Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Gears Up for Patriotic Festival & Fireworks Celebration Saturday!

Residents are invited to celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a festival and fireworks show on Saturday, June 27.

The free event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at the River Oaks Event Center, 5300 Blackstone Drive, and Victory Church, 5116 River Oaks Blvd.

Families can enjoy a variety of activities, including a waterslide, mini train ride, water obstacle course and live music. Food vendors will offer summer favorites such as hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos.

Organizers encourage attendees to arrive early, bring lawn chairs or blankets, and plan to stay for the evening's highlight, a fireworks display scheduled for about 9:30 p.m. at Victory Church.

Children participating in water activities should bring swimsuits and towels.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Candidate Filing Period Opens July 18 for River Oaks City Council Election

Residents interested in seeking elected office in River Oaks this fall will have a one-month window to file for a place on the Nov. 3, 2026, general election ballot. Positions up for election include Mayor and Council Member Place 5.

According to a notice issued by the City of River Oaks, candidate filing begins Saturday, July 18, and continues through 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17.

Applications may be submitted in person or by mail to River Oaks City Hall, 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

Applications filed in person must be delivered during regular City Hall business hours, which are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday. On the final day of filing, Aug. 17, applications will be accepted until 5 p.m.

The city also allows applications to be mailed to City Hall at 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, Texas 76114. Applicants may contact the city for additional information regarding eligibility requirements and filing procedures.

Applications may also be submitted electronically to City Secretary Paula Luck at pluck@riveroakstx.com. Fax submissions may be sent to 817-625-2790. However, city officials note that applications requiring a filing fee may not be submitted by fax or email.

The Nov. 3 election will determine positions scheduled to appear on the City of River Oaks regular election ballot.

Residents considering a run for local office are encouraged to begin preparing application materials before the filing period opens to ensure all requirements are met before the Aug. 17 deadline.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Council Approves Grants, Traffic Safety Measures and Public Safety Agreements at June 16 Meeting

The River Oaks City Council approved several infrastructure, economic development and public safety items during its regularly scheduled meeting on June 16.

Council members approved the consent agenda, including minutes from the June 2 meeting, bills payable through June 16 for fiscal year 2026 and a building improvement grant for D&L Properties at 5109 Ohio Garden, as recommended by the Economic Development Corporation.

The council also considered a request from All Nations Church for an additional water bill adjustment *(continued on page 3)*

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From Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Staff Writers

Patriotic Fun Close to Home: Where to Celebrate Independence Day Near West Fort Worth

Residents of White Settlement, River Oaks and Benbrook won't have to travel far to find fireworks, live music and family-friendly entertainment this Independence Day.

Several free celebrations are planned within a 15-mile radius of west Fort Worth, offering opportunities to honor America's 250th birthday with everything from neighborhood parades to one of the largest fireworks displays in North Texas.

Fort Worth's Fourth

The area's largest Independence Day celebration returns Saturday, July 4, at Fort Worth's Fourth on the banks of the Trinity River at Panther Island Pavilion.

Admission is free, with gates opening at 5 p.m. The event features live music, food vendors, children's activities and a fireworks spectacular scheduled for approximately 9:30 p.m. Organizers describe the event as the largest fireworks show and Independence Day celebration in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

For River Oaks residents, Panther Island is less than 10 miles away.

Lake Worth Fourth of July Celebration

Families looking for a hometown atmosphere can head to the annual Independence Day festivities in Lake Worth. The city traditionally hosts a community celebration featuring live entertainment, food vendors and a fireworks show over Lake Worth. The lakefront setting provides plenty of viewing opportunities and is just minutes from west Fort Worth communities.

Westcliff Fourth of July Parade and Car Show

Residents seeking a morning celebration can attend the annual Westcliff neighborhood parade and car show in southwest Fort Worth. Families are encouraged to decorate bicycles, wagons and vehicles in red, white and blue before gathering for music, refreshments and classic cars. The event is free and family-oriented.

Tanglewood and Overton Park Parade

Another long-running Fort Worth tradition is the Tanglewood and Overton Park Independence Day Parade. Participants decorate bikes, scooters, wagons and golf carts before taking part in a community parade through the neighborhood. Refreshments and family activities follow.

Bellaire Park North Fourth of July Social

The Bellaire Park North, Bellaire Ridge and Meadows West neighborhoods will again host a Fourth of July parade and social featuring family activities, snow cones and community fellowship. The event is open to residents and visitors and provides a relaxed way to celebrate the holiday close to home.

Family 4th Celebration

For those willing to drive about 15 miles northeast of River Oaks, the Northeast Tarrant Chamber's Family 4th celebration offers food trucks, children's activities, live music and a fireworks-and-drone show. Organizers say more than 2,500 drones will join the fireworks display, creating one of the region's most unique Independence Day spectacles.

Celebrate Safely

With large crowds expected across North Texas, organizers encourage attendees to arrive early, bring water, lawn chairs and blankets, and follow posted parking and safety guidelines.

Whether residents choose a neighborhood parade, a lakeside celebration or the massive fireworks display at Panther Island, there are plenty of opportunities close to home to celebrate Independence Day.

June 16 City Council Meeting

(continued from page 1)

related to a leak. Because church representatives were not present and a previous leak adjustment had already been granted, no further adjustment was approved.

In other business, the council approved Resolution No. 1166, recommending that Tarrant County accept JWC Excavation LLC as the qualified bidder for a Community Development Block Grant project under the county's 51st-year CDBG program.

Council members also approved a First Responder and Provider Agreement with the City of Fort Worth. The agreement establishes a first responder program in accordance with Texas Administrative Code Section 157.14 and is intended to strengthen emergency response services.

Traffic safety improvements were also authorized. The council approved installation of an LED “Curve Ahead” warning sign in the 1900 block of Roberts Cut Off Road and adopted Ordinance No. 1484-2026, adding a stop sign at the intersection of Oaklawn Drive and Stephens Street.

The council discussed water damage repairs in the Police Department kitchen. While awaiting a damage estimate from the city's insurance adjuster, members approved payment of the city's $1,000 insurance deductible from Certificate of Obligation bond funds.

During staff reports, officials provided updates on several substandard property cases. Legal action is underway regarding a property at 1513 Skyline Drive. Cases involving properties at 4912 Black Oak, 4700 Barbara Road and 1114 Harvard Street remain in progress. Work has been completed at 1517 Byrd Drive, and a notice has been sent regarding a fire-damaged property at 4833 Kessler.

Staff also reviewed plans for River Oaks' America 250 celebration scheduled for June 27 at the River Oaks Event Center. City officials discussed preparations for the communitywide event.

The City Council of River Oaks meets on the first and third Tuesday night of each month.

River Oaks News Reader Submission

Reuse & Recycle!

As more homeowners look for ways to reduce waste and add personality to their outdoor spaces, creative recycling projects are proving that one person's discarded item can become another person's conversation piece.

One local example features a retired Tonka dump truck that has been given a second life as a planter. Rather than being discarded after years of use, the toy truck now serves as a miniature garden display. Filled with rocks, fossils and a thriving spider plant, the truck combines natural elements with nostalgia, creating an eye-catching piece that appeals to both gardeners and collectors. The fossils and stones add an educational component to the display, encouraging visitors to take a closer look at the pieces of history nestled among the greenery. The rugged appearance of the truck complements the natural materials, creating a display that looks right at home in an outdoor setting.

Repurposing household items offers several benefits beyond aesthetics. Recycling materials can save money, reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and preserve items that may hold sentimental value. Many projects require little more than cleaning the item, adding drainage if necessary and selecting plants or decorative elements that fit the container.

Garden experts often recommend choosing drought-tolerant plants for unusual planters, especially in North Texas, where summer temperatures can be challenging.

Sometimes the most memorable garden features are the ones that already have a story to tell.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

America250 Monument Dedicated at Thompson Public Cemetery

Community members gathered June 20 at Thompson Public Cemetery to dedicate a new America250 Commemorative Monument honoring the nation's founding generation.

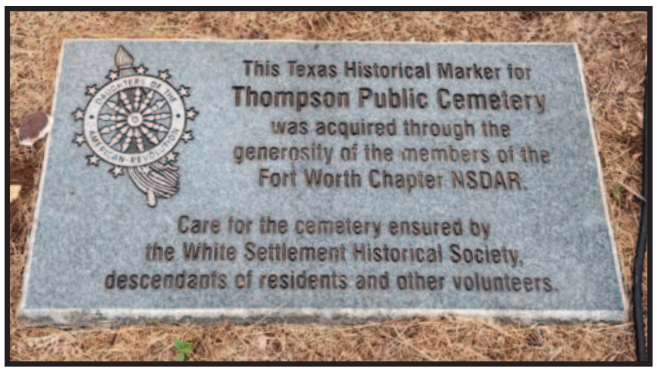
Sponsored by the Fort Worth Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the White Settlement Historical Society, the monument was unveiled at the historic cemetery at 6505 Westworth Blvd. The ceremony is part of the nationwide America250 initiative marking the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding.

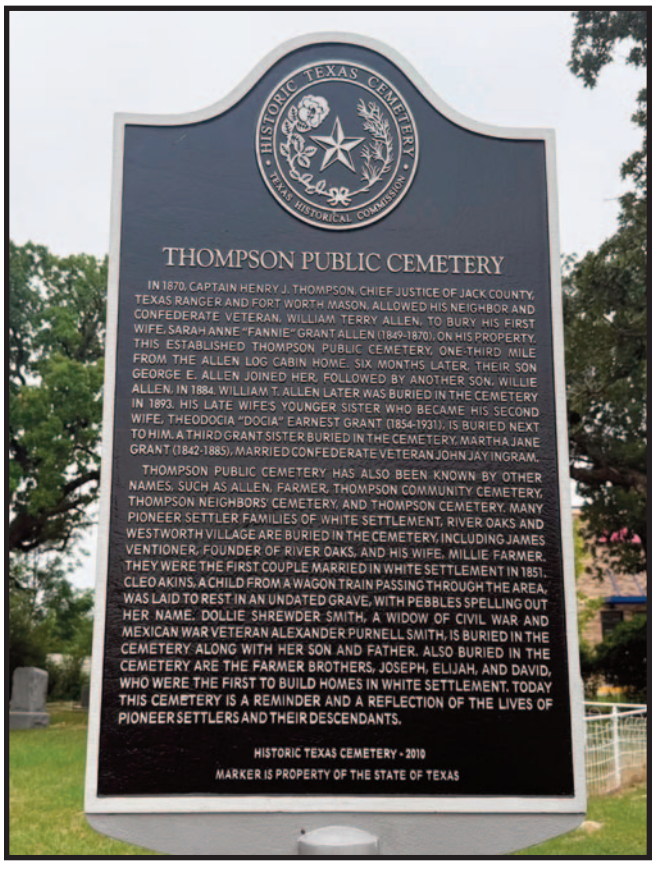
The White Settlement Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors to open the ceremony. White Settlement City Council members, DAR representatives and local residents attended.

The monument honors 28 Revolutionary War patriot ancestors of individuals buried at Thompson Public Cemetery. It serves as a permanent tribute to their service and sacrifice in securing American independence.

Attendees reflected on the area's historic ties to the Revolutionary War era and the importance of preserving those local connections for future generations.

Organizers said the monument will stand as a lasting reminder of the courage and commitment to liberty that helped shape the nation nearly 250 years ago.





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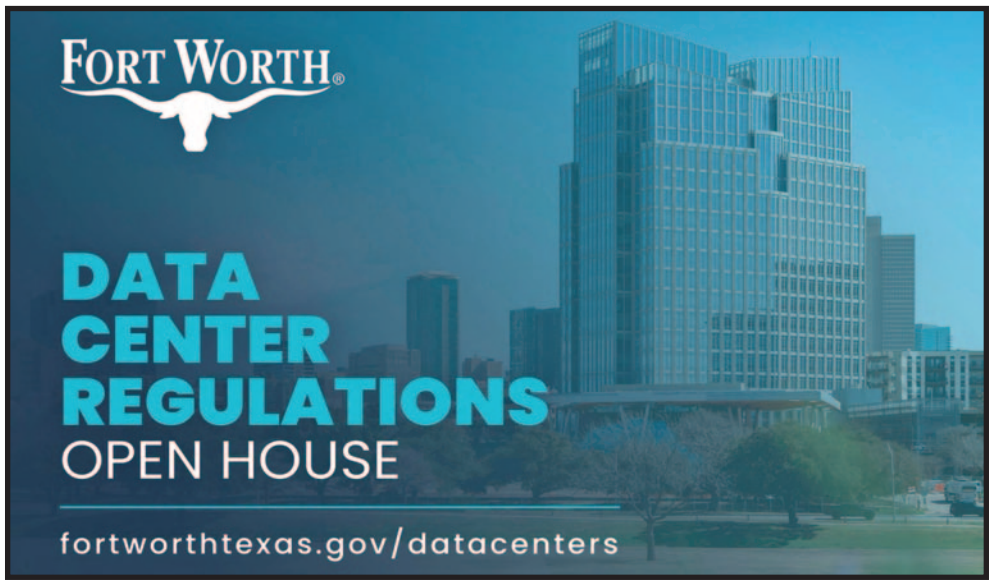
From Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Staff Writers

City of Fort Worth Seeks Public Input on Proposed Data Center Regulations - Open House June 30



As data center development continues to expand across North Texas, Fort Worth officials are inviting residents to learn more about proposed regulations and provide feedback during an upcoming public open house.

The City of Fort Worth will host a Data Center Regulations Open House from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, in the City Council Lobby at Fort Worth City Hall, 100 Fort Worth Trail.

The event will give residents an opportunity to meet with city staff and subject matter experts, ask questions and review proposed amendments related to future data center development throughout the city. Attendees will be able to visit topic-specific information stations covering zoning, noise standards, water use, economic development incentives and other issues associated with data center projects.

Interest in data centers has grown rapidly in Fort Worth and across Texas as demand for cloud computing, artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure increases. City officials say the proposed regulations are intended to balance economic development opportunities with protections for neighborhoods, natural resources and quality of life.

Among the recommendations under consideration are new zoning requirements, updated noise standards and water-use regulations for future facilities. City staff have proposed requiring new data centers to utilize closed-loop cooling systems, which use significantly less water than traditional evaporative cooling systems. Additional requirements would address wastewater management, utility infrastructure and development oversight.

The discussion comes amid growing public interest in how data centers affect nearby communities. Residents have raised concerns about water consumption, electricity demand, traffic, noise and environmental impacts as several large-scale projects have been proposed or approved throughout the region.

Fort Worth officials presented an initial package of proposed amendments to the City Council on June 2. Following the June 30 open house, the city's Zoning Commission is expected to consider the zoning-related changes on July 8. If recommended for approval, the proposals will advance to the Fort Worth City Council for consideration in August.

Residents who are unable to attend the open house may submit comments through an online public input survey provided by the city. For additional information about the proposed regulations and public engagement, visit the City of Fort Worth's website.

From Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

New World Screwworm: What Pet Parents Should Know

The New World Screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly that can affect warm blooded animals, including pets. While the name sounds alarming, the key is understanding what it is and how to spot early signs of trouble. Awareness helps keep pets safe without creating fear.

New World Screwworms lay eggs in open wounds. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on damaged tissue. They cause extensive damage by tearing host tissue with sharp mouth hooks.

This is why checking your pet's skin regularly is one of the most important steps you can take. Most cases begin with something small like a scratch, a bite, or a healing incision.

What Pet Owners Should Look For

- Unusual wounds that do not seem to heal or appear suddenly
- Redness or swelling around a scratch or bite
- A bad odor coming from a wound
- Visible movement in a wound = immediate veterinary attention
- Changes in behavior such as licking, hiding, or sensitivity when touched

If you notice any of these signs, a veterinarian should examine your pet as soon as possible. Early care makes a big difference.

Why Routine Prevention Still Matters

Regular flea and tick prevention remains one of the simplest ways to protect pets from skin irritation and bites. Even though these products are not designed for screwworms, they help reduce the small wounds that flies may target. Keeping pets clean, checking their skin after outdoor time, and monitoring any healing injuries are all practical habits that support their overall health.

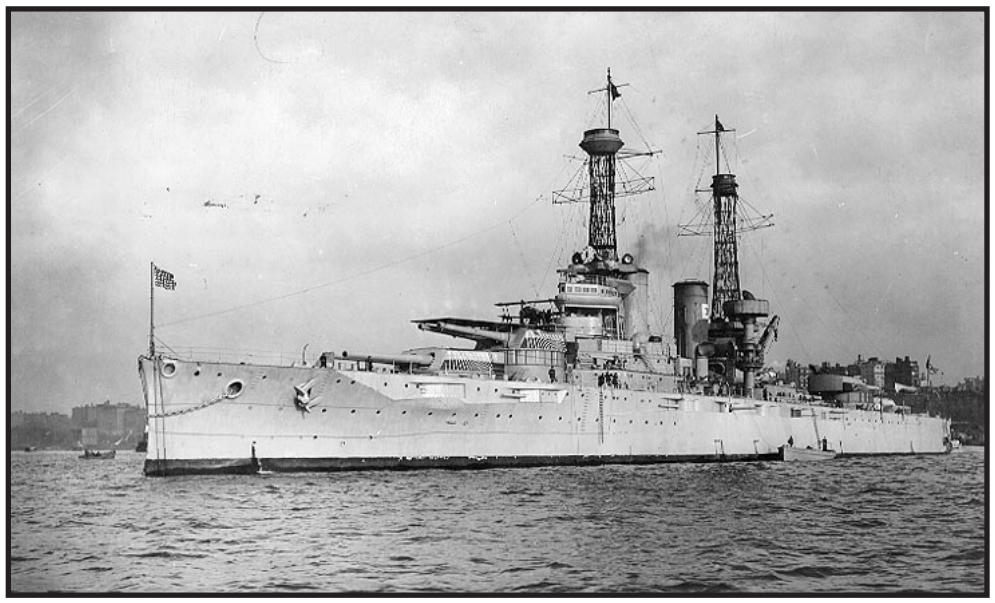
Staying Informed Without Worry

Here in North Texas, we keep a close eye on anything that could affect our pets, and New World Screwworm is no exception. There have been no confirmed cases in North Texas at this time, and state and federal agencies continue to monitor the situation closely.

Pet owners do not need to feel alarmed. A little awareness, paired with regular skin checks and consistent flea and tick prevention, helps keep cats and dogs comfortable and protected.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

From World Wars to Museum Ship: The Story of USS Texas



The 20th century became the great age for the battleship as navies around the world raced to build the most powerful vessels on the seas. As the United States established itself as a world power, the nation was determined to show the strength of its own navy. As a result, the Battleship USS Texas, designated BB-35, was built as the second vessel named for the state by the US Navy.

Construction on the Texas, a New York-class battleship, began in 1911 at a cost of over $5.8 million (nearly $173 million in modern dollars). It was commissioned in May 1914. The 573-foot vessel boasted a crew of more than one thousand men. It included 10 fourteen-inch guns, 21 five-inch guns, and four submerged torpedo launchers. Its firepower easily matched the most powerful ships in the world at the time.

During most of America's involvement in World War I, the Texas was attached to the British fleet patrolling the waters near Scotland and spent the interwar years as part of the navy's Pacific Fleet. In 1919, just after the war ended, it made naval history as it became the first battleship to launch an airplane off its deck. The successful experiment was a critical part of the navy's tests of the viability of aircraft carriers and their potential designs as airplanes became more reliable instruments for reconnaissance and combat.

The Texas spent most of the early years of World War II on convoy escort duty, protecting troop transports and supply ships from the German submarine attacks that had devastated the Allies. In October 1942, the ship served as part of the fleet transporting American troops to North Africa as part of Operation Torch, the first landing of American troops against the Nazis.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies staged Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy, and the Texas was there, its guns pounding Nazi positions along the coast. The ship stayed along the coast of northern France for several weeks, aiding American troops as they struggled to move inland.

As the Allies retook Europe, the USS Texas was sent to the Pacific in early 1945. In February and March, the Texas supported ground troops landing at Iwo Jima as American forces advanced toward the Japanese home islands. Beginning in April, the ship was part of the six-week naval bombardment campaign as American troops struggled to gain control of Okinawa. The capture of both islands was essential to forcing Japan to surrender, which occurred four months later. After the end of the war, the Texas spent the last few months of its career bringing troops back home.

The Texas was decommissioned in 1946, along with many other storied vessels from both world wars. The ship, however, was given a noble retirement by the people of the state. On April 20, 1948, it was permanently docked in LaPorte near the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site to begin operating as a museum, allowing the general public to explore the ship for themselves. The arrangement was the first of its type for a battleship and was wildly popular with the public.

While protected from the ravages of battle today, the ship still suffers from the corrosive effects of weather and the sea which has presented long-term issues for its preservation.

The Battleship Texas Foundation has for years raised money to support maintenance and education efforts in coordination with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Nevertheless, thousands of visitors from around the world still come each year to explore the legendary vessel.

City of White Settlement's

SUMMER CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, June 26:
AM - Mostly sunny, high near 96. South wind around 15 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, low around 77. South wind around 15 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.

Saturday, June 27:
AM - Sunny, high near 97. South wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - Clear, low around 77. South wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday, June 28:
AM - Sunny and hot, high near 99. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 25 mph, gusts as high as 35 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 78.

Extended Forecast Click Here