

THE
MONTHLY
E D I T I O N

June 2017



TARRANT COUNTY JUDGE
GLEN WHITLEY

County News Update

Tarrant County: Our North Texas Home



*Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley*

OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE SERVICES THAT WE USE EVERY DAY

We should all appreciate Tarrant County's meaningful participation in our lives.

Day in and day out, our county is right there providing much-needed services to you and your family.

That's what a local government like Tarrant County does. It's the front door to many services our residents use all the time.

Need a marriage license or a passport, go see the County Clerk. Need next year's tags for the family minivan, go to the Tax Assessor's office.

Tarrant County keeps property records and historic documents safe, builds roads, operates courts and funds the sheriff's department and the jail. We protect public health, provide some basic and vital health care needs and assist in services for mental illness and people with disabilities. The county coordinates emergency management and issues permits and licenses.

And, that only scratches the surface of what Tarrant County does for you. The cities in our county also provide services, from parks and pools for summer enjoyment to police and fire protection, libraries, trash collection and they even have senior centers for our aging population.

Cities, counties and schools, your local governments, do all kinds of things for you. Too often, though, the efforts of local governments on behalf of our residents go unnoticed or are often taken for granted.

Believe me, the services Tarrant County provides don't magically appear.

It is a tall order and it takes a lot of time, effort and collaboration for Tarrant County to run right.

I know our county employees have a passion for public service. They do much more for county residents than what they do in the office. Many of them go the extra mile to help someone in need and many volunteer in social service and faith-based organizations in our community.

We have two million people living in Tarrant County, the 15th largest county in America. North Texas, our home, is the nation's fourth largest urban area with seven million residents.

By mid-century, Tarrant County could have three million residents. Our good jobs, strong economy, affordable housing and excellent quality of life are a winning combination, but we must all continue working hard to keep it that way.



The 1895 Tarrant County Courthouse, long a symbol of the many services provided by local governments in North Texas.

There are many regional issues and concerns that come with living in such a large urban center. Improving transportation is key to our quality of life and our economic vitality.

For Tarrant County and other Texas local governments to be successful, we all must evolve and adapt. With the forecast of continued significant growth around the corner, we face many changes in the coming years. The population increase poses a great challenge to our schools, our cities and the county.

To ensure that over the next 30 years Tarrant County can do the best customer service job for our residents, we continue to expand and modernize our courts, jail and subcourthouse facilities, as well as look for new ways to use our existing space more efficiently.

By keeping up with the advances of the digital age, Tarrant County and other local governments can improve the service they offer and hold the cost of government down.

If cities, schools and the county can provide top-notch services, accessible transportation, great schools and keep our taxes low, more new businesses will be drawn to Tarrant County and our local economy will continue to thrive.

One thing is certain, to succeed we must restore and strengthen the partnership between the state and its counties and cities. We need to pull together to achieve the best results for our taxpayers, Tarrant County and North Texas.

Glen

New Moncrief Medical Center Opens in Fort Worth

A new state-of-the-art medical center has opened in Fort Worth and it represents the latest contribution by the Moncrief family to the medical district that lies in the heart of Tarrant County.

Only in Texas could oil lead to radiology, ophthalmology and expert care in so many other medical specialties.

The Monty and Tex Moncrief Medical Center, a part of the UT Southwestern Medical Center system, will enable patients on the west side of the Metroplex to take advantage of the innovative care and treatment available from physicians and professors at the Dallas-based medical school.

“This will allow us to expand our level of care,” said Dr. Steven Verity, a UT Southwestern ophthalmology professor who has helped run a small UT Southwestern eyecare clinic in the medical district for the past 15 years.

“Patients are telling us, ‘Thank you for coming to Fort Worth.’” Verity said. “The doctors and the patients are very excited about the new building.”

The three-story, 110,000-square-foot outpatient facility at 600 S. Main St., is named for Monty Moncrief, a successful wildcatter, who made a fortune in oil in the 1930s, and for his son, Tex, now 97, who worked alongside him.

In the 1950s, Monty Moncrief, faced with a granddaughter who had childhood leukemia, established a stand-alone radiology facility in the medical district. Radiation, at the time, was among the newer technologies available to treat cancer.

Over the years, the Moncrief family continued to contribute to the radiation facility. UT Southwestern took over its administration in 1999.

Just a few years ago, the family’s generosity led to the establishment of the Moncrief Cancer Institute at 400 W. Magnolia Ave., which specializes in helping cancer survivors put their lives back together after the often long and debilitating



W.A. “Tex” Moncrief is joined by his son, Charlie, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, County Judge Glen Whitley and Daniel Podolsky, UT Southwestern Medical Center president, at the building dedication.

struggle to beat back the disease.

The institute now has a custom-built tractor trailer that travels to outlying communities to help folks who don’t have easy access to cancer experts or have a tough time driving to the city for rehabilitative care.

The new medical center will initially have a dozen specialty clinics, as well as laboratory and pharmacy services. The foyer is named in honor of Tex’s son, Charlie.

Physicians at the medical center have hospital privileges at the nearby Texas Health Resources Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, as well as at UT Southwestern’s William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital in Dallas.



The Monty and Tex Moncrief Medical Center at Fort Worth, a new part of the UT Southwestern Medical Center system.