



Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

# River Oaks News

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*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## River Oaks Event Center Hosts Fun Day!

The event center held a Fun Day on Independence Day July 4.

Vendors, food trucks, water slides, games, prizes, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone who participated.

A talent show closed the event with entries from an electric guitar, drums, and individuals who showed off their singing expertise were a huge success.



Talent show winners **Aniyah Ross, Eric Ross, Jr. and Ziyah Ross** sang a song in honor of their sister who's battling cancer.



Event Center Director **Shirley Wheat** and Mayor **Darren Houk** taking a break at the function.



**Heather Knight** and **Aaron Knight** won "fill-the-bottle" game, with Emcee **Don Obeidin**.



Cooling off with shaved ice is **Maya Vallejo** with **Jeanette Gonzalez** and (back) **Maria Melo**.



**Cameron Armstrong** showed off his bull riding technique.

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From Texas Comptroller's Office

# Plan for the Texas Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9-11

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 9, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 11.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales

tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

### Additional Charges Affect the Sales Price

Delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges by the seller are part of the item's sales price.

Since clothing, backpacks and school supplies have to be less than \$100 to qualify, you have to look at the item's total sales price to determine if you can buy it tax free.

For example, you buy a pair of jeans for \$95 with a \$10 delivery charge for a total price of \$105. Because the jeans' total price is more than \$100, tax is due on the entire \$105 price.

If a delivery charge is billed per item, and an invoice has both exempt and taxable items, only the qualifying exempt item's delivery charge is exempt.

If the delivery charge is a flat rate per package, and the amount charged is the same regardless of how many items are in-

cluded in the package, the total charge can be attributed to any one of the items in the package.

### Sales Tax Holiday Refund Requests

If you pay sales tax on qualifying items during the sales tax holiday, you can ask the seller for a refund of the tax paid. The seller can either grant the refund or provide their customer with Form 00-985, Assignment to Right to Refund (PDF), which allows the purchaser to file the refund claim directly with the Comptroller's office.

### Qualifying Items

[Click Here](#) to view the list of clothing, footwear and other qualifying items.

[Click Here](#) to view the list of school supplies.



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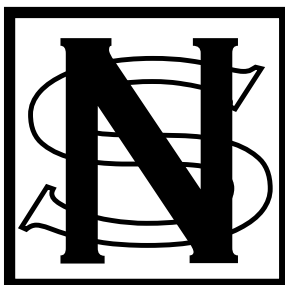
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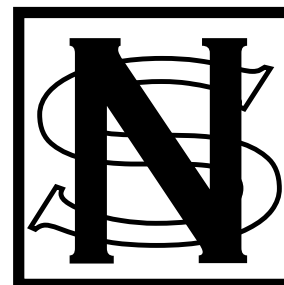
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From the American Red Cross

## Blood and Platelet Donors Critically Needed in July

This July, the American Red Cross continues to stress that blood and platelet donors are critically needed right now to support life-saving transfusions this summer. Donors of all blood types are in demand, especially those with type O blood and donors giving platelets.

Every donation counts in the mission to keep blood products stocked for patients, including those facing life-threatening situations. More than a quarter of all blood products each year are used in critical care and emergency room cases, highlighting the importance of generous blood and platelet donors. Be a force for good. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

How to donate blood: simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://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

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From the City of River Oaks

## Now Accepting Applications for Boards & Committees

The City of River Oaks is now accepting applications for individuals interested in serving on the City's Boards and Commissions.

If interested, [fill out the application](#) and return it to City Hall.

The City Council will make appointments at the July 16 River Oaks City Council Meeting.

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From the City of River Oaks

## 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports Available Online

The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This Report was mailed on June 28, 2024 to all River Oaks Water customers.

For more information, call River Oaks Water Treatment Plant at 817-626-6454 or City Manager at 817-626-5421, extension 324.

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](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

### Tarrant County Donation Dates and Locations

- Friday, July 12: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Azle Lions Club, 412 Commerce Street, Azle, TX 76020
- Friday, July 12: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Pl, Ste 100, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Friday, July 12: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Amon G. Carter, Jr. Downtown YMCA, 512 Lamar Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
- Tuesday, July 16: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bass Pro Shop Grapevine, 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051
- Wednesday, July 17: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Invited - Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr, Mansfield, TX 76063
- Wednesday, July 17: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., The Parks Mall Donor Coach, 3811 S Cooper St, Arlington, TX 76015
- Wednesday, July 17: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Arlington South, 711 Highlander Blvd, Arlington, TX 76015
- Thursday, July 18: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., USMD Burleson Clinic, 12608 South Fwy, Burleson, TX 76028
- Friday, July 19: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., George W. Hawkes Library Arlington, 100 S Center St, Arlington, TX 76010
- Friday, July 19: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Loews Arlington Hotel, 888 Nolan Ryan Expy, Arlington, TX 76011
- Friday, July 19: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, 1650 West College Street, Grapevine, TX 76051
- Friday, July 19: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Central Market, 1425 E Southlake Blvd, Southlake TX 76092
- Saturday, July 20: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saginaw United Methodist Church, 209 S Blue Bonnet St, Saginaw, TX 76179
- Thursday, July 25: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., YMCA Northpark Donor Coach, 9100 N Beach St, Fort Worth, TX 76244
- Thursday, July 25: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Hulen Mall, 4800 South Hulen Street, Fort Worth, TX 76132
- Thursday, July 25: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Medical City North Hills, 4375 Booth Calloway Rd, Suite 202, North Richland Hills, TX 76180
- Friday, July 26: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Pl, Ste 100, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Friday, July 26: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lowe's of Keller, 600 North Tarrant Parkway, Keller, TX 76248
- Saturday, July 27: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3921 Turner Warnell Road, Arlington, TX 76001
- Tuesday, July 30: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lowe's, 201 N. Kimball Ave, Southlake, TX 76092
- Tuesday, July 30: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Medical Office Building at Alliance, 3025 N. Tarrant Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

# Mosquito Control

Citizens can win the war against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry by finding and eliminating their breeding sites. Citizens are encouraged to control mosquitoes in the following ways:

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, bottles, buckets, drums and other containers or keep them empty of standing water.
- Empty plastic wading pools weekly and store them indoors when not in use.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Move water cooler drain hoses frequently.
- Change water in birdbaths and scrub them twice each week.
- Empty pets' watering pans daily.
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.
- Clean clogged roof gutters and drain flat roofs.
- Treat standing water that can't be drained with larvicide tablets (or Bti).
- Remember, mosquitoes breed and multiply in any water that lasts more than four days.

Contrary to popular opinion, not all bodies of water serve as abundant mosquito breeding areas. For example, ponds with steep banks that are relatively free of organic matter, and have little or no vegetation extending into the edge of the water will typically produce very few mosquitoes.

Mosquito dunks can be purchased at home improvement stores. The product is appropriate for use by residents living near larger areas of standing water that cannot be drained and are highly vegetated. The product comes in tablets or donut shaped discs and contains a natural killer of mosquito larvae called BTi. For treatment, the tablets or donut shaped discs are placed in the standing water.

Because it is probably impossible to totally eliminate adult mosquitoes, citizens can further protect themselves by preventing mosquito bites in the following ways:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. An effective repellent will contain 35% DEET. DEET in high concentrations (greater than 35 percent) provides no additional protection.
- Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children.
- Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's directions for use as printed on the product.



## Water 2X a Week or Less

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- Use Native Plants to Save Water
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

## The First French King to Claim Texas - Louis XIV



Texas has been a land under control of many different flags in its long history. From the early Native American tribes to the European colonial powers to the United States, each era has left an impact on the state. One of those figures to claim Texas was Louis XIV, king of France. He was the first French king to claim Texas, an important moment in Texas History, and would greatly influence all of Europe.

The future Louis XIV was born in 1638 at the royal palace of his father, King Louis XIII, and his mother, Queen Anne. Born into ostentatious luxury and unlimited power, he wanted for nothing. In 1643, his father died after a prolonged illness. As the oldest surviving male heir, he became king while only four years old.

Since he was so young, a regency was declared by his father's ministers. At such a young age, he could not begin to understand even the most basic functions of the government. Cardinal Jules Mazarin, who had been chief minister to Louis XIII and a senior official in the Roman Catholic Church, would retain his position and make decisions in the young king's name. In spite of his church position, Mazarin was a veteran European politician and diplomat, known for his skills and his cunning far more than his faith. Louis XIV's widowed mother doted on him.

Both his mother and Cardinal Mazarin made sure he grew up with the idea of the "divine right of kings," a system of absolute

and unquestioned power of the king that meant he answered only to God for his actions since God gave him the throne. It was a system that would allow corruption to inevitably work its way into the system and would leave him and his successors completely disconnected from the needs of his subjects.

In 1651, at age 18, he was allowed to rule but continued to have Mazarin at his side. Civil unrest had marked much of his childhood, and he was determined to restore order. After the death of Mazarin in 1661, he immediately embarked on a series of financial reforms to curtail embezzlement within his government.

"I am the state!" he once bellowed, declaring that France was his and his alone. He often referred to himself as the "Sun King," styling himself as the source of all light and goodness and prosperity for his people. He stripped Protestants of their rights and their property, forcing many to flee and others to convert to Catholicism.

He became a great patron of the arts, and he commissioned dozens of works from some of the most famous artists of the seventeenth century. He founded the Royal Academy of Dance and the Academy of Opera, and along with his major building campaigns made France one of the most important centers of art in Europe for centuries afterward.

In the 1660s, he transformed his father's hunting lodge outside Paris into the palace of Versailles, moving his official residence to the grounds in 1682. Versailles became an overwhelming display of wealth, with each room riddled with gold, silver, crystal, and exquisite displays of art. It included running water and hundreds of acres of expertly manicured gardens. The palace could hold thousands of guests and dignitaries. It became a model for other royal palaces across Europe.

France steadily expanded its power under his reign. Warfare was common, and France fought wars with Spain, England, and Holland. The New World was in the midst of a scramble for power between the

European states. Under his father's reign, France had established colonies along the St. Lawrence River Valley of what is now Canada and the Great Lakes region.

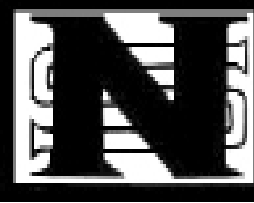
His influence spread even further with the efforts of French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet down the Mississippi River all the way to Arkansas in 1673. This claim was solidified with Robert Cavalier, Seuer de la Salle laying claim to all the Mississippi River and its tributaries in 1682. La Salle called the area Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV. The king's government gave its blessing for La Salle's plan to settle Louisiana. In 1685, La Salle and his party of colonists missed the mouth of the Mississippi River and went further west, landing on the coast of Matagorda Bay in Texas. Though Spain claimed the area, the Spanish were stretched thin and unable to enforce the claim. La Salle nevertheless established Fort St. Louis. The settlement proved to be a disaster and was wiped out by the neighboring Native American tribes by 1687.

While Louis XIV welcomed the enlarged realm, he gave little thought to the strategic importance of the Mississippi River Valley and the claims on Texas. He made no further attempts to settle the Texas coast. Though Spain contested the French claim, France continued to claim portions of the Red River Valley and East Texas until the Louisiana Territory was sold to the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

He died in 1715 at the age of 76. Of his six children with his wife, he had outlived all of them. He had outlived most of his grandchildren. He had more than a dozen children out of wedlock with numerous mistresses, none of whom could be in line to the throne. Instead, his successor would be his five-year-old great-grandson, King Louis XV.

France had established itself as a major center of European diplomacy, culture, and politics under Louis XIV. It had cemented its position as a major military power and greatly expanded its influence in the Americas.

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, July 12:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 98. Heat index values as high as 102. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 75. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



### Saturday, July 13:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 97. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 77. South wind 5 to 10 mph.



### Sunday, July 14:

**AM** - Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**