



Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From Tarrant County

Tarrant County Redistricting

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved an agreement with the Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) on April 2, 2025 to provide legal guidance and consulting on possible changes to the commissioners' district boundaries for the 2026 Primary and General Elections.

Proposed redistricting map options, information about upcoming public hearings, how to submit your own maps, and how to provide comments are listed on the [County's website](#).

Public Hearings

Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.
Azle ISD Administration Building
300 Roe Street, Azle, Texas 76020

Wednesday, May 14 at 6 p.m.
Como Community Center
4660 Horne Street Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m.
Arlington Sub Courthouse
700 East Abram Street, Arlington, Texas 76010

Wednesday, May 21 at 6 p.m.
Gary Fickes Northeast Courthouse
645 Grapevine Hwy, Hurst, Texas 76054

General Public Online Comment Submissions

General public comments can be submitted by completing the [online form](#). If you would like to participate in the hearings in person, public comment registration will be available at each of the public hearing locations.

From the City River Oaks

River Oaks Food Bank Event

Friday, May 9

The River Oaks Food Bank donation days are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive in River Oaks.

Attendees are encouraged to begin lining up by 8:30 a.m. to get a place in line.

The supply truck often arrives early, meaning the food is given to line members earlier than the posted time.

Participants are requested to stay in their vehicle, as the food bank is drive through.

For more information, call 817-732-5885.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

DID YOU KNOW?

*It is a violation of City Ordinance to set your trash out on non-trash days. Section 13.02.113 (1)(E) Prohibits the placing of garbage at the curb earlier than **6pm** the day before your normal collection day, and the garbage can must be removed from the curb by **7am** the following day to avoid a citation.*

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*Happy
Mother's Day!
Sunday, May 11*



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from the White Settlement Historical Museum Walk Through History on Saturday!

The White Settlement Historical Museum will host its second annual “Walk Through History” event on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring historical reenactments, live demonstrations, and interactive exhibits. Admission is free and open to the public.

Festivities begin along Hanon Drive with a 10:30 a.m. parade led by the White Settlement Police Department Color Guard, followed by a flag-raising ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance. At 12:30 p.m., the 4th U.S. Scouts Crew 1872 Color Guard will lead a second parade.

The museum grounds will feature reenactors representing various periods of Texas history, including the Texas Rangers (1823–1880), and the 15th Texas Dismounted Cavalry, who will conduct black powder rifle demonstrations. The 4th U.S. Scouts 1872 Venture Crew will present campfire cooking, while 1880s-era gunfighters and Faro dealers will bring Old West flair to the event. Additional attractions include blacksmith demonstrations, live music from the Butter-

milk Junction Old-Time String Band, and WWII and Vietnam War exhibits from the Military Museum of Fort Worth, including rides in a World War II-era Jeep.

Informational booths will be hosted by the White Settlement Fire and Police Departments, the White Settlement Historical Society, and Fort Richardson Historic Site from Jacksboro.

For more information, call 817-246-9719 or visit www.wsmuseum.com.



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7820 Wyatt Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76108

817-246-2473

<https://suburban-newspapers.com>

Texas Department of Transportation

Driver Safety Tips During Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Motorcyclist Brendan Johnson donated his black leather jacket to TxDOT for use in motorcycle safety messages. Tragically, he never saw the campaign because he was killed in a motorcycle crash.

To help prevent tragedies like this, TxDOT is sharing Johnson's story and driver safety tips during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month through the Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles campaign.

"We often hear drivers say they simply 'didn't see' the motorcyclist," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We want every driver to check and double check for motorcycles and learn how to safely share the road across the streets and highways of Texas."

Brendan's Story

Months before he was killed, Johnson lent his beloved motorcycle jacket for a TxDOT campaign billboard photo shoot, and he was thrilled to be involved in the safety message. But before he got to see the signs go up, a van turned in front of him on his way home from work and sent him into a ditch.

His coworkers were among the first on the scene. They attempted CPR and heard repeated questions from the driver of the van who said, "Where did he come from? I didn't see him."

The Data

In the more than 9,000 motorcycle crashes in Texas last year, 585 motorcyclists were killed. These crashes can be prevented if drivers learn to share the road and watch out for motorcycles.

Safety Tips

- Train yourself to notice motorcycles. They're smaller and lower to the ground than cars. By reminding yourself to keep an eye out for motorcycles, you'll train your eyes and brain to notice them more easily.
- Look twice. Always use your turn signals and check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
- Use caution when turning. Drivers have trouble judging the speed and distance of motorcycles. Never try to rush a turn ahead of an oncoming motorcycle.
- Don't tailgate. Keep a safe following distance. Motorcycles

can slow down by downshifting, which doesn't activate their brake lights.

- Don't crowd. If you need to pass a motorcycle, treat it like a car and give it a full lane of space. Never crowd into the same lane.
- Slow down. Speeding makes every type of crash more deadly. Obey posted speed limits and drive according to conditions.

To spread these messages, TxDOT's campaign will use advertisements and an interactive traveling exhibit that demonstrates how easy it is to lose sight of a motorcycle if you're not paying attention. The exhibit uses virtual reality so participants can experience the perspectives of both driving a car and riding a motorcycle in dangerous situations.

Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles is an important part of TxDOT's *Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe.* initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe.

Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.



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8320 Hanon Drive
White Settlement, Texas 76108
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How to Practice Self-Care on Mother's Day and Every Day

While Mother's Day is an annual opportunity to be pampered by your family, you shouldn't actually wait for a special occasion to indulge in self-care.

Carving out some "me time" is not just good for your mental health, physical wellness and confidence, as many moms know, it can actually make you a better parent.

According to a survey of moms conducted by Hutchinson and Cassidy, those who had higher self-esteem had higher levels of perceived parenting confidence.

Here are three ways to celebrate yourself with some self-care this Mother's Day and beyond:

1. Get some rest: We live in a goal-oriented society where the value of rest and relaxation is not always emphasized. Whether it's a spa day with your best friend or curling up with a good book at home, be sure your Mother's Day -- and your overall schedule -- includes adequate time to recharge your batteries.

2. Take care of your smile: One of the best ways to foster self-confidence is with a clean, healthy smile. In fact, a 2020 Cigna Dental Report found that smile satisfaction is one of the top three drivers of self confidence among U.S. adults.

3. Take care of your mind: So much of motherhood is ensuring everyone has what they need, and often, your own needs can fall by the wayside. There are many ways to take time to check in with yourself though. You could buy yourself a beautiful journal and jot thoughts down for a few minutes each evening or check out apps like Headspace, which can help get you started on a meditation practice. Even a 10 or 15 minute walk at lunchtime can be a powerful mood-booster and an opportunity to reflect. You might also consider taking up a hobby that offers the chance for self-expression, such as painting, poetry, music or crafting.

When it comes to parents and caretakers, the importance of self-care can't be overstated. Let this Mother's Day serve as the kick-off of new routines that boost your self-confidence and your well-being.

From the City of Benbrook

Heritage Fest Returns Sept. 27; Vendors Wanted for All-Day Community Event

Heritage Fest is back! Vendors wanted to showcase and sell their products on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Limited spots available, vendors may apply online at <https://bit.ly/4mbxIRE>. Don't miss out!

For more information, contact Mia Gamillo at mgamillo@benbrook-tx.gov or call 817-249-6091.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Balloons vs. Nature

Whether you are having a party or you are honoring a loved one, it is never a good idea to release balloons. They might say eco-friendly but could take up to seven years to biodegrade.

Mylar balloons are composed of synthetic nylon with metallic coating. They are not biodegradable and can cause power outages or fires when they get twisted with electrical lines. When you release them it might look majestic and you might wonder how far it will go but where it really ends up is terrible.

Balloons, usually bright with color, attract wildlife and marine life and get easily mistaken for foliage or food. Devouring balloons can cause them their life, not to mention being tangled up in the balloon string can cause suffocation. Helium for balloons, also used for fiber optics, infant breathing ventilators and MRI's, is a finite source and we cannot manufacture it.

The next time you want to use this party staple remember the fatal consequences for wildlife and marine life. If you have to have balloons, weigh them down, pop them and properly dispose of them.

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From the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Mary Isham Keith Chapter Celebrates National Historic Marker Day

National Historic Marker Day is celebrated annually on the last Friday of April, dedicated to cleaning, maintaining, and recognizing the historical significance of markers while honoring local history.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter members recently gathered to celebrate and rededicate a historic marker originally erected by the chapter in December 1921 to commemorate the founding of Camp Worth in 1849. The bas-relief plaque, mounted on a granite boulder, is located near the original site of the army post at the corner of Houston and South Belknap Streets in downtown Fort Worth, now the location of the Criminal Courts Building. The bronze panel, depicting an ox train departing the fort, is framed by a decorative border of arrows, stars, and bullets and is signed "J. M. Lore."

The reverse side of the granite boulder bears the insignia of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). "J. M. Lore" was the professional name of Fort Worth-born sculptor Joseph Lorkowsky, who studied in New York and later resided in Ridgefield, Connecticut. In 1922, he was adopted by a New York woman and subsequently took the name Joseph Lorkowsky Boulton, under which name he continued his artistic career. The plaque was cast by Limerick and Company of Baltimore, Maryland, whose name also appears on the marker.

At the time of the original dedication, Mrs. Alma Evans McLean served as Regent of the Mary Isham Keith Chapter from 1919 to 1921, followed by Mrs. Edith Attwell Taylor from 1921 to 1923. Mrs. McLean, born in Sherman, Texas, in 1877, passed away in 1962 and is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.



Pictured above: Elizabeth Harvey, Regent Pat Sinclair, Cecelia Van Donselaar, Teresa Wilson, Honorary Regent Charlseyy Holler, Karla Hodge, Laura Tausel, Rebecca Liles, Katrina Lorenzen and Betty Coe Manuel.

Mrs. Taylor, born in Kentucky in 1867, later made her home in Fort Worth, where she passed away in 1932. She is interred at Oakwood Cemetery.

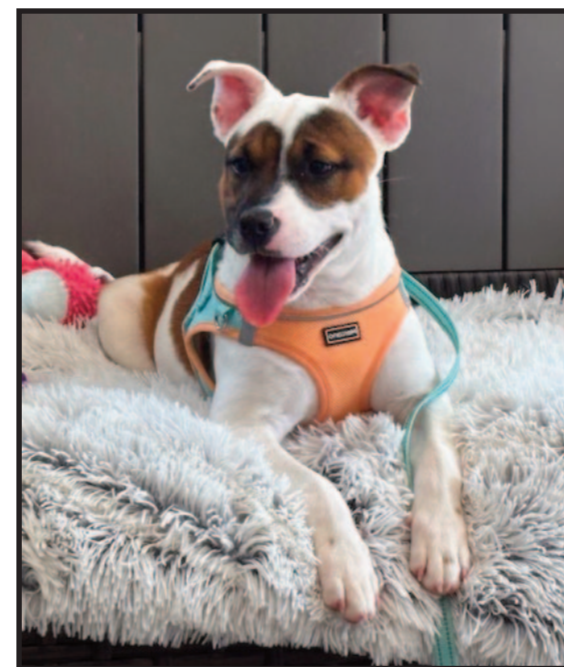
The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-political women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, email mikregent2025@gmail.com.

Pictured below: Mary Isham Keith Chapter members at the Marker Dedication in 1921



From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter *Adopt a Friend!*



Dominique is a three-month-old mix breed puppy who weighs 20 pounds. She loves to be held and sit with you on the couch! She is available for adoption at the Benbrook Animal Shelter, located at 469 Winscott Road. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

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 or to get more information about any of the dogs available.

One Moment Longer: The Heroic Stand of Master Sergeant Travis Watkins

It has been said that heroism is defined as holding on for one moment longer. A moment can save a life or change the destiny of a nation.

Travis Watkins, a native Texas resident, was one such hero who took charge and held on against overwhelming odds, saving the lives of his men in the process and receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

Travis Watkins was born in Waldo, a small community in southern Arkansas in 1920.



The family would stay in Waldo for only a few years more before leaving for Texas, finally settling in Troup, a small town near Tyler. In 1939, he enlisted in the army.

At Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, American forces went on the offensive against Japan for the first time in the war, determined to turn the tide of the fighting. In August 1942, American forces launched an attack on Japanese positions. Watkins served with distinction in the battle and was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery.

He served with distinction in many campaigns until the Allied victory in 1945. Watkins continued to serve in the army in the peacetime years that followed and rose through the enlisted ranks to Master Sergeant. In 1948, he married Madie Sue Barnett, with whom he had two daughters.

In June 1950, the peace was shattered when North Korea launched a massive, unprovoked attack on South Korea. Watkins was called back into action with the Ninth Infantry and sent to shore up their failing defenses. By the end of August, American, South Korean, and United Nations forces had been pushed into a small pocket of the southeastern corner of South Korea that came to be called the Pusan Perimeter. Allied forces were facing total defeat.

On Aug. 31, Watkins and his detachment of 30 men were completely cut off from their regiment. Near Yongsan, he organized his small group into defensive positions, deciding to fight it out. As they ran low on ammunition, Watkins would charge out of their foxholes to retrieve ammunition from fallen North Korean troops. Though he was shot, he continued to fight for the lives of his men for three more days.

Watkins and his men deflected wave after wave of attacks. In one wave, North Korean troops charged his foxhole with grenades. Critically wounded in the attack, Watkins killed all of his attackers,

preventing his position from being overrun.

But he realized he had been paralyzed from the waist down by his injuries. He knew he would not survive the battle but kept directing his men to give them their chance to break out and rejoin their regiment. Over the next days, he insisted the men take his share of their dwindling food supply, and on Sept. 3, after seeing an opening, ordered them to make their escape without him, telling them his injuries would only slow them down. According to his men, he wished them luck and then died. The remaining troops made it back safely after a battle that took out 500 enemy troops.

Watkins died two days before his 30th birthday. He was later buried in Gladewater.

A few months after his death, the army awarded Watkins the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service above and beyond the call of duty.

President Harry Truman gave Watkins's posthumous award to his widow in a ceremony at the White House. Watkins would be one of 33,000 Americans to lose their lives in the Korean War and one of 146 men to receive the Medal of Honor during the conflict.

His sacrifice was not forgotten. In 1961, a housing complex at Fort Sam Houston was named for him.

In June 2000, the navy launched the USNS Watkins, a 950-foot cargo ship named in honor of Watkins, which has been in service ever since.



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, May 9:
AM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. North wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 55. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, May 10:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 75. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 53. North wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, May 11:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 74. North wind around 5 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 54. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)