



Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From the City River Oaks

River Oaks City Council Application Period Opens July 19

The City of River Oaks will hold an election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 for Place 1 and Place 3 on the River Oaks City Council.

Applications for a place on the City of River Oaks Regular Election ballot may be filed starting Saturday, July 19 through Monday, Aug. 18.

Applications may be filed in person or by mail at River Oaks City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd, River Oaks, TX, 76114.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From Texas Comptroller's Office

Are You an Unclaimed Property Holder?

Unclaimed property can be any financial asset or safe deposit box contents that has been abandoned by the property owner for one or more years. Examples of unclaimed property are: abandoned bank accounts, uncashed checks, overpayments, payroll and vendor checks, unredeemed gift cards, insurance proceeds, dividends and mineral interests.

How do I search for unclaimed property?

Business and individuals can search for their unclaimed property using the online tool located at ClaimItTexas.gov.



on Monday, Aug. 18.

If an applicant wishes to email an application, they may send it to pluck@riveroakstx.com; applications may also be faxed to 817-625-2790.

Contact City Secretary Paula Luck at 817-626-5421 x326 or by email at pluck@riveroakstx.com with questions or for more information.

From TarrantTaxInfo.com

Online Tool Helps Property Owners Understand Tax Breakdowns

Property owners in Tarrant County can easily access a detailed breakdown of their property taxes through the Tarrant Appraisal District's "Truth in Taxation" portal at tarranttaxinfo.com. The website allows users to enter their Property ID, address or owner's name to review how each taxing jurisdiction, such as city, school district, county and special districts, contributes to the total tax bill for the current tax year.

Users can view individual tax rates and revenues for each entity. The interactive format enables comparison across subject matter, such as maintenance and operations versus debt service, and outlines exemptions offered by each taxing unit. A search returns the property's full levy schedule, showing rates per \$100 of assessed value and identifying blank entries when rates are not yet set.

No login is required, and results include the Tax Year, Property ID, owner name, and street address for verification. Taxpayers can also subscribe to notifications during the August–September budget period to receive updates on proposed tax rate changes via the "Truth in Taxation" feature.

The service enhances transparency and empowers property owners to understand how each taxing authority influences their tax burden.

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NOTICE TO RIVER OAKS RESIDENTS

The 2024 Water Quality Report for the City of River Oaks, also known as “The Consumer Confidence Report” (CCR), is available to the public as mandated by the EPA and as controlled by the TCEQ. The CCR details where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares with regulatory standards. The CCR was mailed to all water customers on June 27, 2025 and copies of the report are also available in the City Hall located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd. For more information, please contact the Public Works Director at 817-626-5421, Ext. 322. Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono Ana Padilla al tel. 817-626-5421 ext 314.

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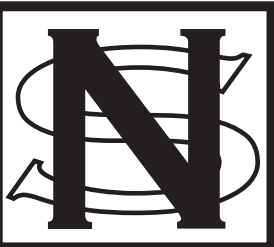
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WATERING YOUR LAWN IS EASY AS



When it's time to water your lawn, think 1, 2...zero. Once a week if it needs a little water. Twice a week if it's dry and hot. Zero if it's been raining. Make sure your sprinklers aren't leaking or pointing the wrong way. And try drip irrigation for flowers and shrubs. Visit **Water is Awesome.com** for more tips.



WATER IS AWESOME.COM

From the City of White Settlement Free Movie Night at the Recreation Center July 18

The City of White Settlement invites families and residents of all ages to a free Movie Night at the White Settlement Recreation Center on Friday, July 18.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and promises an evening of fun and entertainment in a community-friendly setting. Admission is free, and guests are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs to enjoy the movie comfortably.

For more information, residents can contact the Recreation Center at 817-246-5012.

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2025

From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Boaters Urged to ‘Clean, Drain and Dry’ Protect Texas Lakes from Invasive Species This Summer



The warm Texas summer provides numerous opportunities for Texans throughout the state to enjoy the sun on the water. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) urges boaters and paddlers to do their part to protect Texas lakes from aquatic invasive species during the heart of boating season.

“While we want everyone to have a great time, we also want to avoid giving harmful invasive species free rides to new lakes,” said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. “The best way to prevent the spread of many aquatic invasive species and protect fishing and other recreation for everyone is to take just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment every time you visit any lake.”

In addition to helping prevent harm to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, boaters should clean, drain and dry their boat, it’s the law. Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal. Boaters must drain all water - which could contain microscopic invasive species larvae that can’t be seen with the naked eye - from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

Two of the biggest threats to Texas lakes, giant salvinia and zebra mussels, continue to spread to new areas in Texas. In addition, boaters can introduce or spread other highly invasive species, including water hyacinth, crested and yellow floating heart and quagga mussels, or others not yet found in Texas.

Giant salvinia, a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double its coverage area in a week, can produce thick surface mats that impact the ecosystem and aquatic life and make fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible.

Giant salvinia is currently present on 26 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes between Houston and Beaumont. While TPWD efforts have kept giant salvinia from limiting angling or

boating access in Texas public waters, they could still hitchhike from one lake to another on a boat, trailer or other equipment.

“There’s no doubt Texans love their lakes, but we ask everyone to take action to help protect them,” said John Findeisen, TPWD aquatic habitat enhancement team lead. “It only takes a tiny fragment of an invasive plant to create a problem in a new lake and preventing aquatic invasive species introductions avoids costly, long-term efforts to manage these species once they become established in a lake. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — it only takes a small amount of our time as responsible boaters to clean, drain and dry our boats and equipment to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species.”

Zebra mussels, a non-native shellfish that attaches to hard surfaces, pose a significant threat to our lakes and our economy. These invasive mussels cause costly damage to boats and infrastructure for water supply and control, alter lake ecosystems and cause harm to native aquatic life. They also litter shorelines with hazardous, sharp shells that impact lakefront recreation.

Zebra mussels are now found in 38 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in reaches downstream of infested lakes. TPWD and partners monitor numerous at-risk lakes around the state for early detection of zebra and closely related quagga mussels. Once they’ve been introduced and established in a lake, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

“Zebra mussels and quagga mussels can be attached to boats or even carried by anchors or plants clinging to boats,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. “Microscopic zebra mussel larvae can also be transported in residual water in the boat. Taking just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry boats can make a huge difference in our efforts to prevent further spread of this highly damaging species and harm to Texas lakes.”

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake: remove plants, mud and debris; drain all water from the boat and gear; and, once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible. Protect the lakes you love in our great state—it’s what Texans do!

If a boat or other equipment has been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, it is likely infested and poses an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake. Before moving the boat, call TPWD at 512-389-4848 for guidance.

For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved can help prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD at 512-389-4848. Anyone who finds invasive species such as zebra mussels in lakes where they haven’t been found before can help identify new introductions by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

From *WaterIsAwesome.com*

Lawn Care Myths Debunked: Expert Tips for a Healthier Yard



Maintaining a healthy, attractive lawn often comes with a mix of good intentions and common misconceptions. Many well-meaning homeowners unknowingly follow outdated or incorrect practices when it comes to mowing, watering, and seasonal care.

Understanding the truth behind these lawn care myths can save time, reduce costs, and improve the overall health of your turf. Backed by research and expert recommendations, these insights aim to help you make smarter decisions for your lawn.

Here are a few ideas to separate myth from fact and give your grass the care it really needs.

Myth: Turf performs better the more it is irrigated.

Truth: More turf is damaged by overwatering than underwatering. During most summers (June to September), your lawn will need supplemental watering in addition to rainfall to maintain color and density. In North Texas, the watering needs of turf dramatically decrease from October through March. Keep an eye on your lawn, and water only when it starts to show signs of stress, which include a bluish-gray to brown color of grass and/or if footprints remain for an extended period after walking across the lawn. With the exception of a few hot weeks in the summer, watering one day per week is usually sufficient.

Myth: I will not have to mow as often if I mow my lawn shorter.

Truth: Lawns need to be mowed in such a way that no more than one-third of the leaf blade is removed in any one mowing. According to the one-third rule, a lawn mowed at 3 inches will need to be mowed about every seven days. A lawn mowed at 2 inches will need to be mowed every five days. Mowing your lawn at a higher cut will result in a healthier lawn that doesn't need to be mowed as often.

The optimum mowing height for most lawns is 2 to 4 inches. Turfgrass mowed at the right height will be thicker and need fewer inputs. Mowing above these heights tends to create a less dense turf with coarser leaf blades and a potentially scraggly appearance. Mowing below this height will create weaker turf that will require more inputs like fertilizer, irrigation, and pesticides.

Myth: I should set my mower blade down for the first mowing in spring.

Truth: Before Bermuda grass begins to grow in the spring, it is possible to mow the turf slightly shorter than normal to remove dead leaf blades and other debris. This practice reduces shading of emerging plants and helps the soil warm up faster in the spring. The result is a lawn that greens up quicker. The risk in "scalping" your lawn is in cutting off the emerging grass if this practice occurs once the lawn starts to green up. And by allowing sunlight to reach the soil's surface, you could end up creating better growing conditions for weeds.

Myth: My lawn will look like a golf course if I set my mower to its lowest setting.

Truth: Mowing your lawn too low is never a good thing. It results in weaker turf that may require more fertilizer, irrigation, and herbicides to control weeds. In fact, shorter lawns will usually result in more weeds. In addition, mowing too short increases the amount of time and energy required to maintain your lawn. Golf course superintendents select their mowing heights based on turf species, environment, golfer expectations, etc. They have the training necessary to maintain the quality of shorter turfgrass.

Myth: Returning grass clippings to your lawn will increase thatch.

Truth: In the 1960s, it was commonly believed grass clippings were a major component of thatch, and removing clippings would dramatically slow thatch development. In 1967, researchers at the University of Rhode Island completed and published a detailed study of thatch, showing it was primarily composed of lignin-containing tissues (rhizomes, stolons, and stems) as well as living turfgrass roots. They concluded that leaves and grass clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup. Their findings have since been confirmed by numerous other studies.

Myth: Returning mulched leaves to the lawn can be detrimental to turfgrass quality.

Truth: Heavy layers of tree leaves shading the grass can smother and kill grass. However, research shows that moderate levels of tree leaves can be mulched without any detrimental effects on the soil or turf and usually leads to improvements in soil structure. The easiest way to dispose of leaves is to simply mow them into the turf. Regular mowing in the fall will chop the leaves up into small pieces and allow them to filter into the turf. Plus, mulching leaves with a mower is easier than raking, blowing, and/or vacuuming them. Removing leaves may still be necessary if copious amounts of leaves accumulate between mowings. If that's the case, you might try composting them and adding them back into your lawn as a topdressing.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Scott Joplin: The Unforgettable Legacy of the King of Ragtime

Scott Joplin was an early musician who transformed much of the landscape of popular music in the early 1900s. Though many details of his short life are uncertain, his impact on early American music is undeniable.

Joplin was born just after the Civil War in 1867 or 1868 possibly in East Texas, though even his place of birth is not entirely certain.

His parents had been slaves. When he was young, the family moved to nearby Texarkana where his father worked on the railroad that effectively created the city. As a child, he learned piano and classical music from a variety of tutors in Texarkana.

In 1885, he left home, travelling across the country and playing piano in bars and houses of ill repute or anywhere he could find work. Joplin also attended college briefly to further study music theory and composition. Between 1895 and 1917, he published more than 80 songs, including classical music, operas, and a new form of popular music, ragtime.

Ragtime was known for its upbeat tempo, often played on piano or accompanied by fiddles, banjos, or trumpets. Joplin tied this new music in with classical musical theory with far less improvisation and turned it into an art form. By the mid-1890s, he was touring with his own group, the Texas Medley Quartet. His band performed at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair to wide acclaim. Music historians believe his performances started a ragtime craze in the country. In 1899, the *Maple Leaf Rag*, was published and became the most popular sheet music sold that year.

He moved to St. Louis in 1900 with his new wife, where he concentrated on teaching and composing. However, a string of tragedies began to unravel his life. An infant daughter died not long after his arrival in St. Louis, and he and his wife divorced. One of his operas, *The Guest of Honor* (1903), was a failure. His second marriage to Freddie Alexander of Little Rock ended when she died just 10 weeks after their 1904 wedding.

Joplin moved to New York in 1907 and remarried. In 1910, he completed his next opera. *Treemonisha* was set in Rondo, just east of Texarkana, in the 1880s. In the story, a young woman on a plantation learns to read and write and discovers that education is a de-

fense against fear and superstition that crippled her community. Crushed by poor reception of his opera, bankrupt, and his physical health collapsing, he had a nervous breakdown and was committed to a hospital in early 1917. He died three months later, not yet 50 years old.

After Joplin's passing, his influence only grew. Many musicians continued to imitate his style, and ragtime music remained extremely popular, ultimately inspiring the genre of jazz by the 1920s and the big band music of the 1930s and 1940s. His *Maple Leaf Rag* was used often for the soundtracks of several movies made in the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1973, composer Marvin Hamlisch adapted Joplin's popular song from 1902, *The Entertainer*, for the musical score for the film *The Sting*, which starred Robert Redford and Paul Newman. The next year, Joplin was awarded a special posthumous Academy Award for Best Song. Portions of *Treemonisha* also began to be performed for audiences in the 1970s.

In 1976, he was awarded an honorary Pulitzer Prize for his contribution to American music. Joplin's music came to embody the early 20th century for many Americans as they looked back to the seemingly simpler times of nearly a century before.

Overall, the nation again came to appreciate the unheralded artistic genius of Scott Joplin, the man who inspired so much of the music that America has enjoyed through the years.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, July 1 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 93. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 75. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, July 1 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 92. South wind around 10 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. South wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, July 1 3:

AM - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)

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