Coffee with the Commissioner

Northeast Courthouse 645 Grapevine Hwy., Ste. 200 Hurst, Texas 76054

Friday, December 19th 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.



SAVE THE DATE!

• NE Courthouse Grand Opening 1/23/15

• NE Transportation Summit 2/13/15

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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

The most anticipated date in the past two years has finally arrived, and I am excited to announce that *your* new Tarrant County Northeast Courthouse is **OPEN!** Located at 645 Grapevine Highway in Hurst, the new courthouse has more space and amenities to serve you and the residents of Tarrant County. Here you can find the offices of the Tax Assessor/Collector, County Clerk, Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 Constable, Tarrant County Credit Union, and my office.

We will be having our grand opening celebration on <u>Friday</u>, <u>January 23rd</u>. Stay tuned for more information on event details and times, and check out the *Star-Telegram* <u>article</u> about our opening.

In the midst of the excitement with our new move, we are gearing up for our 6th Annual Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit which will be held on **Friday**, **February 13** at the Hurst Conference Center. If your organization would like to be a sponsor or attend, visit our website at www.netransportationsummit.com for more information.

Flu season is in full force here in Tarrant County, and I want to remind you of the tips, precautions, and updates our Public Health Department provides for seasonal illnesses. You can find statistics for our area along with promotional toolkits to help prevent illness in your office at our Public Health Department's website at: www.tarrantcounty.com.

Speaking of Public Health, we have a new Public Health Director here in the county. Vinny Taneja joined the Tarrant County family several months ago, and has already proven to be a great leader with fresh ideas and vast community outreach with programs he has implemented. If you ever have any concerns about health and wellness in our county, give Vinny and the great staff at Public Health a call!

Check out the rest of our December newsletter for more features including Hurst Economic Development, Precinct 3 Maintenance Center, the Arc of Northeast Tarrant County, and Grapevine Parks and Recreation.

"Coffee with the Commissioner" is this **Friday, December 19**th at the new Northeast Courthouse.

My staff and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Gary Fickes

Question of the Month



Question: What do you know about the coveted Heisman Trophy and the Texas Connection of the man it's named for?

Answer on page 3



www.tarrantcounty.com



Community Leader Spotlight



Vinny Taneja
Public Health Director,
Tarrant County

Vinny Taneja has served as Health Director for Tarrant County Public Health since September 2014. He brings to the department 13 years of experience in public health and healthcare at the local, regional and state levels.

Most recently, Taneja served as the Deputy Health Officer for a large urban county health department in Michigan.

He received a medical degree (MBBS)

from Manipal Academy in India. He then pursued his passion for public health by obtaining a Masters in Public Health (MPH) at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky.

In 2006, Taneja served as an ambassador to the Wisconsin Governor's e-Health Initiative. He helped develop a strategic plan for statewide adoption and exchange of electronic health records. He also served as the Chair Alternate for Wayne County Executive, on the Wayne County 4 Star Board and also on the boards of Voices of Detroit Initiative (VODI) and Child's Hope.

Taneja graduated as a fellow from Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute (MARPHLI) at UIC Chicago. His focus was on Public Health Leadership under the Affordable Care Act. He is passionate about Health Disparities and addressing the Social Determinants of Health.

On a more personal note -

What do you do for fun? I enjoy spending time with my wife and daughter. We love to eat at a variety of ethnic restaurants, enjoying the tastes of the world. We are movie buffs, so we enjoy going to the movies. Bicycling and taking walks are also fun exercise favorites.

Favorite Movie? That is a hard question for a movie lover! Tie between "Die Hard", "Top Gun" and "The Hunt for Red October".

Favorite Restaurant? "Fasika Ethiopian Restaurant" in St. Paul, MN.

Favorite vacation spot? Orlando, FL

Last book read? "Biohazard" by Ken Alibek

People would be surprised to know...For someone who is a food enthusiast, I am vegetarian! My family has been vegetarian for 3 generations, over 80 years!

Economic Development

City of Hurst

We are very thankful for the many businesses that have chosen Hurst and the HEB area to operate their business in. There are over 1300 businesses in Hurst and they were recently recognized at the Hurst Business Appreciation Dinner. Outstanding achievement was celebrated



Rebounderz Trampoline Arena

Hurst Outstanding

New Business Award Winner

with three Outstanding Business Awards. The winners were Bacon's Bistro & Cafe, Animal America Pet Resort and Rebounderz Trampoline Arena. There is a lot to

highlight in 2014 including the recent completion of the 121/183/820 Highway expansion which offers 40% more vehicle capacity and represented an early Christmas present with its completion nine months early. Surprisingly, Hurst has maintained positive retail sales growth throughout the construction with the most recent month being as high as +11%!

Brisk retail real estate activity continued through the 3rd quarter as 33 new businesses occupying 120,000 sq. ft. opened in the quarter. 107 new businesses have opened year-to-date. The new openings were highlighted by the introduction of the new Sprouts grocery store on Hwy 26 and Freedom Sports who opened their new motorcycle, four wheeler and waverunner 30,000 sq. ft. showroom. You won't go hungry in Hurst as nine new restaurants have opened this year including Las Daisy's Mexican Restaurant and Quick Thai Bistro this quarter.



The City of Hurst continues its focus on the Pipeline corridor and has enjoyed the opening of five new restaurants on Pipeline in the last year. The project that may have the greatest impact on the revitalization of this important corridor was just recently announced; "The Shops at Hurst". This new 90,000 sq. ft. shopping center will include the total transformation of the 10 acres on the NE quadrant of Pipeline and Precinct. Existing buildings will be demolished and four new buildings will be built with a highly requested Walmart Neighborhood Market grocery store as the anchor. Construction will start soon with an opening planned for late 2015. For more information on Economic Development in the City of Hurst contact Steve Bowden at 817-788-7025, sbowden@hursttx.gov or visit the website at www.hursted.com.

Article courtesy of Steve Bowden, Executive Director of Economic Development

Northeast Courthouse - Open for Business!







Northeast Courthouse

645 Grapevine Hwy., Hurst, Texas 76054

| Commissioner | Suite 200 | 817-581-3600 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Constable | Suite 110 | 817-581-3610 |
| Justice of the Peace | Suite 220 | 817-581-3625 |
| Tarrant County Credit Union | Suite 130 | 817-884-1470 |
| Tax Assessor-Collector | Suite 100 | 817-581-3635 |



Question of the Month

Question: What do you know about the coveted Heisman Trophy and the Texas Connection of the man it's named for?

Answer: The Heisman Trophy is awarded to the most outstanding player in College football. The award was founded in 1935 and named in 1937 after John William Heisman. Heisman has the Texas Connection of being the first football coach and athletic director at Rice University in Houston 1924-1927.

Tarrant County Northeast Courthouse Save the Date!

Friday, January 23, 2015

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More information to follow

645 Grapevine Highway, Hurst, Texas

Tel: (817) 581-3600







Commissioner Fickes' Christmas card photo taken by:

Lisa McMillan

Happy Holidays!





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Commissioner Gary Fickes Tarrant County - Precinct 3

6th Annual Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit

Friday, February 13, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Hurst Conference Center | 1600 Campus Drive, Hurst, Texas

EVENT SUMMARY

The 6th Annual Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit will take place on Friday, February 13, 2015 at the Hurst Conference Center. This event showcases a variety of speakers and panels discussing the future of transportation in Tarrant County, the State of Texas and the United States as a whole. Featured presenters will provide dialogue and analysis regarding state and federal transportation decisions and their impact on Northeast Tarrant County and the North Texas region



For sponsorship information, click on the following link:

NE Transportation Summit Sponsorship





www.netransportationsummit.com

Precinct 3 Maintenance News



On November 14th, Precinct 3 Maintenance held their annual Truck ROADeo. This is an annual event held each fall designed to help Precinct 3 Maintenance employees practice and hone their truck driving skills. The ROADeo is

comprised of 7 different courses and activities. Drivers are scored on their ability to perform a proper pre-trip safety inspection and navigate a tandem dump truck through a series of courses and obstacles. Emphasis is placed on practicing safe backing techniques, communication between drivers and spotters, and maneuvering a truck through tight areas.





Pictured left to right: Richard Schiller, Director of Field Operations; James Mercado -runner up, Larry Vermillion - Top Driver for 2014, Jack Roach -runner up, and Anthony Jaramillo, Assistant Director of Field Operations.







Precinct 3 Road Projects

This time of year is fairly slow on projects mostly due to the weather. We may start a few projects that will last until Christmas but January and February are too cold and wet to start new projects without the risk of potential weather delays. During that time we will concentrate mostly on maintenance, smaller county roadway repairs and training. Some of the activities for October and November included:

| PENDING | IN PROCESS | COMPLETED |
|---|------------|---|
| Start construction on Bonds Ranch Road to add turn lanes between Van Zandt Drive and Willow Springs. Repair and Resurface Cul-de-Sacs in County Estate Addition in preparation for resurfacing projects next spring/summer. | | Lacy Lane Jackson Road (Colleyville) Pleasant Run (Colleyville) Base repairs on Bonds Ranch Road, Avondale Haslet Road, Roads in Lonesome Dove Estates, etc. Mowing County ROW |





Left to Right: Elvis Santamaria, Chris McClellan, Paul Marigny, Judge Glen Whitley, Michelle Rundles, James Griffith, and Marlon Bonds.



The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County



The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County is a small 501(c) (3) membership non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. It was formed in 1971 by a group of parents who joined forces to fight for their children's rights to be educated in the public school system.

The Arc of NETC is an all volunteer-run agency. All board members are family

members of or individuals who live life with a disability label. Most of our volunteers have children who have a disability themselves. The Arc of today still serves as a voice in the local, state and national community.

The Arc of NETC is an affiliated chapter of The Arc of the US and The Arc of Texas is held to a common set of core values and posi-

tions related to quality of life, inclusion, rights, etc. These position statements have been adopted by The Arc's general membership.

The Arc of NETC promotes the human rights of individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and

actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their life span. We serve the community with outreach, information and referral, educational workshops and social activities.



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Our vision for the future is a world where people with disabilities are included in their communities and where quality supports and services respond to their needs and personal choices.

We do not really have set hours of operation since we answer phone calls and emails at various times. People do not typically visit our location at 1806 Haltom Road unless we have a scheduled workshop or social activity.

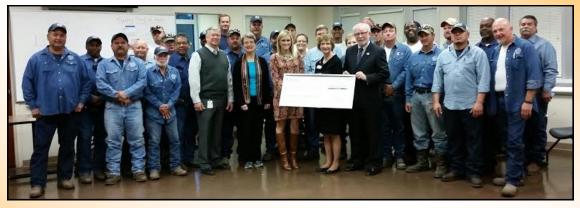
817-834-7700 www.arcnetc.org

Article Courtesy of Bill Matheu, Treasurer of The Arc of NETC

What a great day...

Over \$1,500.00 raised for United Way!

















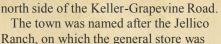
Thanks to everyone who participated!

AN HISTORICAL MOMENT IN TIME

Jellico, Texas

Jellico Texas was located near the intersection of Farm Roads 1709 and 1938, in the area of present-day Southlake in northeast Tarrant County. Robert Emmett Wilson, founder of the settlement, purchased property in the W. R. Eaves Survey north of Big Bear Creek in Tarrant County in 1881. In 1888, he purchased an adjoining property in the J. G. Allen





Survey and built a general store on the

Ranch, on which the general store was located; early settlers in the area had originated in Jellico, Tennessee.

The Jellico Post Office was established in 1898 and served 300 people. Wilson purchased a steamoperated cotton gin in 1895 for \$7,000 and moved it south of the general store. A blacksmith shop, a gristmill, and a syrup press were also located adjacent to the gin. North of the general store, Lone Elm School operated from 1877 to 1917.

In 1907, the price of cotton and cattle dropped, and Wilson, as co-signer on a number of outstanding debts, sold the gin, mill, and cattle press. He then opened a dipping vat for cattle. With the advent of the automobile, shopping became easier in



Pictured are 19 students from the Lone Elm School, many of them siblings, and their teacher taken in 1908. (Courtesy of E. I. Wiesman)

the nearby communities of Keller, Grapevine, Smithfield, and Bransford, and the Jellico general store ceased to be profitable. It was closed in 1912. The post office was discontinued in 1903. The only reminder of Jellico today is a shopping center called Jellico Square, built in 1984 and a street named Jellico Circle.

GRAPEVINE - PARKS

The City of Grapevine proudly operates and manages 38 park sites totaling 1,553 acres, a fully accessible playground, a lush Botanical Garden, an award-winning campground, a 27- hole championship golf course and a 26+ mile trail network renowned in the state and known for excellent hiking and mountain biking.

The Vineyards Campground & Cabins on Grapevine Lake has been voted one of the top 10 in the nation. It includes 10 courtesy boat docks, 13 RV sites, 14 fully furnished cabins, water, sewer and electrical services to all sites, a restroom/ laundry room and a group pavilion.

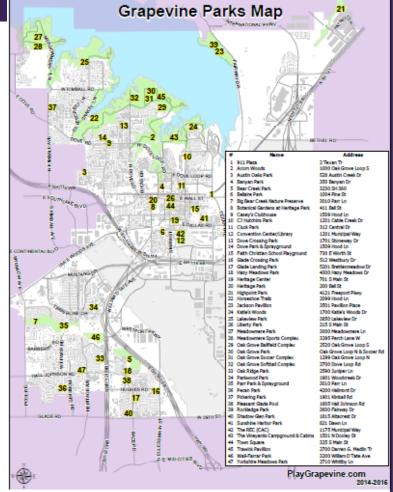
Our Lake Park amenities include 10 boat ramps, 89 picnic sites, three large rental picnic pavilions, several restroom facilities and three playgrounds.

Athletic amenities include 10 tennis courts, 18 outdoor basketball courts, two outdoor swimming pools, 14 competition baseball/softball fields, 11 competition soccer fields and a disc golf course.

Our 27-hole championship golf course was voted the best course in Texas with a green fee under \$40 by Dallas Morning News.

Dove Park is our newest updated feature in Grapevine. This area encompasses Dove Waterpark (where nearly 2,000 people learn to swim each summer), Dove Sprayground and Casey's Clubhouse. This fully accessible playground is designed for children with limitations, those without limitations, children in wheelchairs and those who are not in wheelchairs. This oneof- a-kind custom park is exclusive to the State of Texas. Children enjoy a zip line, clubhouse, treehouse, 14' tube slide, an elevator, stimuli equipment for those with cochlear implants, a rumble slide (stimulating different back muscles), interactive water feature dolphins, stump jumper logs for climbing and a covered pavilion for picnics and birthday parties.

www.grapevinetexas.org



Article Courtesy of Mona Burk, Marketing/Communications Manager

SENIOR NEWS

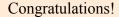
Holiday Outreach for Seniors

There are so many opportunities this holiday season to give back and volunteer to help seniors in our area. Many seniors have family out of town or have no family to visit them during the holidays. If you have some time this month to volunteer or would like to make a donation, please visit the following websites to see how you can help make this a joyful holiday season for one (or many) seniors. You can also visit your local senior center websites for opportunities to serve, such as the Adopt-A-Senior programs.

Donations can include food, gift cards, monetary donations, or a friendly visit. With just a little bit of time and help, you can make a huge difference in the life of a senior this Christmas.

Community Enrichment Center 817-281-1164 www.thecec.org
Community Storehouse 817-431-3340 www.communitystorehouse.org
GRACE 817-488-7009 www.gracegrapevine.org
Metroport Meals on Wheels 817-491-1141 www.metroportmow.org
Mid-Cities Care Corps 817-282-0531 www.midcitiescarecorps.org
2-1-1 Texas 2-1-1 www.211Texas.org

'Tis the Season to spread some Holiday Cheer!



Vic and Linda Restani, winners of the Branson Christmas Trip for Two.

Trip donated by Senior Getaways and drawing held at Empowering Seniors 2014!



Severe Flu Season Hitting Texas



As of this week, Texas ranks <u>number two</u> in state flu activity, according to Walgreen's Flu Index. Tarrant County Public Health announced that flu surveillance numbers show three weeks ahead of where they were the last two years at this time.

A flu shot is the best protection you can get for the flu. Find out more tips at the link below:

Flu Basics



Transportation Northeast Tarrant County

DFW Connector Project

Hotline: 877-411-4212 www.dfwconnector.com



• Utility relocation on the project is substantially complete.

• NorthGate Constructors changed the traffic pattern on northbound FM 2499 north of Grapevine Mills Blvd. in November. Crews moved traffic onto new concrete pavement and the new bridge over Denton Creek.

Grading crews have started digging out dirt and rock for the new FM 2499 mainlanes north of Grapevine Mills Blvd.

• Crews are continuing construction on the new Stars and Stripes Way bridge, and they have begun preliminary construction on the Grapevine Mills Blvd. bridge.

Midtown Express

• The 26-mile Midtown Express Project, formerly known as the SH 183 Managed Lanes Project, will increase capacity

with the addition of TEXpress (managed toll) Lanes as well as reconstruct portions of main lanes and frontage roads on SH 183 (from SH 121 to I-35E), SH 114 (from SH 183 to International Pkwy.) and Loop 12 (from SH 183 to I-35E). Construction of the interim improvements will begin in early 2015 and is anticipated to reach completion in 2018.





North Tarrant Express Hotline: 888-683-2015

www.northtarrantexpress.com



• I-35W: Construction is now underway on the southern portion of I-35W, with the first bridge demolition at NE 28th Street taking place in early December. On the northern segment, work will begin on the reconstruction of Western Center Blvd. in early January. Motorists are encouraged to check

the website frequently for updated information on construction activity and closures, and sign up for e-alerts that communicate major incidents and upcoming closures and detours.



Highway 26

TxDot - N Tarrant Office 817-399-4300 www.txdot.gov • The work on the SH 26 project in Colleyville from Brumlow Avenue/Pool Road to John McCain Road includes the reconstruction of the southbound lanes, retaining wall work, installation of concrete paving and improvements to

the John McCain Road intersection.

- As part of this project, Big Bear Creek bridge reconstruction includes the demolition of the northern half of the old bridge, the installation of retaining walls and the drilling of column shafts. The northbound section of the new Big Bear Creek bridge is now partially open to traffic.
- Two lanes of traffic will be maintained during peak driving times. Substantial completion is estimated in Spring 2015. The \$11.4 million project is widening the road to three lanes in each direction with raised curb medians and left turn bays.



FM 1938 - Phase II

TxDot - N Tarrant Office 817-399-4300 www.txdot.gov

Southlake 817-748-8098 www.cityofsouthlake.com

• The intersection improvements at FM 1938 and FM 1709 are slated to begin early next year. TxDOT crews will construct dual-left turn lanes at all four intersections in order to address traffic backups on east and west FM 1709. This intersection construction is the first part of the

FM 1938 Phase II expansion that will connect the Phase I portion in Westlake to the upcoming roadway expansion along Randol Mill Avenue.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Dec 15-18 Night of Wonder | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dec 18 Concert Bells of Fort Worth | <u>www.hursttx.gov</u> |
| Dec 18 Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Brass | <u>www.cityofsouthlake.com</u> |
| Dec 19 Coffee with the Commissioner | 817-581-3600 |
| Dec 19 Christmas House | |
| Dec 19 –23 Santa in Sundance | <u>www.sundancesquare.com</u> |
| Dec 25 Christmas | |
| Jan 1 New Year's Day | |
| Jan 10 Jiggle Butt Run | <u>www.safehaventc.org</u> |
| Jan 19 MLK Holiday | |
| Jan 18 Celebrity Chefs Evening | <u>www.mid-citiessos.org</u> |
| Jan 18 Dallas Symphony Orchestra | <u>www.cityofsouthlake.com</u> |
| Jan 22 Colleyville Chamber Awards Luncheon | <u>www.colleyvillechamber.org</u> |
| Jan 23 Northeast Courthouse Grand Opening Evo | |
| Jan 26 21 st Annual Classic Café Benefit Wine D | inner <u>www.metroportmow.org</u> |
| Jan 29 Grapevine Community Awards Banquet | www.grapevinechamber.org |
| Jan 29 NW Metroport Annual Awards Gala | <u>www.nwmetroportchamber.org</u> |
| Feb 13 NE Tarrant Transportation Summit | www.NETransportationSummit.com |
| Feb 13-15 Fort Worth Home & Garden Show | <u>www.texashomeandgarden.com</u> |
| Feb 14 2015 Haltom Stampede | <u>www.haltomcitytx.com</u> |
| Feb 14 Valentine's Day | |
| Feb 16 Presidents' Day Holiday | |
| Feb 20 Kids Matter Charity Ball | www.kidsmatterinternational.org |
| Feb 21 Keller Chamber Annual Gala | <u>www.kellerchamber.com</u> |
| Feb 28 Let's Play Bingo Ladies Luncheon | www.allianceforchildren.org |
| Feb. 28 Dancing for the Stars | <u>www.colleyvillerotaryclub.com</u> |
| | |
| | |

John Peter Smith Hospital Clinics Northeast Tarrant County

Health Clinics

Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center 817-514-5036 6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148

School-Based Clinics

3050 Timberline Drive, Grapevine, 76051

2807 Layton Avenue, Haltom City, 76117

3115 W. Pipeline Road #B, Euless, TX 76040

For a complete list of Health Clinics and School–Based Clinics log onto: www.jpshealthnet.org

COUNTY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

December 24 & 25 - Christmas

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16 - Presidents' Day

Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

Gary Fickes, Commissioner ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Staff

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Rebecca Barksdale, Community Outreach Coord. rbarksdale@tarrantcounty.com

Devin Wenske, Assistant Precinct Administrator ddwenske@tarrantcounty.com

Theresa Parsons, Executive Secretary teparsons@tarrantcounty.com

Northeast Courthouse

645 Grapevine Hwy., Ste. 200 Hurst, Texas 76054 817-581-3600

Fax: 817-581-3603