Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From Castleberry ISD Castleberry ISD School Board Candidacy Filing Window for 2025 Election Opens Jan. 15

Castleberry ISD's Board of Education Election will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025. Place 5, Place 6 and Place 7 on the District's Board are up for election. The Castleberry ISD Board of Education consists of seven at large board members serving terms of three years, with elections held annually.

Citizens residing within the Castleberry ISD boundaries who are interested in running for a place on the school board may submit their application packet with the filing officer at the Gary S. Jones Administration Building, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Candidate filing packets may be submitted in person, mail, email, or fax. In order to be considered a candidate, a completed packet must be submitted within the filing period, which ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14.

> Gary S. Jones Administration Building 5228 Ohio Garden Road River Oaks, TX 76114

Angela Branch Castleberry ISD Election Filing Officer brancha@castleberryisd.net

Phone: 817-252-2004 • Fax: 817-252-2097

To access candidate packets and learn about running for a place on the school board, visit the Board elections webpage.

Early voting for the May general election runs from April 21 through April 29. The deadline to register to vote in this election is April 3.

Information regarding how to register to vote in Tarrant County is available on the Register to Vote page of the Tarrant County website.



From Castleberry ISD Campuses Closed Jan. 9



Castleberry ISD campuses and offices will be closed Thursday, Jan. 9, due to the anticipated winter weather and the Winter Storm Warning issued by the National Weather Service. All classes and extracurricular activities are canceled.

District leadership will continue to monitor the weather as it develops on Thursday and make a decision about reopening on Friday, Jan. 10 based on the safety of students, staff, and families.

From Tarrant Appraisal District What is a Homestead Exemption?

A homestead exemption is an exemption that removes all or a portion of value from your residence homestead as authorized by the State or adopted by a local taxing unit. This exemption also limits the increase of your appraised value to 10 percent annually. This limitation is commonly referred to as a "homestead cap".

A homestead cap may exceed the 10 percent increase if additional improvements, land, or extensive renovations are added to your residence homestead.

Qualifying individuals must submit an application in order to receive the homestead exemption. You must complete a subsequent application if requested by the chief appraiser in order to continue benefits of a homestead exemption. There is no fee for filing an application for a homestead exemption.

What is a Residence Homestead?

A residence homestead is a structure (including mobile home) and land (up to 20 acres) that is:

- Owned by one or more individuals or qualifying trust,
- Designed or adapted for human residence,
- Is used as a residence, and
- Is occupied by the owner(s) as their (continued on page 2)



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Homestead Exemption (continued from page 1)

principal residence

What Will You Need?

Before you start the Homestead Exemption application process make sure you:

• Have a copy of your driver's license or personal identification certificate. Your Privacy Notice driver's license needs to be from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TX DPS), and the address must match the homestead address. License to carry and election identification certificates are not acceptable forms of identification.

• Have a copy of all specified documents for the types of exemption (see below for Additional Questions? details) you qualify for.

to complete the application online. If you do not have an existing account, you can create a free one here.

• Have added your property Account Number to your dashboard, which requires an Online PIN. If you do not have an Online PIN for the Account you wish to add to your Dashboard, you can find it on your current year's Value Notice, Sales Survey Letter, or please request one by following this link: Request Online PIN. The Online PIN will

be mailed to the Owner's Address that TAD has on file and you should receive it in 2-3 business days.

• Review or Update your profile with vour most current information.

For your privacy and safety TAD removes all files uploaded for the purpose of filling out this application from our website once the application has been processed. We also routinely delete uploaded files for incomplete applications.

If you have any questions or need assis-• Are logged into your TAD.org account tance, please refer to the video below or contact an Exemptions Specialist representative by calling 817-284-4063 or by visiting the Contact Us page.





Suburban Newspapers, Inc. ~ Veteran Owned ~



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http://www.suburban-newspapers.com

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From Tarrant County Avoid Penalties - Pay Property Taxes by Jan. 31

The last day to pay 2024 property taxes to avoid penalty and in- may experience an extended wait to speak to an operator. terest is Friday Jan. 31, 2025. Tarrant County has the highest number of property tax accounts in the State of Texas.

When, Where & How to Pay

A newly updated and user-friendly property tax payment portal is now available to all taxpayers in Tarrant County! The new portal is full of features to make online searches and payments easier.

Links to the old tax payment application have been deactivated. Please update your bookmarks as you navigate the new tax portal for the first time. You are no longer required to create a profile to make an online payment. Most active profiles have been migrated to the new system. Active profiles will be prompted for a new password. Although not required, users may create a new profile if desired.

Pay by Mail

• Checks/Cashier Checks/Money Orders are accepted by mail.

• All payments must be postmarked by Jan. 31, or the half payment/quarter payment due date if eligible, to avoid penalty and interest.

• The postmark is the U.S. Postal Service cancellation stamp. A metered postage stamp with a date is not a postmark.

• All checks received are electronically cleared through your bank.

• A check copy will be imaged through the Tax Office.

• Your check will not be returned.

• Accounts will incur a \$25 service charge on returned checks.

• Mailed payments must be received in our office to be considered timely.

• Lost or stolen mail not received by our office may accrue penalty and interest if not paid timely.

• Make checks payable to: Rick D. Barnes, Tax Assessor-Collector.

• Drop your mailed payment inside a post office mail collection box or with a postal agent. Learn more about how to protect your mailed payment.

Tax Payments may be mailed to: Rick D. Barnes, Tax Assessor-Collector, PO Box 961018, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0018.

The physical address is: Rick D. Barnes, Tax Assessor-Collector 100 E. Weatherford Street, Fort Worth, TX 76196.

Pay by Phone

Have your account number ready and call our third party payment processor at 817-884-1110 from your home phone or mobile device. Press 0 to speak to an agent if you do not have your account number, or if you are making a partial payment of the total due.

• In a hurry? Call while you are in line. No need to continue waiting once the payment is accepted!

• Debit/Credit (American Express, Mastercard, Visa or Discover) cards are accepted by phone. No gift cards, payroll cards, etc.

- E-Checks accepted. There are no fees for E-Check.
- Due to a high volume of calls October through January, you

• Access our online payment application to verify payment has been posted or to print a receipt. Allow 1-3 days for a payment by phone to be posted.

The following fees may apply: In Person - Face to Face Credit 2.15 percent, with a \$2.50 minimum; In Person - Face to Face Debit \$2.50; Online or by Phone Credit - 2.15 percent; Online or by Phone Debit -\$2.95

Tax Office representatives are not able to take your payment by phone. When calling 817-884-1110, you are accessing our third party payment processor.

Drop Box Payments

Drop Boxes are available inside select locations during normal business hours: outside the Arlington Subcourthouse located at 700 E. Abram Street in Arlington; outside the Mansfield Subcourthouse located at 1100 Broad Street in Mansfield. Be sure to include your account number and phone number if paying with a check, and your payment is posted with the date you dropped the payment. Cash and credit/debit cards are not accepted in the Drop Box. You must mark your statement if you would like us to mail you a receipt. Allow up to four weeks to receive a receipt during peak times.

There is also a payment kiosk located inside the property tax lobby of the downtown Fort Worth location only. No need to wait in line, and instructions are located at the kiosk for assistance.





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http://www.wsmuseum.com **FREE ADMISSION - GROUPS WELCOME!**

North Central Texas Council of Governments **NCTCOG** to Host Hybrid Public **Meeting Monday**

NCTCOG is looking for input on transportation initiatives during a public meeting at noon on Monday, Jan. 13. This meeting will be held at NCTCOG headquarters, located at 616 Six Flags Drive, in Arlington. Those who are unable to attend in person will be able to watch the meeting online at Publicinput.com/nctcogJan25.Viewers are also encouraged to call 855-925-2801 and enter code 7533 to join the conversation. Public comments will be accepted until Feb.11.

The first presentation will focus on the Work Zone Data Exchange Call for Projects. This initiative aims to improve how work zone data is shared in real time across the region. In 2022, NCTCOG selected five vendors to help convert work zone data into a standardized format and create a system for reporting this data.

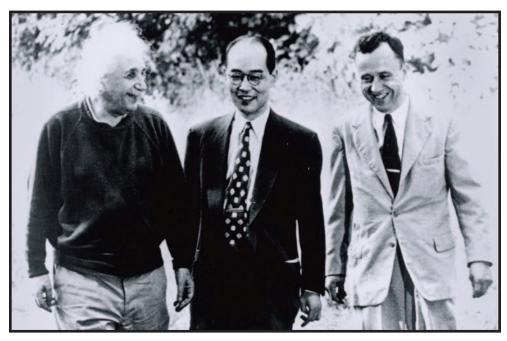
Staff will discuss multiple electric vehicle (EV) charging station deployment projects that are bringing nearly \$90 million to the region. NCTCOG is asking for feedback on the best way to use this funding, and members of the public can share their thoughts at PublicInput.com/nctcogevcharging.

Additionally, NCTCOG works with regional partners to create strategies that improve air quality. Staff will highlight local projects that have received grants to reduce emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and will share information about current funding opportunities for fleets looking to buy cleaner vehicles and equipment.

Administrative revisions to the Mobility 2045 – 2022 Update, air quality funding opportunities, information about the Try Parking It program and Access North Texas plan will also be posted online for review.

For special accommodation related to disabilities or language interpretation, con-817-573-1719 tact or email hwitcher@nctcog.org.

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges **American Theoretical Physicist - John Archibald Wheeler**



The twentieth century saw the shrouds surrounding the mysteries of science and creation being pulled back to reveal a universe of incredible, awe-inspiring wonder. From large galaxies millions of light years away to the smallest subatomic particles, science has advanced humanity's understanding of physical laws. Physicist John Wheeler was part of much of this Earth-shattering work, such as understanding the structure of the atom, working on the atomic bomb, and researching the nature of some of the largest objects in the universe. Wheeler not only advanced our understanding of the universe, he helped the general public understand it as well, popularizing many scientific phrases used today.

John Archibald Wheeler was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1911 to a husband-wife team of librarians. He inherited their love of the written word and was captivated by math and technology. The family moved several times, but he ultimately graduated from high school in Baltimore at the age of 15. He enrolled at Johns Hopkins University on a scholarship and earned a doctorate in 1933, concentrating his studies on the nature of the atom.

In 1934, he spent a year working with Danish physicist Neils Bohr, the pioneer who uncovered the modern structure of the atom. In 1935, Wheeler took a teaching position at the University of North Carolina. Three years later, he switched to Princeton University, attracted by its growing reputation in scientific research. While at Princeton, he worked with such brilliant minds as Albert Einstein and trained such groundbreaking physicists as Richard Feynman and Kip Thorne.

Wheeler worked again with Bohr when he visited Princeton in 1939. Together, the two wrote an article describing what they termed "the liquid-drop model" of the atomic nucleus to describe how nuclear fission could take place. Wheeler, as a result, became one of thousands of scientists working on the Manhattan Project during World War II, America's attempt to build an atomic bomb. Wheeler helped design nuclear reactors to produce plutonium, the key element that allows the bomb to work.

He continued to consult the federal government on a number of issues involving defense and space exploration. By the early 1950s, he turned his attention from nuclear physics to general relativity. But from the 1940s onward, he worked with other scientists and brought ideas that once seemed on the outer edge of science fiction into the mainstream of scientific fact.

As early as the 1940s, Wheeler had been researching antimatter. Through his studies and examination of the mathematics surrounding such known antimatter particles as the positron, he postulated that positrons could simply be regular electrons traveling backward in time. The conclusion was stunning, but he developed the "one-electron universe" postulate in 1940 to describe one electron bouncing forward and backward in time, changing directions. This has since become an inseparable part of research into these particles and the most advanced levels of subatomic research.

In 1957, his research into relativity, Einstein's idea that the fabric of space is curved by gravitation, revealed a fascinating byproduct. Working with Charles Misner, Wheeler coined the term "wormhole" to describe tunnels in space and time created by intense gravitation and bizarre subatomic reactions. Though not yet observed, the math behind the wormhole theory was impeccable.

Wheeler's research also bolstered Einstein's idea of the gravity wave, another idea developing from relativity. Astronomers in just the past couple of years have confirmed the existence of gravity waves. His work also led him to study the collapse of stars due to their own extreme gravity. He popularized the term "black hole" to describe these collapsed stars where not even light can escape their pull. Evidence of the existence of black holes began appearing in the 1960s.

He retired from Princeton in 1976. Though he was technically at retirement age at 65, he was far from ready to stop working. The questions that science was researching were too tempting for him to stay away from teaching. The University of Texas quickly appointed him as director of the Center for Theoretical Physics, and he quickly moved to Austin.

The university already had an impressive team of physicists and astronomers, and the addition of Wheeler increased that prestige. Wheeler was a popular professor at the university and made teaching a priority as he had throughout his entire career as he believed that helping young minds understand science was as critical as the research he had performed. He had a tremendous impact on a generation of Texas scientists who went through the university.

In 1986, he retired from UT. After his retirement, the Wheeler Lecture Hall in the university's astronomy and physics building was renamed in his honor.

He wrote nine books in his career, including "At Home in the Universe" (1994) and "Exploring Black Holes" (2000).

Wheeler died in New Jersey in 2008 at the age of 96.

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From StatePoimt Media Easy Renter-Friendly Tips to Weatherize Your Home



Taking the proper steps to weatherproof your rental is a simple way to stay snug this cold-weather season – while also resulting in notable savings on heating and energy bills.

In fact, a Duck brand survey found that 80% of people noticed a decrease in their heating bill after using affordable weatherization products, such as window insulation kits, weatherstrip seals and door draft seals. With this in mind, here are temporary ways to prep your rental for the winter without causing any damage.

Install draft seals. Doors and windows are notorious for letting in cold air, which can drastically affect your home's temperature. Fortunately for renters, the Duck Brand Double Draft Seal is a removable solution designed to insulate your door from both sides. This practical tool blocks drafts while maintaining the room's temperature, ensuring both comfort and energy efficiency. Simply slide the seal under interior or exterior doors and window frames to keep cold air from coming in. Even better, the seals can be reused in future residences, making them a smart choice for keeping your comfort intact wherever you choose to live next.

Hang thermal curtains. Thermal curtains are an excellent option if you're looking for DIY ways to increase your space's energy efficiency. By hanging these insulated drapes, the cold air between the window and fabric remains trapped, helping to maintain a comfortable temperature without the need to turn up the heat. If your lease doesn't give permission to drill into the wall, use a tension rod to install them.

Licensed & Insured marlenplascencia04@gmail.com



Embrace window kits. If thermal curtains aren't your style, installing a removable window kit is just as easy. The Duck Max Strength Rolled Shrink Film Window Insulation Kit creates an added barrier between the outdoor air and your home's inside. Plus, unlike thermal curtains, the film is crystal clear and allows natural light to peer through windows.

Dress your floors. Who said weatherization can't be stylish? By placing decorative, cozy rugs on hardwood floors and tiles, you can further insulate your rental. While these items won't fully prevent heat loss, they do offer an extra layer of warmth and can help reduce drafts from cold floors, making them an obvious choice if you're a renter looking to stay warm without making permanent changes.For more weatherization how-to's, head to www.duckbrand.com/weatherize.

By taking these steps, renters can remain draft-free and damage-free, staying warm while lowering costly electric bills.

Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers Lunar Events in 2025: Full Moon Schedule

Here are the dates and names of the full moons in 2025:

January 15 - Wolf Moon February 14 - Snow Moon March 16 - Worm Moon April 14 - Pink Moon May 14 - Flower Moon June 12 - Strawberry Moon July 11 - Buck Moon August 9 - Sturgeon Moon September 8 - Harvest Moon October 7 - Hunter's Moon November 6 - Beaver Moon December 5 - Cold Moon



These names reflect traditional associations, often based on nature and seasonal changes, and they can vary slightly depending on the culture or region.

The phases of the Moon are caused by the relative positions of the Moon, Sun and Earth. As the Moon produces no visible light of its own, the main source of light for the Moon is the Sun.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 10:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. N/NW wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 22. N/NW around 5 mph becoming SW after midnight.





<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 47. South wind 5 to 10 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 32. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph becoming SW after midnight.



Sunday, Jan. 12:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 48. W/SW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

Extended Forecast Click Here