

## Police Oversight Monitor launches mediation program

A new program in the Office of Police Oversight Monitor (OPOM) aims to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community by fostering open dialogue and understanding through mediated conversations.



Community-police mediation is a voluntary process that brings together professionally trained community mediators to facilitate a dialogue between community members and law enforcement. It provides a space for two-way dialogue, allowing both parties to express their concerns, perceptions and expectations in a confidential and nonjudgmental way. It aims to address conflicts, build understanding and improve relations between the police and the community they serve.

The goal is to foster a more positive and collaborative relationship between the police and the community.

The Community-Police Mediation Program is supported by the community, Fort Worth Police Department and the Fort Worth Police Officers Association.

OPOM recruited community mediators and eventually selected 12 community mediators and four police officer ambassadors. This careful selection process aimed to mirror the demographics of Fort Worth.

[FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/opom](https://FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/opom)

## Panther Island Strategic Vision outlines a generational opportunity

Earlier this spring, HR&A Advisors and Lake Flato presented key findings of the Panther Island Strategic Vision Update as well as the Panther Island Real Estate, Economic Development and Implementation Strategies.



Included in the updated strategic vision:

- Highlights a phased implementation strategy for near- and long-term development.
- Emphasizes adding to a connected open-space network featuring continuous waterfront access.
- Encourages a seamless connection to surrounding neighborhoods.
- Recommends a governance structure for development on Panther Island.

The new vision aligns with the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan. It is grounded in high-quality development, an engaging public waterfront, a destination connecting and complementing vibrant surrounding neighborhoods, and place-making of the highest order.

[pantherisland.com](https://pantherisland.com)

## Embrace SmartLandscape practices to enjoy beautiful and sustainable outdoor spaces

The City of Fort Worth Water Department is gearing up to celebrate *SmartLandscape* Month in May, in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

With the arrival of Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend, there's an anticipated increase in outdoor activities. This presents a perfect opportunity for residents to embrace water efficiency by upgrading their gardens with smart landscaping practices.

*SmartLandscape* Month encourages individuals to adopt environmentally friendly landscaping techniques, emphasizing the importance of water conservation.

By selecting drought-resistant flowers and shrubs, residents can reduce water consumption while maintaining vibrant and healthy outdoor spaces. This initiative aligns with the City's commitment to sustainability and responsible water usage.

Fort Worth's participation in *SmartLandscape* Month underscores its dedication to promoting environmental stewardship among its residents. By partnering with the EPA, the City aims to raise awareness about the benefits of water-efficient landscaping and provide resources to support residents in making eco-conscious choices.

Switching to water-efficient landscaping not only conserves precious water resources but also offers numerous benefits such as lower water bills, reduced maintenance requirements and enhanced curb appeal. Additionally, it contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem by minimizing runoff and soil erosion.

[epa.gov/watersense/landscaping-tips](https://epa.gov/watersense/landscaping-tips)



## WORTH KNOWING

While the Fort Worth Public Library continues to look for a permanent downtown location, the **Downtown Express Library** is bringing service back to downtown residents with a location inside Fort Worth City Hall, 200 Texas St. Those include services that library patrons used frequently at the former Central Library, including use of free WiFi, picking up reserved items and finding books to read. The library will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, closed each day between 1 and 2 p.m.

With spring storms season upon us, staying informed during weather events is crucial. The free **Code Red Mobile Alert app** is an essential tool for keeping residents safe and informed during severe weather events and other emergencies. This helpful app and emergency alert system provides timely notifications about potential hazards such as severe weather, local emergencies, environmental threats and other urgent events. Users can opt to receive weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service.

The East Fourth Street/First Street Bike Lane project will debut new **bike signal technology** in Fort Worth. That location was chosen to connect Gateway Park and downtown through designated bike lanes and special bike signals at three intersections. Construction costs are estimated to be \$2.9 million and funding is provided by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. One existing lane along East Fourth Street/East First Street will become a bike lane, which will run in both directions from I-35 to Haltom Road.

## WORTH GOING



Story times at the **Fort Worth Public Library** give children the chance to experience fun activities while building a love of reading and books. Joining friends and neighbors at story time can also develop social skills in a friendly, welcoming space. Fort Worth Public Library story times are based on the *Every Child Ready to Read* method that identifies skills that help children learn to read and five practices that enhance those skills: talking, singing, reading, playing and writing.

[FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/library/programs/story-times](https://FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/library/programs/story-times)