center will be closed on Friday, June 19 for the Juneteenth Holiday. Regular trash will be picked up on Friday.

From the White Settlement Historical Society

Patriot Marker Dedication Saturday

As part of the nation's America 250 commemoration, the Fort Worth Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the White Settlement Historical Society will host a Patriot Marker Dedication Ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 20, at Thompson Public Cemetery, 6505 Westworth Blvd. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

The ceremony will honor the patriot ancestors whose service and sacrifice helped secure American independence during the Revolutionary War. The Patriot Marker will serve as a permanent tribute to those who contributed to the founding of the United States as the nation marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Located behind Panera Bread on Westworth Boulevard, Thompson Public Cemetery provides a historic setting for the event.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Residents Have Multiple Ways to Follow River Oaks City Council Meetings

Residents interested in local government have several options for staying informed about decisions made by the River Oaks City Council, including attending meetings in person, watching online and reviewing meeting agendas before each session.

The River Oaks City Council regularly meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, except in December, when only one meeting is typically scheduled. Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers at River Oaks City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings in person. Citizens also have opportunities to address the council during designated public testimony periods, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

For those unable to attend, the city provides a live video feed of council meetings through the city's website. Residents can access the broadcast by visiting the city's website and selecting the "Video" tab when a meeting is in progress.

Meeting agendas are posted online before each meeting and are available through the city's document portal. Agendas provide information about items scheduled for discussion, public hearings, ordinances, resolutions and other council business. Meeting minutes are also posted online after they have been approved by the council.

Residents can find current and past agendas by visiting the city's website at City of River Oaks and navigating to the Documents or City Council sections. The city's online calendar also lists upcoming council meetings and provides links to meeting agendas when available.

City officials encourage residents to review agendas, watch meetings and participate in the public process to stay informed about issues affecting the River Oaks community.

Check out Page 3 for information about the Texas America250 exhibit at the White Settlement Public Library!

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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.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Traveling Exhibit Brings 250 Years of Texas History to White Settlement Library!

Community members are invited to explore more than two centuries of Texas history without leaving town through a special traveling exhibit now on display at the White Settlement Public Library.

The library is hosting the Texas America250 exhibit, presented by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), as part of the nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

The exhibit showcases historically significant documents, photographs and artifacts from the Texas State Archives, highlighting the people, events and milestones that helped shape both Texas and the nation over the past 250 years

Featured topics span Texas history from the era of Spanish missions to the modern space program, illustrating the state's influence on the country's culture, economy, landscape and development.

Library visitors are encouraged to stop by and explore the exhibit while learning more about the Lone Star State's rich heritage and its role in American history.

The Texas America250 exhibit is on display at the White Settlement Public Library through July. The project was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

From 4PAWS/Benbrook Animal Shelter

Blanco is a Good Boy!

Blanco is a 1-year-old energetic Lab mix who loves to say hello to visitors. He can't wait to have a new home and family to call his own.

Adoptions are available at the Benbrook Shelter, located at 469 Winscott Rd., on Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit www.4pawsinc.org or call 4 PAWS volunteers, Ursula at 817-262-3086 or Lynda at 682-279-0760 to set up a meet-and-greet.

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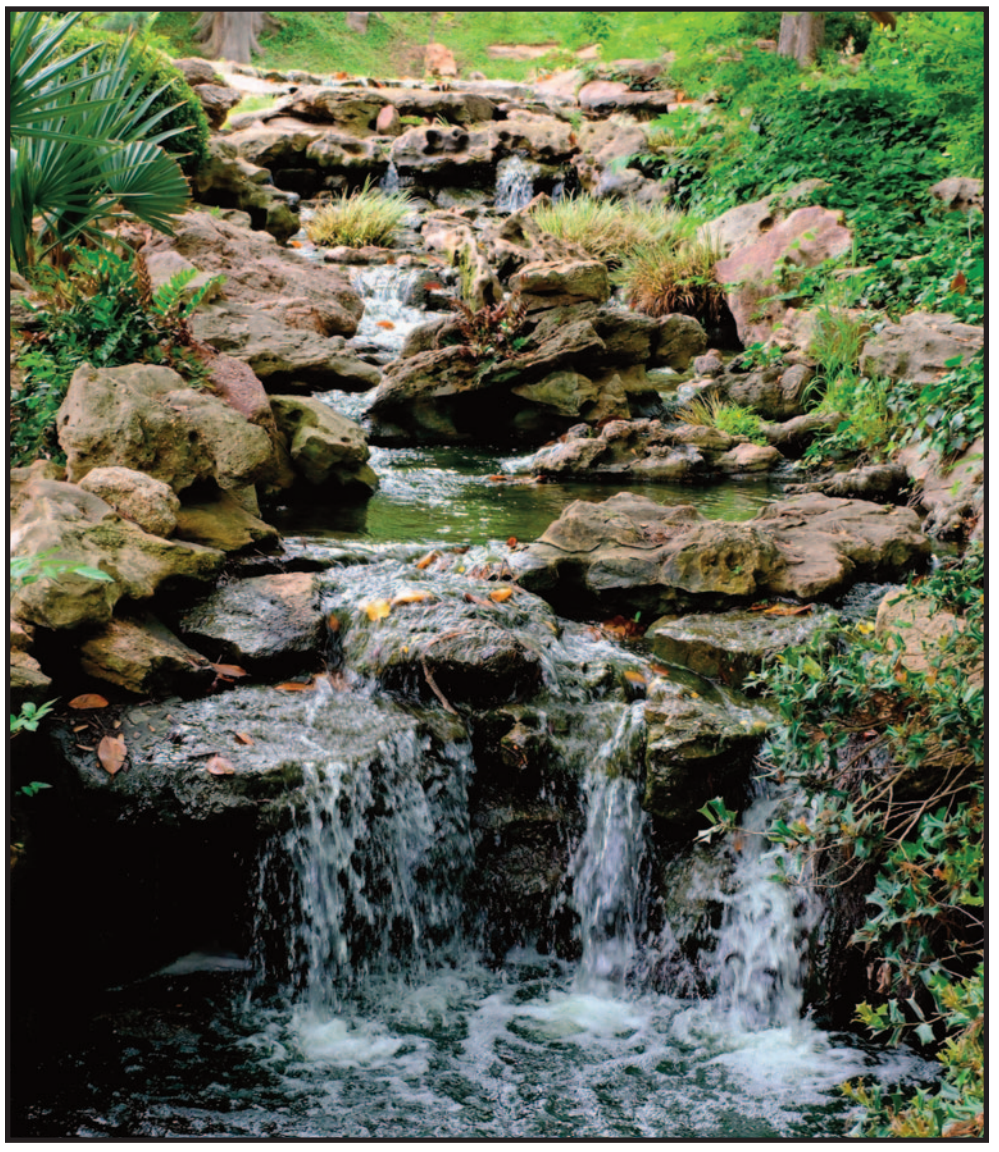
From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Community Invited to Enjoy Free Day at Fort Worth Botanic Garden!



The Fort Worth Botanic Garden will welcome visitors for a free day of exploration, reflection and celebration in honor of Juneteenth on Friday, June 19.

Guests will receive free general admission to the garden from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with last admission at 5 p.m. Complimentary onsite parking also will be available throughout the day.

The special event gives visitors access to all 120 acres of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, including its 23 specialty gardens and the newest featured exhibit, *Sean Kenney's Nature Pop! Made with LEGO Bricks*, at no cost.

Visitors can explore a variety of attractions throughout the grounds, including the Japanese Garden, known for its peaceful ponds and koi fish, and the historic Rose Garden, where terraced walkways showcase colorful seasonal blooms.

Garden officials said the free admission day is part of an ongoing effort to ensure the facility remains accessible and welcoming to the entire community.

In addition to periodic free admission days, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden offers several year-round access programs designed to reduce barriers for families, students, educators and military members.

Programs include free general admission for SNAP and WIC recipients with a qualifying card and photo identification, free admission for veterans year-round, and complimentary admission for active-duty military personnel and up to five family members through the Blue Star Program between Armed Forces Day and Labor Day.

Additional opportunities include free admission passes available through the Fort Worth Public Library's Museums4All Muse Pass program, community passes distributed through local nonprofit organizations, free cultural and family events throughout the year, and free weekday afternoon admission for Fort Worth ISD students with a valid student identification card.

Teachers also receive one free general admission ticket per visit with a valid school identification card.

Garden officials encourage residents to take advantage of the Juneteenth event and the many access programs available throughout the year.

More information about the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, upcoming events and visitor programs is available at https://fwbg.org.

From the City of River Oaks

Celebrate America's 250th with Fireworks Saturday, June 27

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 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 communitywide 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.

ROPD Summer Safety Tips

(continued from page 1)

or conceal valuables such as wallets, electronics, backpacks and garage door openers. Police also recommend keeping vehicle windows fully closed and ensuring homes are properly secured when residents are away. Outdoor lighting can also play an important role in crime prevention. Residents are encouraged to check that porch lights, motion-activated lights and other exterior lighting systems are functioning properly.

The department is also asking parents to remain involved in their children's summer activities. With school out of session, many young people have more free time and fewer structured activities. Police officials encourage parents to know where their children are, who they are spending time with and when they are expected to return home.

The department also recommends keeping children and teenagers engaged through summer jobs, sports programs, camps, volunteer opportunities and other organized activities. In addition, parents are encouraged to establish reasonable curfews and discuss the importance of making responsible decisions during the summer months.

Police officials said community awareness remains one of the most effective crime prevention tools. Residents who observe suspicious activity, including individuals checking vehicle door handles or behaving unusually in residential neighborhoods, are encouraged to report it.

Non-emergency concerns may be reported to the River Oaks Police Department at 817-626-1991. Residents should call 911 to report emergencies or crimes in progress.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

How Thomas Paine Sparked a Nation's Fight for Freedom

Thomas Paine brought the American Revolution from debating halls to the conscience of everyday Americans through thunderous writing and a fearless sense of right and wrong. He was immigrant who quickly adopted America as his home and the colonial cause as his own. His essays an pamphlets solidified the idea for independence among the general public, inspiring the colonists to fight for their freedom.

Thomas Paine was born in England in February 1737. His father made a modest living as a corset maker. He attended school for a few years in a time when very few attended at all. He learned his father's trade. However, he was not content to keep up the family business and served on a cargo ship for a few years.

In 1759, he returned to England, married, and opened his own corset shop. He quickly ran into money troubles and the shop closed, forcing him and his pregnant wife to move. Tragedy poured on him. His wife died in childbirth in 1760, along with his newborn daughter. Paine drifted from one job to another for a time, eventually finding work as a customs agent. He clashed with his bosses often, costing him his job at one point. In 1768, he worked briefly as a teacher before regaining his customs job.

After going form one town to another, he eventually ended up in Sussex where he became involved in local politics and began writing pamphlets, often anonymously. In 1771, he remarried and began running a grocery and tobacco shop while he continued to write. He wrote *The Journeyman's Touch-stone*, defending the right of jurors and *The Case of the Officers of Excise*, calling for better pay for customs officials.

His life took a dramatic turn in 1774. The British government fired him from his customs job, and he second marriage ended. His tobacco business failed, and he was facing bankruptcy. He sold everything he had and moved to London, hoping for a fresh start. Not long after arriving in London, a friend introduced him to Benjamin Franklin, who was at that point acting as a lobbyist to Parliament on behalf of the colonies. The two quickly struck up a friendship over their mutual political interests and writings. Franklin knew that Paine's passion and criticisms of the British government would find a receptive audience in the colonies and encouraged him to move to America.

After arriving in Philadelphia, he soon began editing *Pennsylvania Magazine* where his talents as a writer continued to grow. He quickly began writing editorials criticizing British policies toward the colonies and condemning slavery.

By January 1776, the American Revolution had been underway for several months, and the colonists continued debating independence. At this point, Paine wrote a blistering 47-page essay titled *Common Sense*. More than 150,000 copies were printed and sold throughout all thirteen colonies among a population of three million. His mix of biting humor and sharp arguments tore apart all the remaining arguments for remaining a part of England. Paine argued that all kings were thieves who had stolen their countries. He insisted that the mother country of the colonies as Europe and not England and argued that the colonial agricultural economy would sustain the new nation "as long as eating is the habit of Europe."

In the fall of 1776, he began writing a series of essays and pamphlets titled *The Crisis*. He wrote several throughout the darkest days of the war, attempting to rally a frustrated public and weary soldiers. He began most with the now-famous line, "These are the times that try men's souls." From there, he launched in vicious attacks on the British, the king, and British generals by name, using his characteristic biting sense of humor to lift the spirits of the public, calling on the people not to simply be "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" but to rally to the nation's cause. He would continue to write these throughout the war.

In April 1777, the Continental Congress appointed him as secretary for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, making him responsible for reporting meetings and keeping up with correspondence as America sought allies overseas. Two years later, the Pennsylvania General Assembly hired him as chief clerk. As his job required him to print government records, it provided a steady income for him over the next year.

In 1787, he returned to England. When the French Revolution erupted in 1789, he openly supported it. In 1791, he wrote a new tract, *Rights of Man*, which defended the new revolution and the attempts to overthrow the king, calling for monarchies to be abolished and for rights for all the people. His book was received enthusiastically in France and America. The British government indicted him for his statements, and he fled to France.

Because of his fame as a writer during the American Revolution, the revolutionary government of France named Paine an honorary French citizen, an honor also conferred on George Washington and Ben Franklin. France was in the chaos of its own revolution in the 1790s, and in 1792, the new National Convention government appointed him to represent the port city of Calais in the government even though Paine had only a limited knowledge of the French language. The French Revolution grew increasingly chaotic and violent. Accusations, rumors, and conspiracies flew. In the chaos, Paine was caught in the middle. In 1793, he was arrested as a new faction cemented power. He was released shortly afterward as yet another faction took over.

While in prison, he began writing *Age of Reason*, perhaps his most controversial work. The book, published in 1794, attacked organized religion, which greatly offended many in the Americas and France. Paine was increasingly becoming an atheist. Eventually, he was released from prison, and he continued writing. In 1796, he wrote an essay sharply condemning George Washington, which further upset many Americans.

In 1802, he returned to America. He found that he was now very unpopular and had trouble finding work. He died at age 72 in June 1809. By this point, he had been largely forgotten about. The man who electrified revolutions on both sides of the Atlantic had a funeral attended by only six people.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, June 19:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 92. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 76. E/SE wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday, June 20:

AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, high near 93. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 77. South wind 10 to 15 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday, June 21:

AM - Mostly sunny, high near 98. S/SW wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly clear, low around 78.

Extended Forecast Click Here