

# River Oaks News

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From Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office

## Half-Payment Property Tax Deadline July 1

Wendy Burgess, Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, reminds Tarrant County taxpayers that they have an option when paying property taxes.

Taxpayers may pay their current year property taxes in two equal installments. To qualify for this half payment option, taxpayers must have paid one half of the total property taxes owed by Nov. 30, 2023.

If a taxpayer makes a qualifying and timely first installment payment, the second payment is due by July 1, 2024. No penalty or interest will accrue on the second half until after July 1, 2024.

The Tarrant County Tax Office began mailing property tax statements in mid-October. Most taxpayers should have received their statement by now. We are in the process of mailing statements to taxpayers with an Over 65 or Disability Exemption, and it may be mid-November before they are received. Failure to receive a notice does not impact the validity of the tax or penalty and interest imposed.

If your mortgage company escrows your taxes, the property tax statement was sent to the mortgage company the second week of October.

If a statement hasn't been received, one can be printed from our new payment portal at Tax Online, or email taxoffice@tarrantcountytx.gov to request one. Sign up for Paperless Billing on our Property Tax page and have future statements delivered electronically to your email.

Partial payments are accepted at any time after statements are mailed.

Payments can be made in person at any of the eight Tax Office locations. Operating hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There is no additional fee for e-checks. Electronic checks and credit cards are accepted over the internet at Tax Online or by phone at 817-884-1110.

There is a fee for the use of debit and credit cards payable directly to the card provider. We highly encourage feeless payment by e-check to avert any potential issues with a physical check while in transit to our office.

Contact us with questions at 817-884-1100 or by email at taxof-fice@tarrantcountytx.gov.

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## Dell DeHay Law Library

The Law Library was established in 1944 but did not officially open until October 1945. Over the next 30 years, the Law Library's staff and collections grew.

By 1979, it had received acclaim for its services, in large part, due to Dell DeHay, who served as Librarian from 1962 to 1979. That year, the Law Library became the Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County in her honor. Continued growth and expansion led the Law Library to move to its present quarters on the fourth floor of the 1895 Courthouse during the 1983 renovation. For more about the Law Library's history, visit our History Timeline.

The Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County serves the legal research needs of the Tarrant County legal community and the general public. The Law Library is funded by a combination of a portion of court filing fees and user service fees. The Law Library receives direction and guidance from the Tarrant County Commissioners and the County Administrator.

To view a PDF list of all library policies, follow the Law Library Policies link.

The Law Library is located on the fourth floor of the 1895 Courthouse, in room 420, at 100 W. Weatherford Street, in downtown Fort Worth.

Follow this link to view a map showing the area around the 1895 Courthouse.

#### **Parking**

The most convenient parking is in the Tarrant County Calhoun Street Parking Garage. It is located on the corner of Weatherford and Calhoun. Calhoun is a one-way street running north to south. The garage entrance is on Calhoun across from the side entrance of the Family Law Center. Be prepared to pay to park. The parking garage accepts all major credit/debit cards.

Parking is also available at parking meters on all four sides of the Courthouse. Most of the meters have a two-hour time limit and are strictly enforced. If you have handicap plates or a placard, parking at the meters is free, but time limits still apply.

#### **Public Transportation**

Patrons using public transportation can use the following links to help plan their trip to Downtown Fort Worth.

- Plan Your Trip Trinity Metro Trip Planner
- Trinity Metro Routes and Schedules

From StatePoint Media

## Furry Friends Can Cause Distracted Driving - a Few Tips to Stay Safe



Summer road trip season is here! Whether your vacation plans include national parks, sandy beaches or major metropolises, you may be thinking of bringing the entire family along, even your four-legged companions.

While we love having them near, dogs aren't always safe passengers. A recent poll commissioned by Selective Insurance, a leading home, auto and business insurance carrier, found that in the past 12 months, dogs caused a majority of drivers to be distracted on U.S. roadways.

The study, conducted online by The Harris Poll, found that of licensed drivers who recently (over the last 12 months) drove with their dogs, 91 percent admitted to interacting with them while driving, including interactions requiring the driver to take their hands off the wheel or eyes off the road, and 48 percent acknowledged that they are more distracted when their dog is in the vehicle than when it is not.

"We love our dogs. However, some of their behaviors in the car, such as sitting on drivers' laps, jumping between seats, or sticking their heads out the window, divert drivers' attention from operating a vehicle," said Scott Smith, vice president and director of Safety Management at Selective Insurance. "To help keep our roads safe, drivers need to minimize distractions. That means our beloved pet passengers should be restrained in the back seat, and if they need tending, drivers should first pull over to a safe place."

Some of the more hazardous behaviors that drivers engaged in while recently on the who have ever driven with their dog convehicle, including swerving out of the lane (11 percent) and hard braking (13 percent).

these tips from Selective Insurance:

- and back seats.
- Use a dog seatbelt, safety harness or provide your dog with some protection if there is an accident. A significant 70 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with in the vehicle. Yet, 82 percent of drivers who recently drove with their dogs agree that having an unrestrained dog in a moving

road with their dog include giving them restraint is risky and could put you in viofood/treats/water (36 percent), taking a lation of the law. Some states have animal photo/video of their dog (27 percent) or restraint laws for vehicles to help keep drivholding them in place (23 percent) while ers safe and focused. However, only 24 perdriving. In addition, 40 percent of drivers cent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say they are very familiar fessed to various reckless driving behaviors with such laws in their state. That's comas a direct result of having their dog in the pared to 34 percent who say they didn't know these laws existed.

• Plan ahead and identify rest stops along This summer, as you head out with your your route so you and your dog can take a dog on journeys near and far, help minimize break. If you need to make an unplanned driving distractions in your vehicle with stop, avoid the side of the road and instead look for a quiet parking lot. Use these occa-• Have your dog ride in the back seat and sions to give your dog food, a little exercise consider using a partition between the front and most importantly in summer, plenty of

For additional survey findings, along anchored crate to prevent distractions and with tips to keep roadways safe and K-9 companions secure, visit Selective.com. For survey methodology, visit selective.com.

"More pets in homes, especially with the their dogs say their dogs were unrestrained introduction of the pandemic puppy, means more Americans than ever may be hitting the roads with their pooch on road trips this summer. Drivers should understand the risks vehicle can distract the driver. Not using a associated with taking them along for the ride," said Smith.



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From Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney

## **Citizen Prosecutor Academy**



The Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA) is an 12-week program designed to give citizens an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system in Tarrant County.

With our Assistant Criminal District Attorneys and Investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain an insider's perspective on how the system works.

Classes are held on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Graduation will be hosted upon completion of the Academy program.

The Fall Academy begins Thursday, Sept. 5, and graduation will be Thursday, Nov. 21.

This topics of the past academy classes have included:

- Adult Sexual Assault
- The Civil Division
- Conviction Integrity
- Digital Forensic and Technical Services
- Diversion Programs
- Felony: An Overview
- Gang Unit
- Grand Jury
- Intake
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Intoxication Manslaughter, DWI and 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
  - White Collar/Public Integrity Crimes

Follow this link to view the Criminal District Attorney Prosecutor Academy Application.

For more information on the CDA Citizen Prosecutor Academy please call: 817-884-1400.

## Donate Plasma to Save Lives this Summer

Plasma donation is an impactful, meanthis summer. By donating plasma, you can ing plasma. help people like Machelle Pecoraro.

Pecoraro lives with Hereditary Angioedema (HAE), a rare disease that can cause attacks of swelling, and often pain, in specific parts of the body, including the stomach, hands, feet, arms, legs, genitals, throat and face. Like with many serious and rare diseases, the therapies used to treat HAE require human plasma donations.

#### **Donors' Impact**

"Plasma donors directly impact my ability to live a full and productive life. Therapies made from these donations allow me and my son, who also lives with HAE, to receive ongoing treatment for our conditions," says Pecoraro.

Plasma, a straw-colored liquid that carries red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets, helps to maintain a steady level of blood pressure, supports the immune system and delivers critical nutrients to cells.

Plasma donations are used to replace crucial proteins people living with rare and serious diseases lack, and to produce therapies that treat diseases such as primary immune deficiencies, hereditary angioedema, hemophilia, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency and various bleeding and neurological disorders.

There is a critical and ongoing need for raro. plasma donations, as these life-saving medicines treat people in more than 100 countries around the world. Every year, it takes more than 1,200 plasma donations to treat one hemophilia patient, more than 900 plasma donations to treat one alpha-1 patient and more than 130 plasma donations to treat one primary immune deficiency patient.

"Plasma donors do the amazing, as plasma is used to develop life-saving therapies for people living with rare and serious diseases. We encourage those who can donate to visit a nearby CSL Plasma donation center," says Rachpal Malhotra, MD, head of plasma donor safety, CSL Plasma.

Eligible, qualified plasma donors also ingful way to give back to your community receive payments in connection with donat-

#### **The Donation Process**

between the ages of 18-74, weigh at least side of Fort Worth while still remaining inpiercings within the last four months. You must also meet the health and screening requirements and have valid identification with a permanent address.

location, the collection process takes approximately 90 minutes after the first dona-

six 8-ounce glasses of water, fruit juice or view the brochure for the program at this other caffeine-free liquid at least two to three hours before donation, avoid caffeinated beverages, avoid alcohol of any type information, please call Tarrant County for 24 hours beforehand, eat a meal prior to donation and get adequate sleep.

CSL Plasma has 320 plasma donation centers across the United States.

Visit cslplasma.com for more information and to find a center near you. The CSL Plasma donor app is also available for Apple and Android device users.

"I thank all donors and encourage anyone who is considering donating to remember that doing so does make an impact for people like me and my son," says Peco-

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From Tarrant County

## **Tarrant County's** Homeowner Repair Program

Tarrant County's Homeowner Repair To donate, you must be in good health, Program is available for those who live out-110 pounds, and have had no tattoos or side Tarrant County lines. Some repairs available with this program include electrical, plumbing, roofing and weatherization.

Your home must be valued under \$239,000. There are also certain income Although wait times may vary at each guidelines that must be carefully followed. In addition to those, you must have owned and lived in your house for at least one year, have a clear title to the property, have paid It is recommended that you drink four to your real estate taxes, and more. You can website.

> If you have any questions or need more Community Development at 817-850-7940.



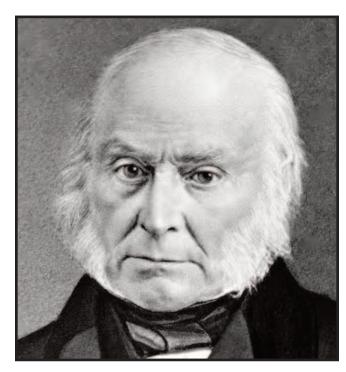
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## The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819



Before the Texas Revolution and the annexation debates of the 1830s and 1840s, portions of Texas were briefly considered part of the United States, all stemming from the Louisiana Purchase. With the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States doubled in size overnight. America had pushed far to the West into the wide expanses of the High Plains and to the frontiers of Texas.

The French government was very evasive in what they considered to be the extent of the Louisiana Territory. The question of whether the United States owned any portion of Texas was ultimately put in the hands of one of America's top diplomats, John Quincy Adams.

The French connection to Texas dated back into the 1600s. In 1682, French explorer Robert Cavalier, Seuer de la Salle, claimed the entire Mississippi River Valley and all of its tributaries for France. This, by default, included the Red River, stretching to include the entire modern Texas panhandle and the watershed in the counties all along the modern North Texas border with Oklahoma. It also came to include the French claim on the Sabine River and the lands of what is now most of East Texas and the failed colony in Matagorda Bay.

John Quincy Adams, born in 1767, was issue. the son of John Adams, the nation's second president and part of the committee that wrote the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson. Like his father, he was

and later to Great Britain.

would serve as ambassador to Prussia from luctantly gave in. 1797 until 1801 before returning to the from Massachusetts in 1803.

France had turned the entire area over to Spain after the end of the French and Indian into the Sabine and Red River Valleys. War in 1763.

Spain was forced to give the land back to France. Uncertain what to do with the termillion (or about \$335 million in 2019 dol- on Feb. 22, 1819. lars). There was brief debate over what ter-France was the rightful owner of the terrihad the authority to even purchase the land. Seeing the overwhelming opportunity, the United States Senate, including Adams,

had regained its independence but was a rapidly weakening power. Spain faced rebellion in its colonies from Argentina to Mexico. Spain was unable to control Florida, and raids by the Seminoles into the United States had become a contentious

Spanish control in the area included the entire modern state of Florida, but the areas of the Alabama and Mississippi panhandles and the far eastern reaches of Louisiana east

a skilled attorney and learned the art of di- of the Mississippi River and north of Lake plomacy while his father served as the Pontchartrain had been seized by American American ambassador to The Netherlands settlers in 1810, even though Spain still had legal ownership. Adams entered into nego-In 1794, President George Washington tiations with Spanish Ambassador Luis de appointed Adams as ambassador to The Onis to purchase Florida. Spain had re-Netherlands, at only the age of 27. Two jected earlier offers, but with Spain facing a years later, Washington also named him to collapsing position in the Americas and the double as ambassador to Portugal. He threat of American military power, Onis re-

Onis, however, was not willing to give United States. He became the U.S. Senator up everything in exchange for nothing. As negotiations continued, Onis pressed for Not long after Adams arrived in Wash- clear border between the U.S. and Spain, a ington, DC, Congress learned about the request that Adams was willing to support. treaty with France purchasing Louisiana. As American claims on East Texas were shaky at best, Adams gave ground on claims

The Adams-Onis Treaty would acquire Forty years later, with Spain under con- East Florida and also set a western border at trol of French leader Napoleon Bonaparte, the Sabine River to the Thirty-Second Parallel and North to the Red River. The border would then run along the Red River to the ritory and needing money to finance his One-Hundredth Meridian to the Arkansas wars, Napoleon had his ministers sell the River and then to the Rocky Mountains and territory to an eager United States for \$15 to the Pacific Ocean. The treaty was signed

The treaty was approved by the Senate ritory was included with Louisiana, whether though there were many expansionists upset by what they saw as the "giveaway" of tory, and whether the federal government Texas. When the subject of annexing the independent Texas arose in the 1830s and 1840s, many supporters loudly called for the "re-annexation" of Texas. The treaty nevervoted to approve the treaty by a vote of 26- theless gained Florida for the Union and gave East and North Texas its modern Adams had become Secretary of State boundary. It also gave America a solid under President James Monroe in 1817. By claim on the Pacific Ocean as a boundary. 1818, the United States faced a Spain that Texas would later be admitted, becoming the 28th state admitted into the Union on Dec. 28, 1845.

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## Weekend Forecast



## Friday, June 21:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Light southeast wind becoming east southeast 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 74.



#### Saturday, June 22:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 94. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 76.



### Sunday, June 23:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 97. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 78.

## **Extended Forecast Click Here**