



Serving the City of River Oaks

River Oaks News

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From the American Red Cross North Texas Region

Red Cross Calls for Healthy Blood Donors Following Severe Weather

Following record-breaking cold and winter storms that forced the cancellation of more than 10,000 blood and platelet donations in parts of the U.S. in February, the American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals, especially those with type O blood, to **give now** to ensure blood products are available for patient emergencies when help can't wait.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant, even during snowstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted, individuals are urged to make appointments to donate in the coming days and weeks by downloading the **Red Cross Blood Donor App**, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for high levels of COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not con-

firm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and **additional precautions** – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming Blood Donation Opportunities Through March 15 Benbrook

• March 11 - noon to 5:30 p.m., Benbrook Community Center YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road

(continued on page 7)

From the City of River Oaks

Feb. 25 River Oaks City Council Meeting Cancelled

The City Council of River Oaks meets on the second and fourth Tuesday night of each month.

Agendas for the meetings are available as soon as they are posted on the City's website, 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Minutes of each meeting will also be available once they are completed and posted.

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From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry Curbside: Read, Return, Repeat

Castleberry ISD libraries are offering “Castleberry Curbside: Read, Return, Repeat.” Providing library services and getting books into the hands of students and staff in the safest manner possible as campuses reopen is the top priority of Castleberry ISD Library Services.

This service will allow students to request and hold print books via their cam-

pus library Canvas page and pick them up at their campus during scheduled pick-up times.

Once holds are placed, library staff on each campus will pull the books and notify parents when the holds are available for pick-up. Students will be able to enjoy their library books for up to two weeks and are asked to return them to their book drop outside of their campus before or during their next scheduled pick-up time.

For safety purposes, returned books will be quarantined for four days before being checked in and therefore removed from the student’s account.

Visit your campus library [Canvas page](#) for specific information pertaining to your child’s school.

CISD libraries also offer many opportunities for reading and listening online via eBooks and audiobooks to meet the needs of all students.

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From the Tarrant Area Food Bank

Tarrant Area Food Bank Mega Mobile Market Event Dates

Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) has resumed their Mega Mobile Markets with a market on Friday, Feb. 26 at Herman Clark Stadium from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TAFB will continue to hold Mega Mobile Markets every Friday at Herman Clark Stadium until further notice.

In addition, TAFB will once again have the help of the Army National Guard, which will be deployed to TAFB for at least the next 30 days. Now more than ever, TAFB is seeking volunteers to assist with registration, traffic control and food distribution. Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

These events are designed to serve any and all residents of the Tarrant area community who are in need of food assistance, and anyone whose access to nutritious food has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday, Feb. 26 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Herman Clark Stadium, 5201 CA Roberson Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76119.

The House Fort Worth church is hosting a food drive on the following date, an ID/drivers license is required:

Saturday, Feb. 27 - 9 a.m. to noon - former Toys-R-Us parking lot, 7606 West Fwy., White Settlement, TX 76108.

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From the Office of the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott

Statewide COVID-19 Rental Relief Program

Governor Greg Abbott recently announced that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has launched the Texas Rent Relief Program, the first statewide rent and utility assistance program for qualifying households throughout Texas.

This program has been created to administer the more than \$1 billion allocated to Texas through the latest federal COVID-19 stimulus bill. TDHCA began accepting applications for the program on Monday, Feb. 15, but Texans can visit TexasRentRelief.com to learn more about qualifications, required documents, and the application process.

To qualify, households must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income as well as meet other criteria.

Per federal guidelines, TDHCA will prioritize applications for households at or below 50 percent of the area median income level and households where one or more members are currently unemployed and have been for at least 90 days. Landlords are encouraged to apply on behalf of tenants, who must co-sign the application.

Applicants can submit their application by calling 1-833-9TX-RENT (1-833-989-7368) or submitting it online at TexasRentRelief.com.

The call center will be open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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A Letter from the Editor:

Community Pulls Together During Winter Storm

To say our patience has been tested is putting it mildly. We're all exhausted by hearing and reading about COVID-19 at this point. Rearranging our lives around a global pandemic is hard. Everywhere we turn our senses are bombarded with an onslaught of useful information from every media outlet - where to get tested, how to stay socially distant, checking on your elderly neighbors, where vaccines are offered and how to get food to families in need.

My sincere hope is that you've been able to turn to our publications to find needed resources during this time.

During last week's winter weather event, we witnessed a devastating traffic accident on highway I-35. We watched as first responders and civilians alike worked tirelessly in the freezing temperatures to free trapped persons in cars and attend to injuries and sadly, casualties.

Then, rolling electricity outages occurred. Parents wondered how we would keep our children warm and fed without a refrigerator to keep foods at a safe temperature and without electricity to cook it adequately. We were determined to keep them from worrying

unnecessarily while we frantically tried to make arrangements.

Many public servants made the precarious drive to-and-from their workplaces, often sleeping in their vehicles to ensure they would be available for a next shift.

Warming stations and drinking water were offered while neighbors shoveled driveways for elderly and made available whatever resources they could to help families make it through.

We reached out to neighbors to ask about firewood and if their pipes were leaking. I personally received several offers of warm showers, a hot cup of coffee or a warm meal, a place for myself and my family to stay overnight. I was humbled, and we are so very grateful.

Some residents are unfortunately still without power or running water - let's make sure we don't forget to keep reaching out. The time is now to dig in our heels while we recuperate and fix damages we couldn't have anticipated. Let's be patient with one another - we've made it through some amazingly unfavorable conditions.

If we all remember to continue to Love Thy Neighbor, we'll make it through.

Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Feb. 26:

AM - A 30% chance of showers, mainly before noon. Partly sunny; high near 55.

PM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy; low around 45.



Saturday, Feb. 27:

AM - A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy; high near 63.

PM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.



Sunday, Feb. 28:

AM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; high near 67.

PM - A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low around 52.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)

From the Federal Emergency Management Agency

President Biden Approves Major Disaster Declaration; Texas Survivors Affected by Winter Weather Can Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance

FEMA announced federal emergency aid has been made available to the state of Texas to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in areas affected by a severe winter storm beginning on Feb. 11, 2021 and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson and Wise counties.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 TTY.

Federal funding is also available to state, tribal, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, statewide.

Federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Jerry S. Thomas has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal response operations for the affected area. Additional designations may be made later if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further assessments.

* * *

Texas homeowners and renters in the 77 counties designated for individual assistance who sustained damage may now apply for disaster assistance with FEMA.

If you have insurance and are applying for disaster assistance, you must also file a claim with your insurance company as soon as possible. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If insurance does not cover all your damage, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

The fastest and easiest way to apply is by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov.

If it is not possible to register online, call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). The toll-free telephone lines operate from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT, seven days a week. Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel should update FEMA with their specific number assigned to that service.

The counties are: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, and Wise.

When you apply for assistance, have the following information readily available:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number, if available
- A general list of damage and losses
- If insured, the insurance policy number, or the agent and company name

If it is safe to do so, start cleaning up now.

Take photos to document damage and begin cleanup and repairs to prevent further damage. Remember to keep receipts from all purchases related to the cleanup and repair.

Disaster assistance may include financial assistance for temporary lodging and home repairs, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to businesses, homeowners and renters. Call the SBA at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 800-877-8339) or visit www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

From Local Patriotic Societies

Patriotic Societies to Hold Awards Luncheon

The Honorable Philip Livingston Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists, General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter United States Daughters of 1812, Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, and the Texas Society Daughters of Colonial Wars will meet Thursday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m. at Ridglea Country Club located at 3700 Bernie Anderson Avenue in Fort Worth. Scholarships will be presented at this Annual Awards Luncheon.

For information, call 817-448-0608.

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Texas History Minute

Texas Revolution Hero, Ben Milam *by Dr. Ken Bridges*



Ben Milam was an average man who traveled the early frontier. But a course of events would place him in the middle of the fight for Texas independence and into legend. Milam's decisive actions made him one of the early heroes of the Texas Revolution.

Benjamin Rush Milam was born in 1788 in Frankfort, then just a tiny village on the Kentucky River in what was not yet Kentucky. His life was defined by the early frontier. He had very little formal education, as almost no schools were available.

As a young man, he was mostly interested in trade and bartering. Struck by wanderlust, he drifted from one adventure to the next. In 1812, he enlisted in the Kentucky militia and served honorably as a lieutenant in the War of 1812.

Milam made his first, brief foray into Texas in 1818. By the next year, he found himself in New Orleans, caught up in the excitement of a potential raid into Texas to seize it for the United States from Spain.

In what became known as the Long Expedition, James Long made Milam a colonel and led his rag-tag army that crossed the Sabine River into Spanish Texas. They

quickly took Nacogdoches and declared Texas independent of Spain. When the Spanish Army arrived, the Long Expedition fell apart.

Milam and Long attempted to reorganize at Galveston in 1820, but the effort quickly faltered. Milam then went to Veracruz and on to Mexico City.

Instead of finding the cities defended by monarchists, he and his party found that the rebels had already taken the cities. He and the dozens of men with him were thrown in prison. An American diplomat later arranged their release.

He returned to Mexico in 1824 in the aftermath of yet another revolution, one that established Mexico as a republic. And with a new government came a new attitude. All was forgiven, and Milam was made a colonel the Mexican Army as well as a citizen. Times were good for Milam. He soon teamed up with a British immigrant, Gen. Arthur G. Wavell, and started a silver mine in Nuevo Leon, a northern Mexican state adjacent to Texas. In 1825, they also gained empresario grants in Texas—land grants that allowed them to sell or lease lands in order to attract residents to what was still a lightly-populated region.

Events, however, soon turned sour for Milam. The Nuevo Leon mine started to falter, and he and Wavell soon leased out a mine to a British company.

In the meantime, Mexican officials grew increasingly concerned about American designs on Texas in light of offers by the United States government to buy Texas and raids such as the Long Expedition. In 1830, the Law of April 6 banned all immigration from the United States into Texas and expressly forbade the introduction of new slaves into the area even though Mexico had officially banned slavery the year before. This imperiled Milam's empresario contract.

Agustin Viesca became governor of Coahuila y Texas in 1835. Ben Milam believed he could work with him to secure new land titles for Texas settlers. On his visit to the new governor, he found a willing audience in his attempt to secure legal protections for their lands. However, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna had overthrown the elected government. His officials arrested Viesca and Milam both. Milam, however, was able to talk their way out of jail thanks to Viesca's politi-

cal allies. Milam reached Texas in October and joined George Collinsworth's column as they marched to take Goliad on October 10.

After Goliad, Collinsworth's forces met with other armed Texans marching toward San Antonio. Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos held the city for Santa Anna. Mexico had a large armed force occupying the city. It was now Dec. 4 - with the weather growing cold, many Texans considered holing up for the winter, building their forces, and preparing for an attack in the spring.

Milam recognized that point was the time to try to consolidate their gains and was determined to lead the charge himself. With the permission of his superiors, he made an impassioned plea and declared to the troops, "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" Three hundred men stepped forward and marched into the lion's den. They attacked at dawn the next morning.

After two days of fighting, Milam's forces were making progress. On the morning of Dec. 7, they were charging steadily forward for the third day. Milam stood at the fore of the battlefield, eyeing the positions of their attackers. A chance shot rang out. He was then struck in the head by the rifle fire and collapsed into the arms of his friends. He died at the scene at the age of 47 just as the Texas Revolution was heating up. Texas forces took the city two days later.

Milam was widely honored in the years after his death. In addition to streets, schools, and parks, a memorial site stands in San Antonio.

Residents of the Sabine County community of Red Mound renamed their city after Milam in 1836.

The Texas Republic established Milam County in Central Texas in 1837 and is now boasts nearly 25,000 residents.

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From the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office

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Currently, classes are being held virtually on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Graduation will be hosted upon completion of the Academy program.

We are now **taking applications** for the 2021 Spring Academy classes.

The Academy begins March 4, 2021, and graduation will be May 20, 2021.

This topics of the past academy classes have included: Adult Sexual Assault, The Civil Division, Conviction Integrity, Digital Forensic & Technical Services, Diversion Programs, Felony: An Overview, Gang Unit, Grand Jury, Intake, Intimate Partner Violence, Intoxication Manslaughter, DWI & No Refusal, Introduction to a Trial, Introduction to the Criminal Justice System/Criminal District Attorney's Office, The Juvenile System, Mental Health & Protective Orders, Misdemeanor Crimes, Special Victims Unit, Victim Advocates and Public Integrity Crimes.

Healthy Blood Donors Needed

(continued from page 1)

Fort Worth

- March 5 - noon to 6 p.m., Cabela's, 12901 Cabela Drive
- March 10 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Exceptional Emergency Center Fort Worth, 1251 Eastchase Parkway
- March 12 - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1800 W. Freeway
- March 13 - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Kendra Scott, 5217 Marathon Avenue

About Blood Donation

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to **donate blood**. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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