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River Oaks News

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From Tarrant County

Free Rides for Early Voting and Election Day



Tarrant County voters can catch free rides to the polls on all Trinity Metro services, and Arlington's Via and Handitran.

Riders who show their voter registration card or current Texas ID will ride for free during early voting through Nov. 4 and on Election Day, Nov. 8.

To use Trinity Metro ZIPZONE, download the ZIPZONE app and book your ride. Free ZIPZONE rides will be offered to or from any identified voter center location within a zone. For questions about bus routes, ZIPZONE or ACCESS paratransit rides to your polling place, call Trinity Metro at 817-215-8600.

To use Via's on-demand service in Arlington, download the Via app, enter the address of a Vote Center within Via's service area, and use promo code ARNVOTE2022F.

Those who qualify and want to ride to vote on ACCESS, NETS, TCTS or Handitran should call the provider at least 48 hours ahead of the trip to schedule their free ride to any Vote Center within the provider's service area.

For questions or to schedule a ride:

- Trinity Metro (bus, rail, ACCESS, and ZIPZONE) - 817-215-8600
- Northeast Transportation Service (NETS) - 817-336-8714
- Tarrant County Transportation Service (TCTS) - 817-336-8714
- Arlington Via - 817-459-6777
- Arlington Handitran - 817-459-5390

From Tarrant County

County Clerk Now Offers Remote Marriage Licenses

Getting a marriage license no longer requires a trip to the Tarrant County Clerk's Office.

The program is available to everyone but could be especially attractive to members of the military who will no longer be required to schedule a trip home.

"We are the first certified in the State of Texas to offer remote marriage licenses," said County Clerk Mary Louise Nicholson. "We are looking to serve military service men and women and those people who do not want to make the drive to get their marriage licenses. You don't have to ask for leave. You can be in the comfort of your home or at your military base."

Remote marriage licenses became legal when the Texas Legislature approved **SB 907**.

To use the service, couples must have access to computer or laptop that includes a webcam and speakers to conduct a virtual meeting.

Click on the following link for the **marriage license application site**. If a couple is applying remotely, they must submit a notarized **Affidavit of Age and Identity**.

For more information about cost and approved forms of ID, go to the **County Clerk's website**.

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Hello Fellow District 99 Residents,

My name is Mimi Coffey and I am running to be your State Representative. I have spent most of my entire life in District 99. I have raised my 4 children here. As a defense attorney of 27 years, I am used to fighting uphill battles and negotiating. I will fight hard for the needs of our northwest Tarrant County residents.

Our property taxes are too high. Women's reproductive rights have been taken away. Our public schools are in a crisis with a shortage of teachers. It is getting harder for the majority of northwest Texans to make ends meet with rising costs. As a small business owner of 22 years, I know what it takes to run a successful business and take care of your people. The pandemic has taught us that to survive we must embrace change. I am ready to serve both Democrats and Republicans alike. District 99 is military and defense industry heavy. I understand and respect this as my father served in the Army and retired from Lockheed-Martin (General Dynamics). I have the utmost respect for our incumbent representative and if elected, plan to continue his tradition of excellent service to the community.

I invite you to visit my website, mimicoffeyfordistrict99.com for more information. I'm asking for your vote so that we can put PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. Feel free to text or call me direct at 817-205-4861.

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From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks City Council to Meet Nov. 8

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.

Benbrook American

Legion Post 297

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Why Experts Say Plastic Recycling Won't Save the Planet

In the last two years, the global plastic pollution crisis has gotten worse, with more plastic being produced and an even smaller percentage of it being recycled, according to a new report.

While a 2020 Greenpeace USA report anticipated that the declining cost of plastic production would lead to declining rates of recycling, its follow-up report, "Circular Claims Fall Flat Again: 2022 Update," not only proves this prediction true, but highlights additional barriers to plastic recycling that make it an untenable solution.

As the report notes, the high recycling rates of paper, cardboard, and metals in the United States show that recycling can be an effective way to reclaim valuable natural material resources. However, unlike these other materials, plastic waste is extremely difficult to collect, virtually impossible to sort, environmentally harmful to reprocess, and often made of and contaminated by toxic materials.

Complicating matters is the fact that the self-reported data of corporations is often misleading, as it relies on the theoretical possibility of recycling a plastic item rather than actual plastic waste processing rates. In reality, of the 51 million tons of plastic waste generated by Americans in 2021, only 5-6 percent was recycled.

"The plastics and consumer goods industries have worked with industry front groups to promote plastic recycling as the solution to plastic waste for decades. Today, as plastic waste mounts, chokes our planet, and pollutes our communities, it is clear: most plastic simply cannot be recycled," says Lisa Ramsden, senior plastics campaigner, Greenpeace.

As these realities are becoming more difficult to ignore, discussions about what to do regarding single-use plastics and plastic packaging are underway at the global level through the United Nations Environment Programme's plastics treaty, in the U.S. Congress, in city halls and state capitals across the country, and in corporate boardrooms.

Advocates say there is a way forward. In addition to calling for a Global Plastics Treaty to set international standards, Greenpeace



- is also calling on companies to take the following steps:
- Urgently move to reuse systems and packaging-free approaches. Set targets to have at least 50 percent reusable packaging by 2030.
 - Commit to collaborating with others to standardize reusable packaging and build shared reuse systems and infrastructure.
 - Phase out all single-use packaging and products.
 - Be transparent. Annually release verified data about the company's single-use packaging footprint. Disclose where plastic originates and report on the full lifetime climate footprint of packaging production, use and disposal.
 - Advocate for political action to drive industry-wide transformation.

Ramsden notes that consumers can also get informed and foster change by contacting their political representatives and their retailers. To read the full report, visit www.greenpeace.org.

"We cannot rely on the recycling myth to solve the plastic crisis. It is time to accept that plastic recycling is a failed concept and turn to reuse and refill solutions," says Ramsden.



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The 1914 WWI Christmas Truce *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

It was once called the War to End All Wars, but World War I dragged on year after year. Governments were shattered, lives were destroyed, and many more wars came in its wake. But for one moment in 1914, there came a Christmas miracle. The soldiers in the trenches stopped fighting, and for a moment, there was peace on the battlefield. This came to be called the Christmas Truce.

The governments of both sides had enticed their young men to sign up and head for the front lines, promising glorious victories in no time at all. Instead, the casualties mounted, and the battles became increasingly brutal. Pleas for peace from President Woodrow Wilson, the pope, and millions around the world were ignored by the warring government. The war that was supposed to be over in a few months was now mired in a stalemate with no end in sight.

And Christmas 1914 arrived. Allied troops in Belgium and France had been dug into trenches for months. Their German counterparts across the fields of barbed wire, shrapnel and artillery craters of no-man's land were in the same shape. It was cold. Dustings of snow covered the shivering troops. They were all tired, they were hurting, and they were far from home. The madness of the summer and fall months had become a Christmas Eve sitting in the mud with cold food, longing for the simple Christmases of the past with friends, family, warmth, and laughter.

Then the stillness of the night on that Christmas Eve was broken. Some of the soldiers began singing Christmas carols. Other units up and down the front line began picking up the tune and singing it, from one army to another. And then the troops on the other side of no-man's land began singing with them. The songs were the same, whether they were sung in Belgian, French, English or German. The meaning was the same. The memories of past Christmases were suddenly not so far away.

The soldiers shouted Christmas greetings to one another. Eventually, informal truces were arranged, and they agreed to come out of the trenches to greet one another in the spirit of Christmas. They did not wait for orders, they simply followed their hearts and their consciences. The troops walked toward each other, shook hands, and wished each other well. They put aside their arms and exchanged drinks, food, and small gifts of tobacco and chocolates from home. As dawn broke, the truce continued. Troops arranged soccer games between the units and between the opposing armies. German troops allowed French and Belgian troops across the lines to send Christmas letters to their families in occupied territories. The singing and laughter continued through the day. Small gestures of human decency marked Christmas between the throngs of troops that had been at each other's throats just days earlier. It has been estimated by historians that perhaps 100,000 troops participated in the Christmas Truce.

For a few hours, it no longer mattered who was right or who

was wrong or even who was winning. The ideologies and the colors of the flags and the uniforms no longer mattered. What mattered for those few hours was their common humanity and the spirit of the holiday.

The spirit of the truce would not last, unfortunately. By Christmas night and into Dec. 26, the troops had mostly returned to the trenches. In some areas, the truce would stretch on for a few more days. While the Christmas Truce was remembered by many on the front lines, commanders made sure there was no repeat of the informal cease-fire in 1915 or beyond as they ordered raids and artillery barrages on those Christmas Days. News of the informal truce was suppressed on both sides. In the months and years afterward, the world continued to disintegrate, dragging the United States into the war by 1917.

The war would continue for three more blood-stained years. In the end, more than 15 million people had died and much of Europe lay in tatters. But in the middle of the fighting, the armies stopped for a few hours to remember what Christmas meant. For that short time, they realized that even the harshest of differences could be put aside. They remembered that peace was always an option. For a few hours, they cast aside their fears in the pursuit of hope and joy and the dream that the spirit of the day did not have to end. They recognized what Christmas was about: a day of giving, of peace, and of brotherhood.

In a world torn apart by division and fear today, the Christmas Truce is a gift for the world even more than a century later.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Did You Know...?

On this day, Nov 3:

- **1793** – Stephen F. Austin, American businessman and politician is born.
- **1908** – William Howard Taft is elected the 27th President of the United States.
- **1911** – Chevrolet officially enters the automobile market in competition with the Ford Model T.
- **1949** – Solomon R. Guggenheim, American art collector and philanthropist, founded the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum dies.
- **1957** – Sputnik program: The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2. On board is the first animal to enter orbit, a dog named Laika.
- **1973** – Mariner program: NASA launches the Mariner 10 toward Mercury. On March 29, 1974, it becomes the first space probe to reach that planet.
- **2014** – One World Trade Center officially opens in New York City, replacing the Twin Towers after they were destroyed during the September 11 attacks.

From the Daughters of the American Revolution

Grand Opening of Fort Worth History Center

Mary Isham Keith Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented the DAR Excellence in Historic Preservation Certificate and Medal to Linda Barrett, Fort Worth Library collections are now available for Genealogy Unit Head at the Grand Opening of the new Fort Worth History Center on Saturday, Oct. 22.



MIK Chapter Honorary Regent **Gwen Boyd** and **Betsy Pepper** visit at the Grand Opening of the Fort Worth History Center.

The new Fort Worth History Center is located at 501 E. Bolt Street, just off I-35, across from La Gran Plaza in south Fort Worth. Its extensive archives and history collections are now available for researchers, genealogists, and historians in the area.



Mary Isham Keith Chapter Regent **Diana Lussier** presented the DAR Excellence in Historic Preservation award to **Linda Barrett**.



Pictured left: Mary Isham Keith Chapter members attending Grand Opening of the Fort Worth History Center are: (l-r) **Karen Johnson, Becky Gray, Gwen Boyd, Katie Crow, Diana Lussier, Dawn Needles, and Michele Elekes.**

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club - Project Linus Volunteers Needed

The First Monday Quilt Club will meet at Bethany Christian Church located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7. Ladies may bring snack foods to share with others if desired.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization. The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, 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.

Come join the fun and enjoy fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community by being a blessing to others.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org. For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 4

AM - A chance of showers, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. High near 78. South wind 15-20mph, gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation 80%.
PM - An 80% chance of showers before 1 a.m., then a chance thunderstorms after. Low around 53. South wind around 15mph becoming west after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 5:

AM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. West wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 50.



Sunday, Nov. 6:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 75.
PM - Clear, with a low around 55.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)