

Southlake Historical Society Gazette

Winter 2026

Howdy, friends!

Greetings from the Southlake Historical Society!

This summer we'll be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with our 12th annual **Town Hall exhibit, July 13-Aug. 29.**

Across the nation, local historical societies have been asked to spotlight what happened *in their area*.

Now-Southlake, in the Eastern Cross Timbers, had no redcoats, patriots or Paul Reveres. But it did have the "Comanche empire" and other Indigenous people who made a difference. And what was to become Texas was an area claimed by the Spanish.

Watch for exhibit updates on our [website](#).



Outside Town Hall in 2021. The sidewalk sign is for our award-winning Bob and Almeady Chisum Jones [exhibit](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

On July 4, 1976, during our country's 100th anniversary, Bicentennial Park was dedicated. The park was the city's first—and for a long time only—park.



Now and notable

Southlake to dedicate first city park July 4

The Bicentennial Park of Southlake, the first park in the 2,500-population city on the southwest shore of Lake Grapevine, will be dedicated in ceremonies July 4. The 8.2-acre park, at White Chapel Road north of Southlake Boulevard, eventually will have two lighted baseball diamonds, a community center, swimming pool, playground area, picnic area and three tennis courts. The park was designed by Carter & Burgess Inc. of Fort Worth. The Tarrant County Mayors' Advisory Council has allocated federal community development funds for two of the tennis courts and the city has applied for U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funds for further park development.

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ties by the Fort Worth Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 1822. M. C. Batchelder, U. S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship and Training Representative, presented the certificates, which acknowledge completion of four years of apprenticeship and certification as journeymen.

Winners of the Apprenticeship Carpenters Contest also were honored. They were T. A. Hansard, first; W. T. Capps Jr., second, and R. L. Hyatt, third.

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER — Terry Robert Davidson, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davidson of Arlington, has won a

LOTS GOING ON

- **February 13-16** join in the nation's 27th Great Backyard Bird Count, runs. Watch birds, identify them and submit your list. Texas is a vital stopover for migrating birds, making local counts crucial for understanding population health. Visit www.birdcount.org.
- **Sat. Feb. 28**, join in a 250th Liberty Tree Ceremony, 2 p.m., at the Liberty Gardens in Bicentennial Park, 200 Unity Way. Mayor McCaskill will introduce MichaelAnn Bush, America 250! Committee Chair for the Grapevine-based [Molly Corbin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution](#), who will give a brief history of the Liberty Tree in America and unveil a DAR bronze marker in honor of the chapter's donation of a newly planted Liberty Tree. The Carroll Youth Choir will sing the national anthem. To learn more about the importance of the Liberty Tree to our country's history, visit [America250](#).

(Wondering if you have Revolutionary War ancestors? Check out the chapter's website for [advice](#) on researching patriot ancestors.)

- **Sat., March 21**, meet us at the Southlake log house in Bicentennial Park to celebrate the wildflowers in the adjacent Blossom Prairie Wildflower Area. Watch our website for more details.



WANTING MORE TEXAS HISTORY?

Southlake is on the Texas Historical Commission's [Texas Lakes Trail](#), one of 10 "trails" designed to help young and old learn about Texas history.

Sign up for the commission's [e-newsletter](#) and download their Texas History Navigator app.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR SOUTHLAKE!

Southlake turns 70 this year.

See photographs and read quotes about the important events – decade by decade – that took Southlake from a small rural community in 1956 to the city of today [here](#).

THANK YOU

The society wishes to thank family and friends of longtime resident and [Feedstore BBQ](#) owner, **Bill Lafavers**, who passed away Oct. 2024, for their generous donations to the society given in Mr. Lafavers's name.

The society also wishes to thank longtime resident and community volunteer **John Slocum** for his continuing support, most recently with a very generous donation to the society.

All [donations](#) to the society help in our mission toward archiving historical materials, gathering oral history interviews, presenting exhibits that showcase the events and lives of folks who came before us and working to preserve and protect Southlake's history.

AND THANK YOU, DEAR FRIEND!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are considered a **Friend of Southlake History**.

Know anyone who would be interested in learning more about Southlake history? Share this newsletter. They can request future e-newsletters, by emailing us at southlakehistory@gmail.com.

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