

83rd Year No. 25 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • June 22, 2023 From Tarrant County

Second Half-Payment of Property Tax Due June 30

Wendy Burgess, Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, reminds Tarrant County taxpayers of the second half payment deadline.Property taxpayers who chose to pay half of their 2022 property taxes in November must make their second half payment by June 30.

This penalty-and-interest-free option is available to those who already made the first half payment on their property tax account by Nov. 30, 2022.

Accounts not paid by June 30, will incur a 12 percent penalty and a one percent interest charge as outlined in Texas Property Tax Code. Interest continues to accrue one percent per month thereafter until paid.

Payments may be made by using one of the following options:

• Online: Select the PAY NOW button to enter our newly designed payment portal from our website. Online payments must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time on June 30 to avoid penalty and interest.

• Phone: 817-884-1110 for Customer Service Representative Payments Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to midnight

• Mail: Checks/cashier checks/money orders are accepted by mail and must be postmarked by the USPS on or before June 30. We highly suggest taking any payments to be mailed inside a USPS facility, having it hand stamped by the staff, or deposited into a

From the City of River Oaks All American Festival This Saturday!

Victory Church, located at 5116 River Oaks Blvd. will host the annual All American Festival on Saturday, June 24 at 5 p.m.

This event is fun for the whole family. Fireworks will begin after sundown.

mail receptacle inside the building.

• In person: Payments may be made in person at any Tarrant County Tax Office location. Visit our website for a comprehensive list of locations.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover online, over the phone and in person. All debit and credit card payments are assessed a convenience fee by the credit card companies. However, there is no fee for e-Check payments.

Our Tax Office customer service representatives are available at 817-884-1100 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. You may send your property tax questions by email to taxoffice@tarrantcountytx.gov or by chat from our website.

From the American Red Cross Critical Need for Blood Donors

Your blood donation is needed now to overcome 26,000 donation shortfall last month. Help can't wait.

It takes less time to donate blood than to watch a classic summer camp movie. Remember those nostalgic story lines with the thrill of adventure, new friendships and the great outdoors? Channel that excitement and those I-can-do-anything feelings to help save lives: kick off summer with a blood, platelet or plasma donation!

When you come to give through June 30, we'll say thanks with a \$10 gift card by email to the merchant of your choice. You could rent a movie or stock up on popcorn! Plus, you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package, including a laser wireless projector and screen, projector tripod, smokeless firepit, Adirondack chair set with four chairs and two tables and a movie night snack package!

Visit https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html today to enter your zip code and find the donation center nearest you, check eligibility requirements and more.

SUBSCRIBE!

Click Here to have the FREE digital edition of the *River Oaks News* sent to your inbox every week!

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the City of Benbrook **Vendors Wanted for Benbrook Heritage Fest 2023**

30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Dutch Branch Park. This year's event will be packed full of family-friendly fun entertainment, music performances, food, artisan vendors, a pumpkin patch, and much more!

Process

1. Submit your application and make payment. Applications are not considered complete until payment has been received by Heritage Fest Management.

2. This is a juried event. Applications will be reviewed starting June 30. Those who submitted their applications on or before June 30 will be notified of their acceptance by July 7. After June 30, applications will be reviewed weekly, and vendors will be notified 10 business days after application is turned in. If you aren't selected, you will be refunded your entire application fee in a timely manner. Heritage Fest Management reserves the right to limit the number of vendors with similar type products. This is to help all vendors succeed.

3. Booth spaces will be assigned beginning July 31. You will receive confirmation and further direction once your booth space has been assigned.

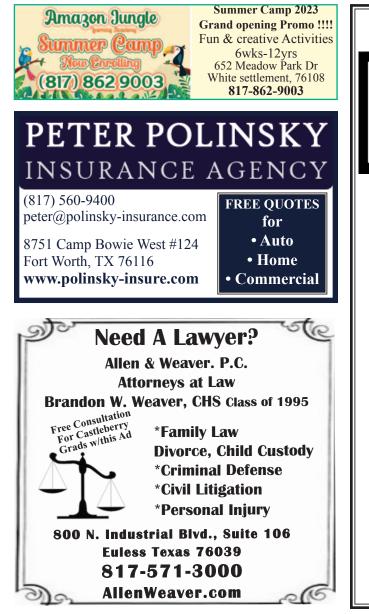
Please note that we do not offer booths for political groups/or-

Benbrook is saddling up to host Heritage Fest on Saturday, Sept. ganizations, political candidates, or religious groups/organizations at Heritage Fest. In addition, Heritage Fest Management, at their sole discretion, may turn down any vendor application reserving the right to limit the type of vendors, the number of similar vendors, and the specific product(s) displayed and/or sold at a vendor's booth.

Your application will be considered complete once payment has been received. To pay by credit card, call: 817-249-6990. To pay by check, mail to: City of Benbrook, ATTN: Heritage Fest Management, 911 Winscott Rd., Benbrook, TX 76126.

Click here to complete the online vendor application.

The Castleberry High School Track Complex will be closed July 2 - July 9 for repainting and repairs. The Complex will reopen July 10. (pending any weather delays)





Suburban Newspapers, Inc. ~ Veteran Owned ~



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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From StatePoint Media **Furry Friends Can Cause Distracted Driving:** Here's How 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





White Settlement, Texas 76108 817-246-9719 Open: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 3 PM Closed: Sunday & Monday

http://www.wsmuseum.com **FREE ADMISSION - GROUPS WELCOME!** interactions requiring the driver to take their 48 percent acknowledged that they are more than when it is not.

drivers' attention from operating a vehicle," of Safety Management at Selective Insurance. "To help keep our roads safe, drivers our beloved pet passengers should be restrained in the back seat, and if they need safe place."

Some of the more hazardous behaviors isted. that drivers engaged in while recently on the road with their dog include giving them your route so you and your dog can take a food/treats/water (36 percent), taking a photo/video of their dog (27 percent) or holding them in place (23 percent) while look for a quiet parking lot. Use these occadriving. In addition, 40 percent of drivers sions to give your dog food, a little exercise who have ever driven with their dog confessed to various reckless driving behaviors as a direct result of having their dog in the vehicle, including swerving out of the lane with tips to keep roadways safe and K-9 (11 percent) and hard braking (13 percent).

This summer, as you head out with your dog on journeys near and far, help minimize driving distractions in your vehicle with introduction of the pandemic puppy, means these tips from Selective Insurance:

• Have your dog ride in the back seat and consider using a partition between the front and back seats.

• Use a dog seatbelt, safety harness or anhands off the wheel or eyes off the road, and chored crate to prevent distractions and provide your dog with some protection if there distracted when their dog is in the vehicle is an accident. A significant 70 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their "We love our dogs. However, some of dogs say their dogs were unrestrained in the their behaviors in the car, such as sitting on vehicle. Yet, 82 percent of drivers who redrivers' laps, jumping between seats, or cently drove with their dogs agree that havsticking their heads out the window, divert ing an unrestrained dog in a moving vehicle can distract the driver. Not using a restraint said Scott Smith, vice president and director is risky and could put you in violation of the law. Some states have animal restraint laws for vehicles to help keep drivers safe and foneed to minimize distractions. That means cused. However, only 24 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say they are very familiar with such laws in tending, drivers should first pull over to a their state. That's compared to 34 percent who say they didn't know these laws ex-

> • Plan ahead and identify rest stops along break. If you need to make an unplanned stop, avoid the side of the road and instead and most importantly in summer, plenty of water.

> For additional survey findings, along companions secure, visit Selective.com. For survey methodology, visit selective.com.

> "More pets in homes, especially with the more Americans than ever may be hitting the roads with their pooch on road trips this summer. Drivers should understand the risks associated with taking them along for the ride," said Smith.





Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

From Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers

We currently have 43 open meal delivery routes. We need your help in filling these routes to ensure our homebound, elderly, disabled, and food-insecure neighbors receive the nutritious meals and daily safety checks they depend on us to provide!

Are you currently a substitute driver and would like to commit to a weekly route? Please let us know by contacting our VP of Volunteer Services at 817-258-6426 or email Judith.Bell@mealsonwheels.org.

Already a meal delivery volunteer? Encourage family, friends or co-workers to follow your lead!

What Does It Take To Be a Volunteer?

Anyone who can spare 1.5 hours for one day per week, Monday through Friday, can change someone's life for the better!

Volunteers Must Be Able To:

- Provide their own transportation and gasoline
- Deliver between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Meals On Wheels will provide you with volunteer orientation, insulated containers to transport food and a delivery route sheet with a map.

Learn more here.



Public Library

THURSDAYS @ 2:30 PM JUNE 15 - AUGUST 3

@wspubliclibrary #wspltinkerlab

8215 WHITE SETTLEMENT ROAD 817-367-0166 | WSPUBLICLIBRARY@WSTX.US WWW.WSTX.US/181/LIBRARY

Summer Bucket List

star gaze have a family picnic make a bird feeder have ice cream for dinner fly paper airplanes make s'mores in your backyard make homemade play dough have a backyard camp out catch lightning bugs make a pillow/blanket fort make ice cream in a bag blow bubbles play charades run through sprinkler pick fruit make tie-dye shirts go for a bike ride set up a slip & slide go camping neighborhood relay races homemade sno-cone making put on a puppet show make chalk art go on a nature walk play frisbee Find a creek to stomp in play kickball splash in rain puddles hike at a local park visit a local historical site movie night visit a local cave backyard movie night learn car maintenance make flower chains have a picnic search for a 4 leaf clover eat breakfast for dinner ao to an area pool go for a night swim batting w/water balloons summer book club night bowling w/water balloons make kool-aid popsicles make a solar oven & cook have a craft night play leap frog dance partu play red rover family service project game night science experiment puzzle night nature scavenger hunt finger paint homemade nerf gun targets make homemade pizza bing watch a family show have a homemade spa dau play frisbee golf family karaoke night feed the ducks make an obstacle course fly a kite geocaching roller skate outside

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

A day to get ready for the upcoming school year with FREE School Supplies, Hair Cuts, Food, Community & Health Resources, and a lot of fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

July 29, 2023 | 10 AM to 12 PM 1501 Jim Wright Fwy, Ft Worth, TX 76108 REGISTER by July 15th at gbcfortworth.com/backtoschool

Grace Baptist Church will provide all services for free while supplies last. This is for students on free/reduced lunch.



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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute Most Decorated Texan of WWI, Marcelino Serna by Dr. Ken Bridges

The generation that fought World War I is now gone, but their legacy of bravery continues to live on.

One of those figures was Private **Marcelino Serna** of El Paso, one of the most highly decorated men of the war. As an immigrant, he fought with uncommon bravery to defend his new home.

Serna was born in April 1896 in a



mining camp in Chihuahua, one of the Mexican states bordering Texas. His family was poor, but Serna wanted a better life for himself. In 1915, determined to find work, he left his family at the age of 19. He came to El Paso in search of the American Dream. Initially, he did not speak English but was able to find work on a railroad maintenance crew. From there, he found his way to Colorado where he worked as a farm hand.

In 1917, the United States entered World War I and initiated the first draft since the Civil War. Federal officials stopped Serna in Colorado and asked his draft status. In spite of his status as a Mexican citizen, Serna, like so many other immigrants, volunteered to fight for his new country. After three weeks of basic training at Camp Funston, Kansas, he was assigned to the 335th Infantry of the 89th Division and sent to France.

In France, his unit found itself in the middle of fierce battles, some of the worst faced by American units. German assaults were relentless. Casualties were high. Serna and the men of his unit fought on. On Sept. 12, 1918, his unit was pinned down by intense machine gun fire. Twelve troops were killed. Serna volunteered to scout ahead to find a way to knock out the German positions. He crept alone until he reached the machine gun, threw four grenades at them, killing six. He captured eight others and returned to his unit. Two weeks later, he followed a German sniper to the enemy trenches and laid down fire. He killed 26 German soldiers and captured the remaining 24.

For his actions, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest medal in the army. He was personally decorated by Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. Marshal Ferdinand Foch, commander of the French forces, awarded him the Croix de Guerre, France's highest award. The Italian army also honored him for his bravery. He was the first

Hispanic ever awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. When army officials discovered that he was a citizen of Mexico, the army offered to send him back to Mexico as a hero. Serna declined, preferring to stay with his fellow soldiers and help his adopted country fight on to final victory.

He received two Purple Hearts for injuries under fire. In November 1918, just days before the end of the war, he was shot in the legs by a German sniper. He returned home from the war as one of the most highly decorated Texans of World War I.

In May 1919, Serna was given an honorable discharge and left the army. He married in 1922, a long marriage that produced six children. He officially became a U.S. citizen in 1924. He took a series of various jobs before settling in El Paso and working at a canning factory. Not long afterward, he began working at El Paso's Fort Bliss as a civilian worker in the quartermaster's office. Some time after the opening of the William Beaumont General Hospital at Fort Bliss, Serna took a job working at the facility. He spent many years working as a plumber, still helping his fellow soldiers by keeping the hospital running, before his retirement in 1961. He remained active in his church and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The only Hispanic to receive the Medal of Honor during World War I was Private David Barkley of Laredo, and one of only three Texans to be so awarded. Barkley died on Nov. 9, 1918, two days before the end of the war, when he drowned while completing a scouting mission against the German lines. He was only 19. In spite of Serna's actions and numerous efforts by politicians and community organizations, he never received the Medal of Honor during his lifetime.

Serna died at his home in El Paso in 1992 at the age of 95. He was buried with full military honors. In 1995, Texas Congressman Ron Coleman proposed legislation to posthumously award Serna with the Medal of Honor. The measure did not pass.

In 2017, however, the port of entry at Tornillo, just southeast of El Paso, was renamed in Serna's honor. Another congressional attempt to honor Serna with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2021 failed.

In 2022, State Sen. Cesar Blanco of El Paso pushed through a measure that gave Serna the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, one of only 16 Texans ever so honored.



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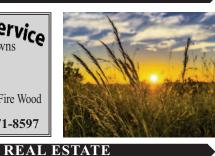
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MISC. FOR SALE

GREENWOOD FUNERAL HOME Two Plots for sale by private owner in the Live Oak Gardens, Lots 3083 #4 & 3122 # 1 & 2 Valued by GWFH this week for \$6,000 per plot. Will sell for \$ 5,800. each, owner will pay to transfer title(s). Call (817) 336-0584, ask for Family Services to see the plots. Must sell, moving out of city.

GET NOTICED! Advertise in this publication! **Click Here to Begin**

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, June 23:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny; high near 95. SE wind 10 to 15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.
<u>PM</u> - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. SE wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.





<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot; high near 99. S wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear; low around 80. S wind 15 to 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.



Sunday, June 25:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot; high near 105. S/SW wind 15 to 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear; low around 81.

Extended Forecast Click Here