

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - February 15, 2002

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Fort Worth Lottery Retailer Gets A Lift From Selling Winning *Lotto Texas* Ticket

(Austin, February 15) -- Sankar Saha, owner of Riverside Food Mart in Fort Worth, had no idea on December 27th he was about to start experiencing the thrill that comes when a Texas Lottery retailer sells a jackpot winning *Lotto Texas* ticket. His store sold the only winning *Lotto* ticket for the December 26th drawing that was worth an estimated \$36 million. Since then, people from all over have been buying lottery tickets from his store.



Linda Cloud presents storeowners Aparna and Sankar Saha with ceremonial check while *Lotto Texas* winners Jim Ater, Jenny Willis and Justin Pratz look on. Read more [about the presentation](#) and [about the winners](#).

"I've had people from Oklahoma come buy their tickets here," Saha said. "My overall lottery sales have doubled."

The excitement started when Saha arrived at his store, located at 350 N. Riverside Drive, the day after the drawing. His curiosity peaked when he noticed a local news station van and reporter camped out waiting for him.

"I saw Channel 5 (KXAS-TV, Fort Worth) sitting there, and I walked up to the people to find out what was going on," Saha explained. "That's when the reporter told me that the winning ticket was sold here."

"I didn't even know, and I couldn't believe it," he said. "I was really, really excited. I built this store from the ground up. I spend an average of 12 hours a day, seven days a week here, and I get a lot of satisfaction from it. This was something though, a good thing."

Today, the Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Linda Cloud presented the Riverside Food Mart owner with a ceremonial check for \$360,000 for selling the sole winning *Lotto* ticket.

"We, at the Texas Lottery, extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Saha for adding his store's name to the list of lucky retailers to sell a jackpot winning *Lotto* ticket," said Cloud. "His store makes number eleven in the Fort Worth area to reach this honor."

Saha told lottery officials that while there aren't any definite plans for the bonus, he has already started making some improvements in the store.

"I'm replacing the front door and some other things," Saha said.

The Triple J NXS Trust of Fort Worth claimed the *Lotto* jackpot on January 16, 2002. The trust, made up of five co-workers from the A & P Pharmacy in Fort Worth, pitched in \$5 apiece to buy 25 sets of Quick Pick numbers. The group chose the 25-year annuity option and received an initial payment of \$1,460,149.20. They will receive payments of \$1,440,000 every December for the next 24 years. The numbers drawn were: 08 – 20 – 47 – 51 – 40 – 44.



Thuy Nguyen, owner of Ramsey Grocery - [read more](#).

Today's ceremony at the Riverside Food Mart was the second one held this afternoon in the Fort Worth area. Executive Director Linda Cloud presented a ceremonial check to Ramsey Grocery, at 1201 E. Ramsey Avenue, for selling the winning *Lotto Texas* ticket for the drawing held November 24, 2001. The jackpot winning ticket was worth an estimated \$6 million, and was claimed by the Vernon Family Trust on December 20, 2001 ([read more about the winners](#)). The Quick Pick ticket was purchased with the 25-year annuity payment option, and the winner received an initial payment of \$240,000. The trust will receive the same amount every November for the next 24 years. The numbers drawn were: 36 – 48 – 22 – 35 – 43 – 54.

To date, the Texas Lottery Commission has given \$997,741.66 in bonuses to Fort Worth lottery retailers for selling a winning *Lotto* ticket.

Saturday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$13 million.

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