



*Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village*

# River Oaks News

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*From the Sports Desk with John Loven*

## Lions End Regular Season with Big Win - Playoff Bound!



Castleberry Lions senior, Corbett Brown.



CHS sophomore, Bryan Cenicerros.



Lions senior, Demetrius Valadez.

The Castleberry High School football team crushed the Mustangs from Life Waxahachie 83-33 on Nov. 7. The Lions amassed almost 700 yards of total offense (697 to be precise). The final score and total offense could very well be school records. The win gave the team an overall record of 5-5 but even more important is they finished 2-3 in district.

The offensive display of power was evident by the rushing attack which saw three runners break the 100-yard rushing mark in the game. They were led by junior Isaiah Ford with 186 yards on 20 carries (9.3 yds/rush); senior quarterback Demetrius Valadez gained 125 yards on just eight carries (15.6 yds/rush), and senior Cadyn Perez followed closely with 115 yards on 11 carries (10.5 yds/rush).

The Lions averaged an amazing 10 yards/rush on the night (44 rushes for 442 yards). Valadez also had a great night throwing the ball. He completed 17 of 20 passes for 255 yards and five touchdowns. Senior Corbett Brown was the top receiver on the night. He had five receptions for 111 yards (22.2 yds/reception) and two touchdowns. Sophomore Bryan Cenicerros was not far behind with five receptions for 88 yards (17.6 yds/reception) and one touchdown.

The Lions finish the regular season 5-5, their best season since 2019. That was Coach Juan Silva's first season as head football coach at Castleberry. That year they finished 7-4 and made the playoffs.

### Lions Advance to Playoffs

The Lions finished 2-3 in district. This placed them in a three-way tie with Carrollton Ranchview and Lake Worth, who also had identical 2-3 records in district. The tie breaking rules gave CHS the fourth place finish in district, thereby qualifying them for the UIL playoffs. They will play the Springtown Porcupines (9-1/6-0), who won their district championship. The game will be played on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Boswell's Pioneer Stadium, located at 5805 W. Bailey Boswell Road at 7 p.m. Lions fans are encouraged to come out and support CHS, in the playoffs for the first time in five years. Go Lions!

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade Draws Hundreds of Spectators

The Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade was held on Monday, Nov. 11 along Forest Park Blvd. This year marks 175 years since the first military post was established in North Central Texas on Nov. 14, 1849; the U.S. War Department officially granted the name "Fort Worth" to the post near the confluence of the Clear and West forks of the Trinity River. (continued on page 3)

From CASA of Tarrant County

# CASA of Tarrant County Looking for Volunteers

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tarrant County is an organization of volunteer advocates who stand up on behalf of abused and neglected children.

## The Children We Serve

Each year, thousands of children in Tarrant County are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect. These children have experienced terrible trauma, and their lives are turned upside down. Child Protective Services takes legal responsibility for them, and may place them in a foster home or other facility. Due to too few foster homes, siblings are often split up into different places. Children are rarely able to stay in their own schools, day cares, or communities. Everything they have known is gone. Through no fault of their own, these abused children have become a part of an overburdened child welfare system. They deserve a voice in the courtroom. They need a CASA volunteer.

## Our Volunteers

CASA of Tarrant County has over 300 active volunteers who come from all walks of life. They span all age ranges. Some are just beginning in the workforce, and others are retired. Over half our volunteers work full-time and have families. Some have

backgrounds in the criminal justice system, social work, or child welfare. Other volunteers have no such experience at all.

## The History

In 1977, a Seattle Superior Court Judge named David Soukup was concerned about trying to make decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. He conceived the idea of appointing community volunteers to speak up for the best interests of these children in court. He made a request for volunteers; 50 citizens responded, and that was the start of the CASA movement. In 1983, Judge Scott Moore, presiding judge of the 323rd Judicial District at that time, along with community volunteers Rhoda Bernstein and Monna Loftis, and CPS Director Wayne Hairgrove, formed the original steering committee that brought the CASA concept to Tarrant County.

Through the years, CASA of Tarrant County has shown consistent growth in the number of children served each year. The

ultimate goal is to provide every child in foster care who needs one with a highly trained CASA volunteer. CASA of Tarrant County provides an unduplicated service in our community. Our program is highly respected within the judicial system and maintains an excellent working relationship with all parties associated with the legal process.

Additionally, CASA of Tarrant County is an affiliate in good standing with both National CASA Association and Texas CASA.

For more information, or to apply to become a CASA Volunteer, visit the CASA website: <https://www.speakupforachild.org>.

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## Legal Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 1442-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 "UTILITIES" ARTICLE 13.02 "UTILITY POLICY" OF THE RIVER OAKS CODE OF ORDINANCES (2020) AS AMENDED SPECIFICALLY IN SECTION 13.02.039 "RECONNECTION", SUBSECTION (e) INCREASING THE FEE TO \$25.00 WHEN THE CUSTOMER THAT HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED IS NOT PRESENT FOR RECONNECTION; AMENDING CHAPTER 13 "UTILITIES" ARTICLE 13.03 "WATER SYSTEM" OF THE RIVER OAKS CODE OF ORDINANCES (2020) AS AMENDED SPECIFICALLY UNDER SECTION 13.03.009 "METER DEPOSITS AND OTHER FEES" INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES; ESTABLISHING METER TEST FEES IN ACCORDANCE TO RULE § 24.169 OF THE TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVER OAKS:

### SECTION 1.

With the adoption of this Ordinance, Section 13.02.039 "Reconnection", subsection (e) of Article 13.02 "Utility Policy" of the River Oaks Code of Ordinances (2006) shall be amended to now read as follows:

#### Section 13.02.039 "Reconnection" under subsection (e)

"(e) If a door tag is received by the customer requesting reconnection after payment and are not at the property to sign the affidavit; a **\$25.00 fee** (for each offense) will be added to the customer's account to be reconnected."

### SECTION 2.

With the adoption of this Ordinance, Section 13.03.009 "Meter Deposits and Other Fees", subsection (c) of Article 13.03 "Water System" of the River Oaks Code of Ordinances (2020) shall be amended to now read as follows:

In addition to the meter deposit, water customers will be charged the following fees:

(1) Service charge for initiating water service: **\$25.00.**

(2) Meter testing fee, effective after this Ordinance is effective: Upon the request of a customer, the Water Department shall make, without charge, a test of the accuracy of the customer's meter. If the customer asks to observe the test, the test shall be conducted in the customer's presence or in the presence of the customer's authorized representative. The test shall be made during the utility's normal working hours at a time convenient to the customer.

If the meter has been tested by the City or a testing facility at the customer's request, and within a period of two years the customer requests a new test, the City shall make the test, but if the meter is found to be within the accuracy standards established by the American Water Works Association, the City may charge the customer a fee which reflects the cost to test the meter, but this charge shall in no event be more than \$25 for a residential customer as follows:

(A) .75" meter: \$25.00.

(B) 1" meter: \$25.00.

(C) Any meter measuring greater than 1": The actual cost to send the meter to be tested.

(Texas Administrative Code Rule § 24.169 "Meters" – (d) "Meter Tests on Request of Customers")

(3) Transfer fee: \$25.00

(4) Meter rereads. Customers requesting rereading of the meter after the monthly bills have been mailed out will be charged a fee according to the schedule below. All fees are based on a calendar year:

(A) First meter reread: No charge.

(B) Second meter reread: \$5.00.

(C) Third meter reread: \$10.00.

(D) Four or more: \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for each reread over 3.

(5) Administrative fee for nonpayment by the 25th day after billing: **\$50.00."**

### SECTION 3.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage by a majority vote of the City Council of the City of River Oaks and the legal publication of this ordinance if any is required and it is so ordained.

APPROVED THIS THE 5th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

Darren Houk, Mayor

ATTEST: Paula Luck, City Secretary

# Veterans Day Parade

(continued from page 1)

Participants gathered at Panther Island and the parade began promptly at 11 a.m. Several high school bands, JROTC units, various organizations and automobile clubs joined together for this overwhelming event that was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



Fort Worth Mayor **Mattie Parker** was the Grand Marshall of the Parade.



**Peter Robey** decorated his Corvette appropriately for the occasion.

(photos continued on page 4)

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# Veterans Day Parade (photos continued from page 3)



Pictured are: Benbrook Middle School Junior Cadet Corps.



Members from the 395th Army Band entertained the crowd.



The Colors led the parade route.



Granbury ISD STAR Accelerated High School students placed flags along the parade route. Pictured are: (front, l-r) **Linda Goforth, Erin Moore, Armani Patton** and teacher, **Nicole Chaplin-Lewis**; (back) **Mason Vickers, Harleigh Collins** and **Kaden Marfia**.



Arlington Heights High School Navy JROTC.



North Crowley High School Army JROTC.

Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

## The 'Lost Battalion' and Texans in WWII

War was near in November 1941. The men of the Second Battalion of the 131st Field Artillery of the Texas National Guard prepared for the worst as they sailed to Hawaii. These men had come together from North-Central Texas to serve their country, and hailed from Abilene, Decatur, Lubbock, and the Wichita Falls area. Their capture three months later and the fate of what became the "Lost Battalion" became one of the most harrowing stories of Texas troops during World War II.

Their initial voyage in late 1941 proceeded with little incident. They docked briefly at Pearl Harbor in late November and were sent on to Australia to bolster Allied forces in anticipation of Japanese action.

The troops heard the news of the attack on Hawaii while on the high seas. Army officials briefly considered recalling them to Hawaii, but the decision was made to send them onward. After spending Christmas 1941 in Australia, the men were then ordered to assist Australian, British, and Dutch troops in the Dutch East Indies (modern-day Indonesia) against Japan.

Though only a small contingent of troops, the Second Battalion prepared to defend the large island of Java. Japan invaded on Feb. 27, 1942. Pressure from Japanese forces mounted, and the Allies fell back into smaller and steadily less defensible corners. The USS Houston was sunk, with the loss of 700 American sailors. More than 300 survivors reached Allied lines.

Cohesion soon broke down, and it was every force for itself. The Americans were cut off in the mix, unable to rally and unable to communicate with other units. On March 8, Java fell to Japan, and the Texans were captured, along with more than 32,000 other Allied troops.

The news stunned America, but the War Department had no idea what had happened to the troops of the Second Battalion or the Houston survivors. Communications simply ceased. Families and neighbors grieved, worried, and prayed, not knowing what fates awaited their loved ones half a world away.

The 534 captured of the Second Battalion, along with the Houston, became known as the Lost Battalion and suffered in Japanese prison camps throughout the war.

The Geneva Convention of 1929 specified that prisoners were to be given proper shelter and medical care and not to be tortured. Nations were also supposed to inform each other of captives. Japan refused to ratify the treaty, and during the war resorted to a medieval mentality that surrender was disgraceful and prisoners deserved the worst. And the worst they delivered, many later answering for their war crimes.

One group separated during the battle for Java, Battery E, was eventually sent to Japan to work as slave labor in the shipyards and coal mines until they were freed in 1945. Eight of these 99 men died in captivity.

Most of the remainder of the Lost Battalion were held for seven months in Java before put to work in their own slave labor camps

building the Burma Railway for Japan.

For nearly a year, more than 66,000 Allied prisoners along with more than 230,000 Southeast Asian civilians were forced to build a 258-mile rail line from Burma to Thailand across treacherous mountain passes and unrelenting jungles. The overworked men had little food or water, no medical care, and were beaten or murdered by guards. Seventy thousand men died building the railroad.

After completion of the "Death Railway" in 1943, the men were sent back to prison camps in the Dutch East Indies.

Over the next two years, they were sent to various places across Southeast Asia to serve Japanese whims. They suffered from poor health, poor nutrition, and beatings. In all, 163 men from the Lost Battalion died in Japanese camps.

In September 1944, American submarines on routine war patrols came across Japanese merchant ships carrying hundreds of Allied prisoners. Once safely back in Allied hands, the POWs began telling how they had worked with survivors of the Second Battalion in Burma. News that some of the men were still alive was relayed to waiting families. They now had renewed hope, but these hopes were tempered by the knowledge of what the prison camps were like.

It would be nearly another year of hard fighting before the Lost Battalion could be rescued. In August 1945, Japan surrendered. By this time, most of the imprisoned Second Battalion were in camps in Java and Thailand. Two American C-54 transports were brought in to bring them to a hospital in Calcutta, India, before returning home.

After some time back in Texas, families organized a welcome home celebration in October 1945. The men formed the Lost Battalion Association and met regularly in the ensuing years. In a brutal chapter from a war full of brutality, the men may have been lost for a time but were never forgotten.

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*From the Fort Worth Decorative Painters*

### **FWDP to Meet Nov. 18**

The Fort Worth Decorative Painters will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m., at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, located at 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd in Fort Worth.

Dusti Dancer will instruct a Holly dish.

For more information contact Suzane at 817-269-2821 or visit the website at [www.fwdecorativepainters.com](http://www.fwdecorativepainters.com).

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From North Central Texas Council of Governments

## DFW Ozone Season Ends

### Nov. 30



North Texans concerned about high levels of ozone pollution can breathe a sigh of relief: Ozone season for the 10-county nonattainment area is coming to an end. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, ozone season lasts from March 1 through Nov. 30. That's because there's a greater risk of ground-level ozone pollution when temperatures are higher and there's less wind. Area residents typically get a breather from those weather patterns in the winter.

With the current design value of 83 parts per billion (ppb), the Dallas-Fort Worth region continues to work toward compliance with the federal government's standards for ozone pollution. There are two such standards for North Texas: one from 2008 that established a limit of 75 parts per billion and a more recent 70 ppb standard from 2015. Due to missed deadlines for complying with the standards, the North Texas region has been reclassified and faces stricter air quality requirements. The region was upgraded from serious to severe nonattainment under the 2008 standard, with a deadline of 2027 to achieve compliance. Additionally, the region moved, on request of Governor Greg Abbott, from moderate to serious nonattainment under the 2015 standard and must reach attainment by end of 2024.

In the meantime, NCTCOG continues to support the implementation of various programs and policies to help the area meet attainment of both standards and avoid further sanctions. Efforts include:

- Federal air quality performance measures
- Emissions reduction strategies
- Continuing to coordinate with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on regional impacts of reclassification

Area residents can help by:

- Using public transportation
- Reducing the number of trips by combining errands
- Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles by carpooling
- Taking part in air quality education programs, such as Air North

Texas

- Avoiding idling vehicle engines

Sign up for air pollution alerts at [AirNorthTexas.org](http://AirNorthTexas.org).

From Tarrant County

## Community Warning: Ongoing Jury Duty Scam

Tarrant County residents are being warned of an ongoing Jury Duty Scam. Tarrant County Jury Services will never contact you by phone to pay a fine for failing to appear for jury service. Know what you should do when you get a phone call.

### What's happening:

Citizens are being contacted by phone by a man that identifies himself as an officer of the Sheriff's Office, Police Department or a Constable's Office. The caller informs the citizen that they failed to report for jury duty and a fine has been assessed. The fine ranges from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The caller advises the citizen that there is a warrant for their arrest and they must report to court. The caller usually tells them to report to a specific judge at a specific court location like 100 W. Weatherford, Room 4C. The citizen is instructed to go to a local Walmart or grocery store to obtain a Green Dot Money Card which is a pre-paid reloadable debit card.

The scam artists are using disposable cell phones so they have no problem giving the citizen a phone number to call them back. Also, they tell the citizen they can contact a specific official with Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office to verify the information.

Once the citizen gets the Green Dot Money Card, they are instructed to give the Green Dot Money Card information over the phone which will satisfy the fine and the warrant will be dismissed. This allows the scam artist to get the money so there is no actual face-to-face contact. The scam artists sound very convincing over the phone. They threaten the citizen with jail and fines in order to get them to comply.

### What you should do:

Write down the phone number the person is calling from. Do not give the caller any personal information about yourself. Contact your local police department and request to file a complaint.

### What you should know:

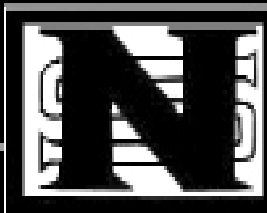
Tarrant County Jury Services would never contact you by phone to pay a fine for failing to appear for jury service. Typically, we would send a failed to appear notice before taking any action.

If a warrant is issued for your arrest, there is no warning phone call. The courts do not allow citizens to pay a fine in lieu of jury service. A fine can be assessed, and in some cases jail time, but it would still result in the jury service being rescheduled to a later date.

More information may be found on the [Tarrant County Jury Duty website](http://Tarrant County Jury Duty website).

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From Meals On Wheels

## Volunteer with Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County

Caring volunteers freely give of their time and personal resources to ensure that homebound, elderly and disabled clients receive a nutritious meal. These compassionate individuals do more than just provide a meal and a friendly home visit. They are trained to contact our office if a client does not answer the door. This daily safety check gives many of our clients and their families an added peace of mind.

#### Meal Delivery

Help is needed to deliver meals to people in need in your neighborhood. Volunteers typically deliver meals only one day per week, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Individual and group opportunities are available. [Learn more about meal delivery.](#)

#### Home Visits Combat Isolation & Loneliness

Through our Friend to Friend program, you can develop a friendship with a homebound client who may have no other visitors.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Friend to Friend program, or contact Judy Bell by email at [Judith.Bell@mealsonwheels.org](mailto:Judith.Bell@mealsonwheels.org) or by phone at 817-258-6426.

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Nov. 15:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 70. Light S/SE wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

**PM** - Clear, with a low around 47. South southeast wind around 5 mph.



### Saturday, Nov. 16:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 73. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. South southeast wind around 10 mph.



### Sunday, Nov. 17:

**AM** - A 30 percent chance of showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**PM** - Showers likely, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**