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STARLOCAL

## McKinney Courier-Gazette

COURIER-GAZETTE.COM

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

VOLUME 127 NUMBER 27

FULL LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE AVAILABLE ONLINE

### LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

starlocalmedia.com

### New trash and recycling carts to be delivered to McKinney residents

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New trash and recycling carts are coming soon to McKinney residents. All residential trash and recycling customers will get new carts on one of their collection days from May 28 to July 19, according to the McKinney website.

The 95-gallon gray cart will be for trash and the 95-gallon navy blue cart will be for recycling. Each household will be given the number of carts they pay for every month currently.

When the new carts are delivered, old carts may be set out and will be removed. Waste Connections will be running weekly recovery efforts to remove all carts.

The new carts include an RFID chip and barcode to link carts to addresses. According to Director of Public Works, Ryan Gillingham in the Director's Column, this technology will help with accuracy and efficiency. Carts will have the City of McKinney logos on the sides.

"No changes are currently occurring with your service," the McKinney website said. "Frontier Waste Solutions, a new service provider, will take over the collections on October 1. The city will provide more information about this change later this summer."

These new recycling and trash carts are part of an effort to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of McKinney waste collection services, according to Gillingham in the Director's Column.

"We believe these new carts, along with the upcoming service provider change, will significantly improve our waste management system, making it more efficient and user-friendly," Gillingham said in the Directors Column. "This moment presents an opportune time to explore the full spectrum of trash and recycling services provided by the City of McKinney. We offer standard trash and recycling pickups to specialized e-waste and Household Hazardous Waste collections. Our goal is to provide a variety of options for responsibly disposing of unwanted items, ensuring they don't end up in our landfills or waterways. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work towards a cleaner, greener McKinney."

## BEAUTY OF WHAT ONCE WAS

### CHESTNUT SQUARE HISTORIC VILLAGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

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COURTESY OF ROBERT YOUNG  
In 1974, citizens of McKinney came together in an effort to preserve history through what is now the creation of Chestnut Square Historic Village. As a result of the preservation efforts starting in the 1970s this 50-year event was 1970s themed.

Chestnut Square Historic Village is a way to step back in time in McKinney history. The historic village has nine buildings where visitors can experience history.

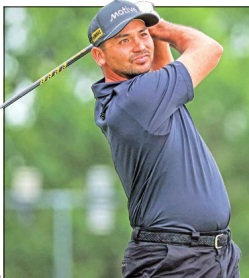
"When you walk onto the property you feel like you literally step back in time, and it reminds you of community," said Deanna Stone, executive director of Chestnut Square Historic Village.

Chestnut Square is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year in 2024 by hosting several events.

Chestnut Square Historic Village is a collection of six historic homes, a replica of a one-room school house, chapel and store on 2.5 acres just south of the downtown McKinney square. The grounds also include a blacksmith shop.

■ See 50 YEARS, Page 4A

### CJ CUP TEES OFF!



Sunday is the final round of the CJ Cup Byron Nelson golf tournament at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, and its last chance for fans to see defending champion Jason Day (for left) and Dallas fan favorite Jordan Spieth (left) on the course. Visit [www.starlocalmedia.com](http://www.starlocalmedia.com) on Monday for coverage of the final round.

GETTY IMAGES FOR THE CJ CUP BYRON NELSON

### 'A community of hope'

### How the Great Root Movement is helping women

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COURTESY OF THE GREAT ROOT MOVEMENT  
The Great Root Movement's annual race is called the Love Never Ends Trail Run, which is held in McKinney.

When her children were buried, so was a part of Karen Sparks. Through her faith and family, and starting a nonprofit, Sparks has been able to find her identity and purpose again, despite her circumstances.

As a survivor of filicide, Sparks is passionate about helping others through their journeys. The Great Root Movement exists to help other women and honor her own children. The nonprofit organization was born in 2019, providing resources to women who are in recovery.

"We're just a community of hope, that wants to provide a safe place for women just to be seen, heard and loved, through their journey and recovery with mental health."

■ See NONPROFIT, Page 2A

#### INSIDE NEWS

##### PROFILE: CURATING THE PERFECT SIP

Learn more about the owners of McKinney's Hello Boba



#### INSIDE SPORTS

##### HONOR ROLL

McKinney ISD girls rake in all-district soccer awards



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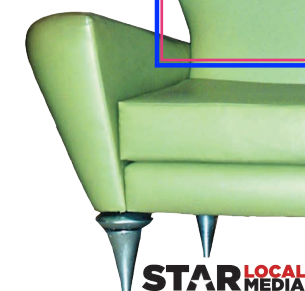


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### MUSIC CONCERT

Emmanuel Kwok, a versatile cellist who performs across Europe, Asia and the United States is coming to McKinney in collaboration with the Arts & Music Guild of McKinney to perform at 7 p.m. on May 10 and 11.

Admission is free. The event is located at The Cove, 402 N. Tennessee St. in McKinney.

### R&B PICNIC FEST

Come out to TUPPS Brewery from 3-8 p.m. on May 11 for an R&B Picnic. This is a community-based, family friendly music festival with a picnic setting. There will be music, food, vendors and pop-up selfie stations. This is a free event to attend. Save and close

TUPPS Brewery is located at 402 E. Louisiana St. in McKinney.

### SUPPORT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Actom Academy McKinney is hosting a Children's Business Fair for young entrepreneurs to highlight their business.

This event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 at 110 E. New Hope Road in McKinney.

### VENDOR EVENT AT WEDDING PEARLS VENUE

Come out to Wedding Pearls Venue in McKinney to celebrate spring on a 12-acre historic farmland. There will be live music, food and drinks, a dance around the maypole, bounce houses, crafts and face painting. There will be over 25 local holistic minded vendors to sell their items that are homegrown or handmade.

This event will be on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. located at 1687 FM 2933 in McKinney.

# 5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

### MOVIE NIGHT

District 121 is hosting McKinney's movie night from 7-9 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. The movie showing is the "Bee Movie." This family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

The location for movie night is 6731 Alma Road in McKinney.



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### OUR NEIGHBORS

## Let's strive to build up our communities rather than divide them

As I scrolled through my Facebook feed this morning, I came across a post that struck a chord: "I saw a post I didn't agree with... I didn't get offended... I didn't comment... I didn't feel the need to change their mind... I still like the person... I just kept scrolling and went on with my day... More should practice this."

This simple yet profound message highlights a growing concern I have about the changing nature of local elections and our discourse around them.

Each election cycle seems to bring with it a more visceral level of discussion about candidates and issues on the ballot, especially at the local level. What once were non-partisan positions — like school board seats or city council members — have begun to feel the weight of our national political division. This is problematic because these roles traditionally operate outside the typical bounds of party politics. These are positions



**RICK ROGERS**  
Star Local Media  
President/Publisher

that fundamentally focus on local governance, community needs, and practical solutions, not national party lines.

Local elections are supposed to be about the merits of individuals — who they are, what they stand for, and how they can serve our community. Candidates outline their vision and credentials, and we, the voters, decide who best represents our interests and values. However, the infiltration of partisan politics into these races has muddled this clear-cut intention.

The divisiveness that permeates national politics has trickled down to the grassroots level, manifesting in heated debates and personal attacks rather than discussions on policy and community issues. Social media platforms, while invaluable for connecting us with family and friends worldwide, also contribute to this escalating hostility. They have become arenas where people feel emboldened to tear each other down rather than spaces for constructive and re-

spectful discourse.

This morning's Facebook post served as a refreshing reminder of the decorum that used to pervade our local political discussions. It made me think about the essential civility we are starting to lose, not just in politics but across all areas of disagreement. We should be able to disagree with someone's views without resorting to personal attacks or questioning their character.

While there are numerous social media posts and comments that celebrate our community and its achievements, these are overwhelmingly outnumbered by negative comments that focus on tearing down candidates and their supporters. This isn't just sad; it's counterproductive. Instead of highlighting why we support a candidate, the conversation often devolves into why the opponent is wrong for our community.

I am tired of this negativity, and I suspect many of you are too. Deleting social media isn't a viable solution for everyone; its benefits of connection and community are too integral to

our modern lives. But we can choose to engage differently. We can decide to scroll past comments that serve no purpose but to inflame. We can choose to contribute positively, to uplift rather than tear down.

Imagine how much more productive and positive our local elections could be if we approached them the same way we interact in the local diner on Main Street — where discussions are face-to-face, and disagreements don't dissolve into animosity. It's time to bring civility back to our political discourse, especially at the local level, where the decisions made impact us most directly.

As we move forward, let's remember the purpose of our local elections and strive to engage in a manner that builds up our community rather than divides it. Let's prioritize understanding over victory, and civility over conquest. In doing so, we might rediscover the true spirit of local governance and the community unity that seems so elusive today.

## NONPROFIT

From PAGE 1A

health, child loss, grief, domestic abuse and domestic

violence," Sparks said.

In 2015 Sparks lost her children when her husband killed them. A couple months after her children died, she started boxing, then began

running and has been running ever since. In honor of Grant and Reagan, she has put on a race the last couple years to honor her children. The Great Root Movement

puts on its race the Love Nests Trail Run in September, with multiple different race levels available.

The mission of The Great Root Movement is "Love. Move. Rise." The nonprofit provides resources and connection to therapy, treatment and workshops for women recovering.

"It's a movement to keep going," Sparks said.

The Great Root Movement offers scholarships for bereaved mothers, women survivors of domestic abuse and trauma to allow them to attend therapy and comprehensive healing programs, according to its website.

Not only does The Great Root Movement serve as a hub with resources, but it is passionate about furthering the education of students. As

a result, there are scholarships available to graduating high school seniors to help with college costs, named after Reagan and Grant.

"That's the bravest thing you can do, asking for help," Sparks said.

The name The Great Root Movement has meaning behind it.

"The Great Root Movement is named after my children, Grant & Reagan ('G' for Grant, 'Rea' for Reagan, and the 't' is the cross that makes them great)," Sparks said on her website. "They loved big moved boldly, and would always 'rise' to meet life's challenges. My most important title will always be 'Reagan and Grant's Mom.' My mission is to share our story and help others like us."

Making women feel seen, heard and loved through sharing experiences and being vulnerable is where healing takes place and is part of what Sparks finds to be most rewarding about having started the nonprofit.

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