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From the City of River Oaks

City Hall Holiday Schedule

River Oaks City Hall located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd. will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 for Christmas, and also on Monday, Jan. 1 for New Years Day.

There will not be any residential Garbage Collection on Christmas Day, but there will be residential garbage collection on both Dec. 26, and again on New Years Day.



From Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

Suburban Newspapers Holiday Closure

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. will be closed from Dec. 25 through Dec. 29, and Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. There will be no newspapers for the week of Dec. 28.

The deadline to appear in the Jan. 4 digital publications is Friday, Dec. 22 at noon.

Offices will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.



MAY YOUR
HOLIDAYS
BE
MERRY &
BRIGHT!

Dear Readers,

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you and your loved ones have good health, success and joy in 2024.

Thank you for letting us share your accomplishments, preserve your memories and promote your businesses in our newspapers. We truly could not do this without you and look forward to continuing our friendships in the new year.

Sincerely,

Suburban Newspapers, Inc.
publishers of the

White Settlement Bomber News, Benbrook News and River Oaks News

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Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas

Scholarship Applications Accepted Through April 1, 2024

ald House Charities of Greater North Texas or national origin. wants to help you further your education and achieve your goals.

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Since 1988, RMHC of Greater North About RMHC of Greater North Texas Texas has awarded more than \$2.5M in college scholarships to local high school seniors in North Texas. Apply today and see your passions come to life now through April 1, 2024 at https://rmhcntx.org/scholarships/.

To qualify for a RMHC scholarship students must:

• RMHC Scholars – ALL students can apply regardless of race, color, creed, reli-

Whatever your passion, Ronald McDon-gion, sexual orientation, gender, disability,

- Be a high school senior
- Be younger than 21 years old
- Be eligible to attend a two- or four-Maybe it's a doctor, a writer, a filmmaker, year college or university with a full course of study
 - Be a legal U.S. resident
 - Live in the geographic areas of the
 - Submit a complete application and all

Click here to download the Scholarship application.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHC of Greater North Texas), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Our programs are grassroots-driven to enable us to offer help where children and families need it most – right in their own communities. RMHC of Greater North Texas is part of a global network of Chapters making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in 65 countries and regions around the world.



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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

The WARM Place, a Grief Support Center for Children

How to Refer a Family to The WARM Place:

Children who are referred to The WARM Place may have experienced the death loss of: a parent, a sibling, a grandparent, an aunt, uncle, cousin, a close friend or a classmate.

Steps to follow:

- The legal guardian of the child/children contacts The WARM Place. Call any time after the death loss to schedule an by age: children, ages 5 to 8; preteens, ages 9 to 12 and teenintake/interview appointment.
- Families can call any time during office hours (8 a.m. to 5 dren. p.m.) if they need to talk to someone. The family comes to The General Information: WARM Place for an in-take/interview. The intake/interview is members, including children and legal guardian(s), must be present at the intake.

The Objective of the Interview:

The family can share their death loss experience. The tour ing in the grief process and group dynamics. of the facility alleviates possible fears of coming to The WARM is assigned a group night based on who has died in the child's www.thewarmplace.org for more information. life.

Support groups for children offered at The WARM Place are:

- Parent loss includes step-parent
- Sibling loss biological or step-sibling
- Grandparent loss cousin, aunt, uncle, friend, or any other significant death loss

Each night the support groups meet, the children are divided agers, ages 13 to 18. The guardian(s) must attend with the chil-

Groups meet every other week. Families attend The WARM during the day and lasts about 1-1/2 to 2 hours. All family Place for as long as it is necessary to resolve death loss issues.

> Additional groups are provided for Young Adults, ages 19 to 25. Groups are available for preschoolers, ages 3- 1/2 to 5.

> Groups are led by facilitators who have had extensive train-

There is never a fee for families to participate in The WARM Place. The intake/interview is conducted by a counselor and Place program, located at 809 Lipscomb St. Call 817-870-2272, time is spent with adult(s) and children separately. The family email to info@thewarmplace.org, or go to their website:







Christmas and New Year's Drivers Urged to Move Over or Slow Down for Tow Trucks and Other Emergency Vehicles

the side of the road with their emergency lights activated, do you know what to do?

Texas law requires drivers to slow down at least 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit or, if able, to change lanes when they're passing a first responder stopped on the roadside.

Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads during the Christmas and New Year's holidays and chances are, they may break down, get involved in crashes or be stopped by law enforcement. Pay attention to what's happening around you and be prepared to react quickly.

TDLR regulates tow truck companies and tow truck drivers, driver education and driving safety courses, and motorcycle safety courses, and as always, the agency asks all drivers to please slow down or move over when you see emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

Tow truck drivers work hard every day to help people who are stranded on the side of the road. And, like everyone else, they are

From Suburban Newspapers Reader Submissions

Local Girl Scouts Shop for Angel Tree Gifts

Girl Scouts from Troops 2508, 2518, 2528, 2578 and 2588 recently shopped for Angel Tree gifts. They learned how to stretch their dollars and stay within a budget.

Shopping Scouts include: (back row) Paulina, Lucy, Georgie, Kassie, Nadia; (front row) Ena, Emma, Maliah, Swayze and Terrwyn.



If you see tow trucks and other emergency vehicles stopped on anxious to return home safely each night. Holiday memories are made when family gathers. Please do your part to make that happen

Safety tips for driving this holiday season:

- Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to re-energize.
 - Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.
 - Designate a (sober) driver.
- Stay off the mobile phone this includes texting. Designate a "co-pilot" to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Buckle up all occupants of the vehicle, every trip no matter how short. Most traffic crashes happen close to home.
 - Traveling by motorcycle? Wear a helmet.
- Stay weather-aware. If it's snowy or icy, you'll need to slow down significantly so you don't slide on unexpected icy spots. If it's raining heavily, turn around and don't drown if water is running across the road. Only two feet of rushing water can sweep away a vehicle.
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly – the Texas way!

From Tarrant Area Food Bank

TAFB to Host Mega Mobile Distribution Event Dec. 21 at Weatherford High School

Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) will be hosting a Mega Mobile Distribution in Parker County, ensuring neighbors in need can get food for their families to prepare a nice holiday meal. The event follows Tarrant Area Food Bank's recent Mega Mobile Distribution in Tarrant County at Dickies Arena which served more than 2,000 families, exceeding the Food Bank's projections.

To date, TAFB has served more than 16,000 families through its Holiday Mega Mobile Distributions.

The Tarrant Area Food Bank West Branch will host a Mega Mobile on Thursday, Dec. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Weatherford High School parking lot, located at 2121 Bethel Road Weatherford 76087.

Attendees of the mobile distribution can expect to receive food for both a holiday meal, as well as non-perishable items to sustain them throughout the holiday season to help families in need while kids are out of school for Winter Break.

No identification or documentation is required. All are welcome to receive food at this distribution opportunity.

Christmas Traditions



Millions of people around the world rejoice as Christmas approaches. It is a time of family, friendship, gifts, and songs. In 2022, Americans spent \$178 billion on Christmas. This year, more than 115 million Americans are expected to travel to celebrate the holiday. In the United States, Christmas traditions have changed steadily over the years; and millions still hold faithful to the original purpose of veneration of the birth of Christ and celebrating the message of peace and harmony.

Early Christians celebrated Easter more with the death and resurrection of Jesus as the embodiment of Christian ideals. However, by the fourth century AD, the birth of Jesus also began to be noted Mass." However, it was a matter of some debate when it should be observed. Some marked the birth of Christ on March 28, while others noted November 18. Neither the Roman Empire nor Hebrew officials in Judea kept birth records, so there was no certainty as to the particular day. In the early centuries after the crucifixion of Christ, Chrisimportant than the particular calendar day.

After the legalization of Christianity within the Roman Empire service and not seen as a gift-giving occasion. The Christmas Eve mass or communion service is still an important Christmas tradition to mark the spirit of Christmas.



for many American tians worldwide.

slowly became more for others. than a church service.

nated in Germany in the 1500s when candles were attached to evergreen trees. In Germany especially, the day became a celebration noted for singing, parties, feasts, and drinking. The Puritans who arrived in New England in the early 1600s were appalled by such displays, which they considered sinful. As a result, Puritan leaders banned observances of Christmas well into the eighteenth century. In Massachusetts, Christmas was against the law for more than 20 years in the late 1600s.

In fact, it was knowledge of the differences by which New Englanders and Germans typically observed the day that inspired George Washington to cross the Delaware River on Christmas Night 1776 to stage a surprise attack on the Hessian outpost at Trenton, New Jersey. After a brutal series of losses that summer and fall, Washington knew he had to turn the war around. He knew the German mercenaries the British had hired to pursue them would be too distracted by their own Christmas parties to suspect an attack during winter. At dawn on Dec. 26, he surprised and overwhelmed the exhausted and hungover Hessian revelers to change the course of history.

German settlers brought many Christmas traditions to the United States, particularly Christmas trees, by the late 1700s and a number of notable Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night" and "O Christmas *Tree*," were originally German.

But Christmas as a holiday emerged slowly. Louisiana was the first to declare Christmas a state holiday in 1837, and only a handful of states followed suit within the next few years. It did not become a federal holiday until 1870.

Even the tradition of exchanging gifts did not emerge quickly. with special church observances also, quite literally, the "Christ However, the gift-giving tradition expanded rapidly in the 1820s and 1830s, with merchants quickly looking to capitalize on the holiday. Writers such as English novelist Charles Dickens with "A Christmas Carol" (1843) and American writer Clement Clarke Moore with "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (1823) helped popularize Christmas as a giftgiving time. Christmas trees began to be sold widely across the tians faced brutal persecutions, torture, and executions for their faith, North in the 1850s, with the first electric Christmas lights sold in so the message of Christ's birth and the promise of God became more 1882, but many families did not have Christmas trees until the early 1900s and most ornaments were handmade.

The day's message of peace was not lost. On Christmas Eve in the fourth century, Pope Julius I declared around AD 350 that Dec. 1814, American and British diplomats signed a peace treaty ending 25 would be the official observance, but it was only a special church the War of 1812. A century later, on Christmas Day 1914, Allied and German troops staged an impromptu cease-fire during World War I

> Christmas is celebrated today even in non-Christian households families and Chris- as the spirit of giving and peace has transcended its original religious meaning for some. Far from the shopping crowds, Christmas still By the sixteenth has a magical place in the heats of young and old alike. In a quiet century, Christmas moment, many remember that Christmas is still a time of generosity

> And Christmas is still a time of peace in our hearts and in the The tradition of the world, as we are reminded of the gift of one precious life, of broth-Christmas tree origi- erhood, and of the harmony for which the holiday was born.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter, NSDAR Dedicates Tree

Pictured right are: Jim and Elizabeth Harvey, Dianne Rubenkoenig, Cecelia Van Donselaar, Dr. Martha Johnson, Laura Tauzel, Regent Charlsey Holler, Carol and Max Kassera, Lisa Evans, Penny Gault, Honorary Regent Dawn Needles, Cathy Schmersahl, Michele Elekes, Betty Coe Manuel and Latrina Lorenzen.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, dedicated its America 250 Liberty Tree at Fort Worth's historic Botanic Garden on Nov. 28.

The Ornamental Magnolia was planted adjacent to the flag pole that the chapter placed in the garden in 1938.

Bob Byers, Executive Vice President of erans. the Botanic Garden, spoke of the resilience America by its first European settlers. This tree, the first of two to be planted, was purchased with the aid of a one-time \$500 grant from the National Society Daughters of the come home." American Revolution, and is part of the chapter regent's project Liberty Trees Times Two. The location of a second Liberty Tree is yet to be determined.

The America 250 Liberty Tree has a two-fold purpose. The first is to commemorate and celebrate America's upcoming 250th anniversary in 2026 and the patriots that achieved American Independence.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter is dedicated to re-discovering, restoring and re-dedicating Revolutionary War-related monuments, plaques, gravesites, and other memorials in Fort Worth and the surrounding communities.

The second purpose is to honor the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans. The chapter is a Commemorative Partner with the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration, and is committed to conducting events or activities each year through 2025 that will recognize, thank, and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. Regent Charlsey Holler presided over a cer-



emony honoring two Vietnam veterans and the spouses of two deceased Vietnam vet-

She said, "It is a privilege to recognize of the magnolia, which was brought to you today and to give thanks and honor for your service, valor, and sacrifice when our country needed you. On behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you for your service. Wel-

> found purpose and passion in DAR mem- Honorary Regent Dawn Needles, Vietnam bership. If you are interested in exploring veteran James Dan Harvey, Mrs. Penny membership, please email gent2023@gmail.com.

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Pictured below are: Vietnam veteran More than one million women have Max Kassera, Regent Charlsey Holler, mikre- (Donald) Gault and Mrs. Michele (John)



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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Dec. 22:

<u>AM</u> - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

PM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. South southeast wind around 10 mph.



Saturday, Dec. 23:

<u>AM</u> - A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

PM - Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after midnight. Low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 80%.



Christmas Eve • Sunday, Dec. 24:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. **PM** - A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Extended Forecast Click Here