

# River Oaks News

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From Castleberry ISD

## Castleberry ISD Transitions to ParentSquare to Streamline **Communication**

Castleberry ISD is excited to share the district is transitioning to a different communication platform called ParentSquare. This unified communication platform is designed to engage every family with school communication and communication-based services—from the district office, campus principal, and teacher all in one place. The platform offers a whole host of tools that allow the district, school administrators, and teachers to communicate more effectively with families. Learn more about ParentSquare by cation. watching the Getting Started video below.

Last December, parents provided feedback about communication on the Parent Communication Survey. This led district administration to develop a two-year plan to strengthen parent satisfaction with communication, and ensure all parents receive all communication easily accessible from one platform; whether it be from the district, campus, or teacher, when it relates to their child. The district is committed to providing all parents access to one platform that allows for secure two-way communication between teachers and parents.

An activation email and text message will be sent to all Castleberry ISD parents during the first week of August. Parents will also receive information from their child's teacher at Meet the Teacher on Saturday, August 5. Castleberry ISD encourages parents to activate their account and create a password on ParentSquare in order to access additional features including:

- The ability to select when and how to receive calls, emails, text messages, and/or app notifications—choose to receive broadcasts instantly or in a daily digest.
- See what events are happening on campus months in advance by viewing the campus calendar—or even learn how to subscribe to the campus calendar so events automatically display on a smartphone calendar.

electronically!

The entire transition will take place over the next two years. Once complete, ParentSquare will be the only platform used for communication within the district.

#### Year 1 (2023-2024):

- Use ParentSquare for all campus and district level communi-
- Pilot classroom (teacher) communication at three campuses in the district: Castleberry Elementary, Irma Marsh Middle School, and Joy James Academy of Leadership.
- A District Communication Survey will be sent to all parents mid-year to assess parent satisfaction with the platform.

#### Year 2 (2024-2025):

- Continue using ParentSquare for all campus and district level communication, making modifications as expressed on 2023 communications survey.
- Continue using ParentSquare at Castleberry Elementary, Irma Marsh Middle School and Joy James Academy of Leadership.
- Add classroom (teacher) communication components at the remaining campuses: A.V. Cato Elementary, Castleberry High School, and Alternative Learning Center.

Castleberry ISD will conduct another parent communication survey during the 2023-2024 school year. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in this survey because the feedback will be used to determine if any modifications need to be made to the original two-year plan.

Provided the survey results indicate a majority of parents are satisfied with the functionality, efficiency, and added affordances of ParentSquare, the district will officially adopt ParentSquare as • RSVP for upcoming school activities and sign permission slips the exclusive method of communication (continued on page 3)

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## Texas City Disaster of 1947 by Dr. Ken Bridges

It started out as a typical spring day for the busy port of Texas City in 1947. It was a growing city that was thriving with peacetime prosperity. As home to many oil refineries, chemical plants, and ports, Texas City had a lot to offer the world and had nearly tripled its population since the beginning of World War II. But a looming disaster lay in their midst. An accident on one ship would lead to a horrible chain reaction of explosions that would leave 547 people dead in the worst industrial accident in American History.

The ship in question was the French cargo ship Grandcamp. The vessel itself was unremarkable. It had only been commissioned five years before as a Liberty ship during World War II. Its original American designation was the Benjamin R. Curtis. It had served faithfully running cargo to various posts across the Pacific during World War II. It had a good safety record, and it was given to France after the war to help the nation rebuild its

The Grandcamp was being loaded up with a variety of cargo including peanuts and tobacco. Among its cargo were far more volatile products, including 872 tons of ammonium nitrate, a common fertilizer, and 1,600 tons of sulfur. The ammonium nitrate had been shipped by train from Nebraska and had been sealed for protection. Transport and loading had been uneventful.

Sometime in the early morning of April 16, the ammonium nitrate began to react. Just before 8 a.m., longshoremen inspecting the cargo noticed some of it was starting to smoke and immediately tried to put it out, using what fire extinguishers and water was available. No effect. After a few minutes, the Grandcamp captain ordered the men to leave and ordered the hold sealed and began pumping in steam to try to smother the flames and save the ship. But the effort was useless, and the growing pressure in the hold caused the hatches to pop off by 8:30, causing the orange smoke of nitrogen oxide to erupt into the air.

Firefighters were called, but Texas City only had a volunteer department and the small firefighting team of the Republic Oil Refinery. Desperate attempts were made to put out the growing fire, but their best efforts were failing.

Then at 9:12, the ship exploded. A horments to individuals through 1957. rible fireball engulfed the port, spreading two thousand feet in every direction, mercilessly destroying everything in its path, including a ship docked 600 feet away. The shockwave wrecked ships throughout the bay. More than a thousand buildings were destroyed, with windows blown out ten miles away, as far as Galveston. More than 500 homes were destroyed. The blast left every car in a parking lot a quarter mile away a burning ruin. The nearby Monsanto Chemical Plant was also destroyed, leading to more explosions and leaving one-third of its 450 employees dead. Twenty-seven firefighters were killed. Fires raged on ships throughout the night, leading to more blasts the next day.

More than 5,000 people were reported injured. Fires across the city raged throughout the day, with fire departments from nearby cities joining the fight to save the city. Property damage was estimate at more than \$100 million (or nearly \$1.4 billion in 2023 dollars), one of the highest totals ever. Court 2023. cases raged for years, but Congress even- Gail Tompkins, 8305 Wycombe Ridge Way, tually stepped in and made nearly 1,400 pay- Wake Forest NC 27587

The Grandcamp's two ton anchor was later found 1.6 miles away. It is still on display as part of a memorial to the victims. Dozens of bodies could never be identified and were later buried at a nearby cemetery established for the victims. No clear cause of the fire was ever identified, but a series of human errors has been most often identified by scholars and officials.

The city rebuilt and new safety procedures were enacted. The Texas City Fire Department was quickly transformed into a full-time department. The city never forgot the horrors of April 16, 1947.

#### Legal Notice

Notice to Creditors: In the estate of Leona Anderson, of White Settlement, Texas, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuations held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 11th of August,



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## CISD ParentSquare

(continued from page 1)

at all levels within the district.

This means with the start of the 2024-2025 school year, parents will only need access to one platform and can rest peacefully knowing they will receive all the information they need for their child to be successful in school.

Linus Volunteers

Needed

Come join the fun and fellowship

Castleberry ISD looks forward to providing parents and guardians with enhanced communication and stronger partnerships as a result of this transition. Parents with questions or concerns regarding ParentSquare should reach out to their child's campus.

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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

## First Monday Quilt Club - Project Linus Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club will meet at Bethany Christian Church located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 7. Ladies may bring brunch or snack foods to share with others if desired.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization. The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

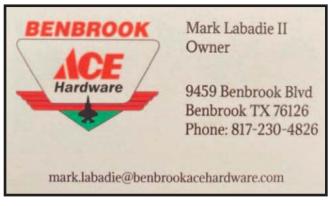
No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships. High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided.

Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, sewing machines, sergers, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

Come join the fun and enjoy fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community by being a blessing to others.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org. For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.







## Benbrook American Legion Post 297

First Friday Fish & Grilled Chicken
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## STEAK NIGHT! Public Welcome

Saturday, Aug. 5 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

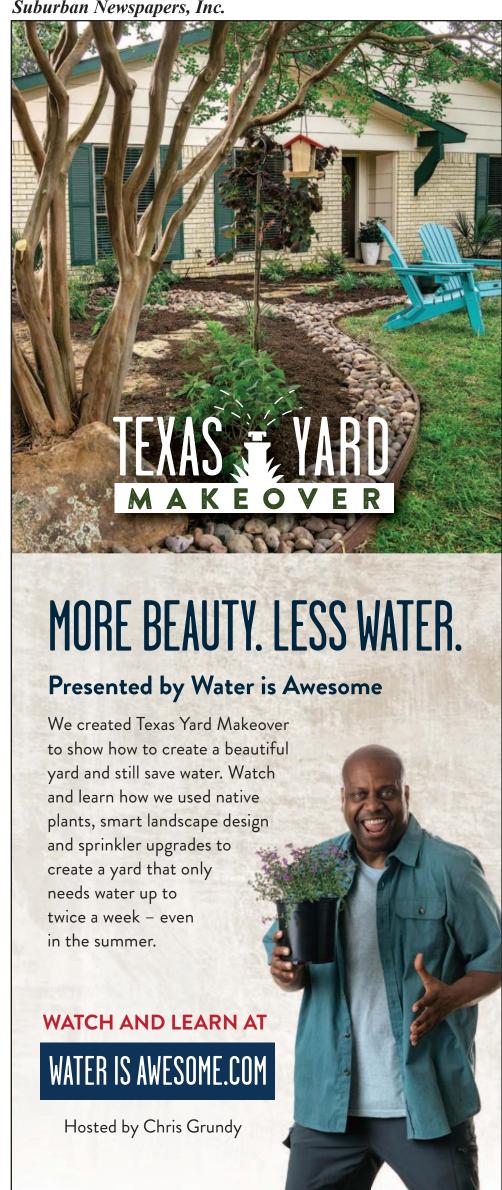
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Please join us for Burgers & More Every Friday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Thank you for your support!



From the Texas Department of Transportation

## TxDOT Urges Drivers to be Alert As Children Return to School

As millions of Texas children head back to school, the Texas Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to stay focused and drive safe in and around school zones and bus stops. This includes adhering to a new Texas law that requires drivers to stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe on their way to and from school. TxDOT offers these safety tips for drivers, parents and

#### **Tips for Driving in School Zones**

- Be aware that traffic patterns around schools may have changed since the last school year.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Always obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- Drop off and pick up your children in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.
  - Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between ve-

#### **Tips for Drivers Sharing the Road with School Buses**

- Follow at a safe distance, keeping in mind that school buses make frequent stops.
- Always remain alert for children around buses and remember that they may not always look for vehicles before crossing the street.
- Stop for flashing red lights or a stop sign on a school bus, regardless of which direction you're headed. Continue your trip once the bus has moved, the flashing lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it's okay to pass.
  - Violations can lead to a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

#### Tips for Children Walking or Biking to School

- Always use sidewalks. If there's not a sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.
- Cross the street at intersections or marked crosswalks. Look left, right and left again before proceeding.
  - Always obey crossing guards.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked vehicles.
  - Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
  - Follow all traffic rules, signs and signals.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart." is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

## Disaster Declaration Issued Due to Ongoing Wildfire Threat

Due to the continuing threat of wildfires caused by extreme drought conditions in Tarrant County's unincorporated areas, Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare issued an additional Disaster Declaration for Tarrant County.

High temperatures are expected to exceed 100 degrees for the remainder of the week. The extreme heat, combined with low humidity and gusty winds, have created the need to take extraordinary measures to protect the lives and properties of the residents of the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County.

This declaration prohibits general outside burning in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. Outdoor cooking, welding and the use of firepits for social gatherings are not prohibited.

A violation of the Disaster Declaration is a Class C Misdemeanor and punishable by a fine up to \$500.

During this Declaration there will be no authorized controlled burning without the approval of the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office, excluding cooking, welding and the use of firepits as described above.

For information on Outdoor Cooking and Welding Guidelines, go to www.tarrantcountytx.gov/burnban.

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office urges all residents of Tarrant County to help us during this time and be aware of the conditions around you at all times.

The Fire Marshal's Office strongly suggests that property owners keep a 30-foot perimeter mowed around your home and outbuildings to prevent a fire from reaching your structures.

To report someone illegally burning outdoors, call the Tarrant County Regional Communications at 817-232-9800 or the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office at 817-884-1315.

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under this regulation does not exempt or excuse any person responsible from the consequences, damages or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable laws or ordinances, regulations and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction -- even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with this regulation.

From the City of River Oaks

# **Changes to Bulk Collection**

Section 2 of Ordinance 1381-2023 provides that bulk/brush collection will be changed to twice a month beginning Wednesday, Aug. 2, with Sections 2 and 3 (regular residential garbage days on Monday and Thursday) being the first and third Wednesdays of the month and Sections 1 and 4 (regular residential garbage days Tues- day and Friday) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Click here to view the sanitation pick up street list as well as the brush/bulk pick up schedule graphic.

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From the City of River Oaks

# Parks Board Meeting Tonight at City Hall

The City of River Oaks Parks Board will meet tonight, Aug. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

Click here to view the Aug. 3 agenda.



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RiverOaksNews

From the City of River Oaks

# **Know Your Watering Days**

In accordance to the River Oaks Water Conservation Plan, the City's Public Works Director has not found that conditions warrant the declaration of a stage 1 drought as of July 26.

As the City has an active water connection with the City of Fort Worth, we encourage everyone to follow the Fort Worth watering schedule currently in place.

Mondays: No watering by any customers.

Tuesdays and Fridays: Commercial Customers

Wednesdays and Saturdays: Residential addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

Thursdays and Sundays: Residential Addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

No watering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Watering by handheld hose, drip irrigation or soaker hose is allowed at anytime.

Water no more than twice a week, and only if needed.

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# Three Day Weekend Forecast



#### Friday, Aug. 4:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 105. S/SW wind around 10 mph.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 81. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



#### Saturday, Aug. 5:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 106. S/SW wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 81. S/SE wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



#### Sunday, Aug. 6:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot, with a high near 106. S/SW wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 77.

### **Extended Forecast Click Here**