84th Year, No. 26 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • June 27, 2024

From the City River Oaks

# All American Fireworks Show Saturday

The City of River Oaks will host the annual All American Festival on Saturday, June 29 at Victory Church, located at 5116 River Oaks Blvd.

The fireworks show will begin at dark.

From the City River Oaks

# Humane Society of North Texas Vaccination Clinic July 9

The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) will hold a Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the River Oaks Event Center located at 5300 Blackstone Dr. in River Oaks.

The Rae of Hope program offers these vaccination services free of charge to senior citizens. Research shows that seniors with pets enjoy a variety of physical and mental health benefits. Unfortunately, many seniors are forced to surrender their pets because they have a difficult time providing their pets with basic veterinary care. In 2014, HSNT started the Rae of Hope Program to address this issue and help keep seniors' pets where they belong, with their loving owners. The Rae of Hope Program, named after a long-time supporter, provides basic veterinary care needed to keep senior citizens' beloved pets in their homes.

Services at this event will include dog and cat vaccinations, microchipping, heartworm testing, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention and more.

For more information, contact 817-332-4768 ext. 112, or visit www.clinic@hsnt.org or www.hsnt.org/rae-of-hope.

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From the City River Oaks

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## River Oaks Food Bank Event Friday, June 28

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 9 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.

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

For more information, call 817-732-5885.



From the City of River Oaks

## **Sign Up for Code Red Alerts**



River Oaks residents can keep informed through the Code Red Emergency Alert Notification System regarding missing children or missing persons, criminal activity, fires, drinking water contamination, utility outages, traffic conditions, various threats to people/property/environment and more.

It is simple and quick to enroll by visiting **this link**, or by texting "RIVEROAKS" to 99411 to receive a direct link to the enrollment form on your mobile device.

From the City River Oaks

## Parks Foundation of River Oaks Holding Flag Fundraiser

The Parks Foundation of River Oaks is hosting a Flag Fundraiser for their 501-C3. The Foundation is taking orders for a standard American Flag with a pole and in-ground PVC sleeve to be installed on your property (approximately 12 inches from the curb) for you to keep and put out for the holidays.

The total cost is \$50 and it includes delivery and installation. Orders will be accepted at City Hall and are due by Monday, July 1. Checks may be made payable to the City of River Oaks. For more information, call City Hall at 817-626-5421.









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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

# First Monday Quilt Club:

## Project Linus Volunteers Needed Home Burglary Prevention

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 meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church, located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, July 1.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

idents, 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.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

For more information about the First Monday Quilt Club, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.



From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

## **Summer Safety:**

Protecting your home from burglary is essential for your safety and peace of mind. Here are some effective tips to help prevent burglaries:

- Secure All Entry Points: Ensure all doors, windows, and other entry points are equipped with sturdy locks. Consider upgrading to smart locks or deadbolts for added security.
- Install a Security System: A monitored security system with cameras and alarms can deter burglars. Display signs indicating your home is protected to further discourage intruders.
- Outdoor Lighting: Keep your home well-lit at night, espevolunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide cially around entryways and dark corners. Motion-sensor lights are effective in alerting you to any movement outside.
  - Secure Garage and Shed: Don't overlook other structures Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home res- on your property. Keep garage doors closed and locked, and secure tools and ladders that could be used to access upper floors.
    - Be Cautious with Keys: Never hide spare keys in obvious places like under doormats or flower pots. Instead, leave them with a trusted neighbor or invest in a keyless entry system.
    - Use Timers for Interior Lights: When away, use timers to switch lights on and off to create the illusion of occupancy. Remember to pause newspaper subscriptions and mail deliveries to avoid accumulation.
    - Get to Know Your Neighbors: Building a good relationship with your neighbors increases the chances they'll notice and report suspicious activity when you're not around.
    - Neighborhood Watch: Get involved in or start a neighborhood watch program. Look out for each other and report suspicious activities to law enforcement promptly.
    - Secure Valuables: Keep expensive items, important documents, and jewelry in a locked safe. Avoid leaving valuables in plain sight through windows.
    - Trim Landscaping: Overgrown bushes and trees provide cover for burglars. Keep landscaping well-maintained, particularly near windows and doors.
    - Social Media Caution: Refrain from posting travel plans or being away from home on social media. This information can be used by criminals looking for easy targets.
    - Home Insurance Review: Ensure your home insurance policy adequately covers theft and burglary. Document valuables with photographs and keep an inventory.

By implementing these burglary prevention tips, you can significantly reduce the risk of your home being targeted by intruders. Taking proactive steps to secure your home ensures a safer and more secure living environment for you and your family.

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From National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Mary Isham Keith Chapter

## Tree Dedication at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Mary Isham Keith Chapter members conducted a dedication ceremony for their second America 250! Liberty Tree at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden on Wednesday, June 12.

The tree is a Bloodgood Japanese Maple and was planted along with a brass plaque near the Rose Garden Shelter. It was placed in honor of American ancestors who gave service during the American Revolutionary War. At the closing, members passed by the tree and said the name of one of their patriot-ancestors.

This project was made possible by the America 250! Committee (Chair Laura Tauzel, Cathy Schmersahl, Lisa Evans, and Betty Coe Manuel), which seeks to bring visibility to our nation's upcoming 250th birthday.

The first tree was purchased with the aid of a one-time \$500 grant from the National Society, and was part of Regent Charlsey Holler's project Liberty Trees Times Two.

Additionally, in celebration of Flag Day, Regent Charlsey Holler presented a flag and certificate that had flown over NSDAR Headquarters on April 15, 2024 in honor of our patriots to Caroline Jones, a representative of the Botanic Garden. The flag will be raised on the flagpole which was donated to the Garden by Mary Isham Keith Chapter in 1938.

The location of the two trees and flagpole resemble the pattern of a tricorn hat worn during the Revolution.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, email mikregent2023@gmail.com.



Pictured are: Curator **Katrina Lorenzen**, Botanic Garden Representative **Caroline Jones** and Regent **Charlsey Holler**.



Pictured are: (l-r, front) Betty Coe Manuel, Katrina Lorenzen, Regent Charlsey Holler; (middle) Debbie Murray, Elizabeth Harvey, Laura Tauzel; (back) Dawn Needles, Trish Watson, Cathy Schmersahl and Lisa Evans.



## July 4 Safety Tips to Keep Pets Calm and Secure

Fireworks and festivities are synonymous with July 4, but for many pets, the loud noises and chaotic atmosphere of this holiday can cause them stress and anxiety. Thrive Pet Healthcare, a leading veterinary service community, provides some practical solutions for pet owners to help ensure their pets' safety and well-being during this festive holiday.

"Dogs and cats have a heightened sense of hearing, making the booming sounds of fireworks incredibly intense for them," says Dr. Anthony Coronado, Thrive Pet Healthcare's Vice President of Emergency Medicine. "Unfamiliar and loud noises trigger their fight-or-flight response, leading to anxiety and confusion."

To help alleviate the stress caused by fireworks, Dr. Coronado encourages pet owners to take the following precautions.

- Microchip your pet: Fireworks can be scary for pets and their instinct to run puts them at risk of getting lost. Microchipping is a safe and effective procedure that provides a unique identification code for your pet. By registering your pet in a microchip database, you can ensure easy identification and a higher chance of reunion if they become lost.
- Remove potential escape routes: Check your fencing for any openings or weaknesses that could allow your pet to escape. Secure collars and harnesses properly to prevent slipping away. Ensure the

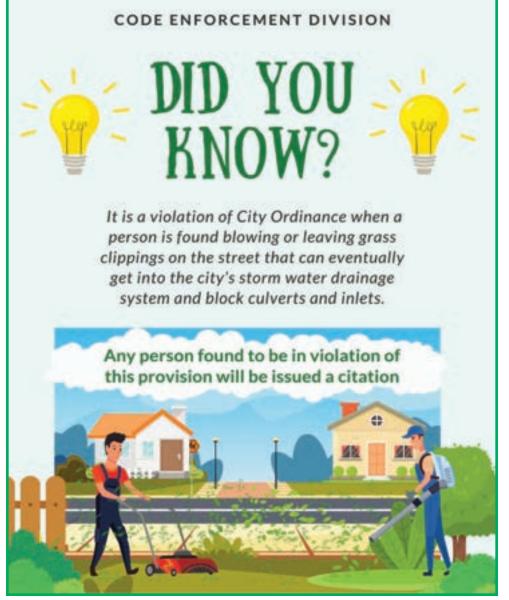
Fireworks and festivities are synonymous with July 4, but for barriers are free of sharp edges that could harm your pet. Limit acny pets, the loud noises and chaotic atmosphere of this holiday cause them stress and anxiety. Thrive Pet Healthcare, a leading through the glass in an attempt to escape.

- **Stick to routine:** Maintain your pet's daily routine leading up to the fireworks event. Dogs and cats thrive on consistency, and sticking to their regular care schedule helps reduce anxiety.
  - Natural remedies for anxious pets: Explore natural or herbal-based products such as chewable supplements, herbal sprays or anxiety jackets to help ease your pet's stress. Consult your veterinarian before using any supplements to ensure their safety and effectiveness.
  - **Tire them out:** Engage your pet in additional exercise and playtime throughout the cooler parts of the day to help drain their energy before the fireworks begin. This can be particularly effective for pets that tend to get amped-up around fireworks.
  - Anxiety medications: If your pet's anxiety becomes a significant issue, consult with your veterinarian about anxiety medications that can be prescribed to improve their well-being. Discuss the pros and cons of these medications in advance of the fireworks event.
  - Have a plan for unexpected illness or injury: Since your family veterinarian may be closed over the holiday, keep a list of nearby urgent care and emergency veterinary hospitals in case your pet becomes sick or injured.

To help comfort your pet during fireworks, Dr. Coronado recommends providing a safe space in a dark, secluded area of your home, minimizing outside sounds and lighting, and offering positive reinforcement for calm behavior. Additionally, leading by example and remaining calm yourself can help reassure your pet that fireworks are not a threat.

"It's important to create a safe and comforting environment for our pets during the Independence Day holiday," says Dr. Coronado. "Our pets are part of the family, and it's vital to be proactive about addressing their anxiety. Consulting with your veterinarian for personalized advice can make a significant difference."

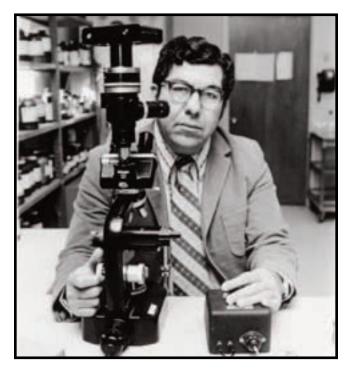
Dr. Coronado adds, "The 4th of July can be an enjoyable time for everyone, including our pets, if we take the necessary steps to keep them safe and comfortable throughout the celebrations."





Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

## **UNT Microbiology Professor - Dr. Roland Vela**



Many historical figures make an impact in multiple fields. For Dr. Roland Vela, an intense curiosity about the world as well as a drive to serve others became the defining characteristics of his life. He spent a decades-long career making important discoveries in science and helping to make his community a better place for all.

Gerard Roland Vela was born in Eagle Pass in September 1927. While he was still young, the family moved to San Antonio. As a youngster, he was a voracious reader and sold newspapers. He later recounted how people swarmed around him to get the latest news after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Like many young men of his generation, he was anxious to volunteer and to defend the country. At the age of 15, he volunteered for the Texas State Guard. In 1944, he was still 17 and still too young to enlist. However, he convinced his parents to sign the necessary release forms so he could sign up for the navy. He formally enlisted in June 1945. He was assigned to the naval base at Seal Beach, California, where he worked on a tugboat. Vela earned his GED while in the service. He was honorably discharged in July 1946, still just 18 years old.

Vela returned to San Antonio and noted in a 2007 interview that he tried to finish high school with a number of other returning young veterans. However, it was hard for a worldly navy veteran with salty stories from the service to fit in with students who were education, he enrolled at San Antonio Col- study. lege. He was initially on academic probation,

and transferred to the University of Texas. completed his bachelors degree in bacteriology with a minor in chemistry in 1950. He 7 AM to midnight every day, he recalled.

He met a nursing student, Emma Codina, while at UT. The two married in 1953. The couple would have four children together. After finishing his masters degree, Vela worked as a chemist in San Antonio.

1963.

(later the University of North Texas) hired him as a microbiology professor, and he phy, and ethics. moved to Denton. The small university was mostly known for its teaching and music programs, but Vela and his colleagues worked to expand its reputation for scientific research.

Vela quickly earned respect from his colleagues at the university and throughout the field. He secured a number of research In 1975, colleagues elected him to the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology. In 1985, the university promoted him to associate dean.

him, given the scientific name of Paenibacil- research materials to the university. lus velai. It is a type of bacteria found to help many uses in the food and pharmaceutical industries. As it is not a disease-causing type

still young teenagers. He was kicked out for of bacteria, it is considered safe for any lab behavioral issues. Wanting to continue his use, making it relatively easy for scientists to

Vela was in high demand from colleagues. but within a semester, he was on the honor He regularly traveled to deliver lectures and served as a visiting professor at universities In 1948, he earned his associates degree across the United States and around the globe. He supervised dozens of graduate students, After taking a course in bacteriology, he de- helping them complete their degrees and cided to choose it as his major. He worked a shaping the future leaders of the profession. series of jobs to support himself, including He wrote two respected books on microbiolcaddy, mechanic, and hospital orderly. He ogy, including Applied Food Microbiology (1997).

Aside from his research in the lab, Vela completed his masters degree in one year, a was well-known for a multitude of other inpace that left him studying and working from terests, driven by his intense curiosity about the world. He was fascinated by history and wrote two books on historical figures, including Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and Spanish Viceroy Bernardo de Galvez. He enjoyed participating in historical re-enactments, particularly re-enacting battles from Vela soon returned to graduate school and the American Revolution. For years, he led a completed his doctorate in microbiology in group called the Denton Forum, a group of local intellectuals from many different walks In 1965, North Texas State University of life who would periodically gather to discuss important questions of science, philoso-

He became a fixture in the Denton community through the years, helping with programs to help minority students improve their academic performance at the middle-school and high school levels to prepare them for college. He served on the local airport advisory board, worked with a host of local chargrants to work with NASA, the National In- ities, and served on the Board of Directors of stitute of Health, and the National Science the Texas Municipal Power Agency. He be-Foundation on a number of research projects. came the first Latino elected to the Denton City Council, serving two full terms.

By the time he retired from UNT in 2000, he had published four books and 75 scientific articles that had appeared in the leading sci-Through his research, he discovered a entific journals. He donated his extensive linew species of bacteria. It was named after brary of books, articles, bacteria slides, and

In 2000, he was listed by Latino Monthly adjust nitrogen levels in the soil. The re- as one of the top Texas Latino scientists of the search of Vela and others showed that this twentieth century. Vela passed away in Januparticular species of bacteria could have ary 2021 at the age of 93, widely respected among scientists and the Denton community.

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## Weekend Forecast



## Friday, June 28:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



### Saturday, June 29:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



## Sunday, June 30:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. South southwest wind around 5 mph. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 80.

## **Extended Forecast Click Here**