

TARRANT COUNTY

NEWS & INFORMATION



October 2008



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Tarrant shelters hurricane evacuees

Beginning with the Labor Day weekend, Tarrant County hosted thousands of Gulf Coast residents seeking shelter from two hurricanes in September. Hurricane Gustav resulted in evacuees mostly from Southwest Louisiana, while Hurricane Ike caused the evacuation of residents of Southeast Texas. Some from the Port Arthur area came to Tarrant County during both storms.

Buses from New Orleans began arriving in Tarrant County late in the evening of Sunday, August 31. Evacuees in buses, car caravans and solitary vehicles continued to arrive throughout the next day, resulting in a total of almost 1,300 being placed in 13 shelters. While Fort Worth hosted 7 shelters and Arlington 2, other Tarrant County cities providing a haven were Azle, Benbrook, Hurst and Haltom City.

The Gustav evacuees' stay was very short, with most leaving on Wednesday, September 3.

Just one week later, Tarrant County responded to a State of Texas request to house evacuees from Hurricane Ike. Buses from Houston and Beaumont began arriving in Tarrant County on Thursday morning, Sept. 11. Evacuees continued to arrive throughout the weekend until almost 2,000 were being hosted in 23 shelters in five counties.

Tarrant County coordinated the efforts which included the cities of Acton, Arlington, Azle, Benbrook, Burleson, Cleburne, Euless, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Hurst, North Richland Hills, Saginaw, Watauga and Weatherford.

Due to the devastation of their home counties, Hurricane Ike evacuees stayed longer, with almost all leaving by Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Tarrant County also coordinated the dispatch of firefighters and fire trucks to help relieve Houston's emergency workers during the post-hurricane clean-up. Bedford, Burleson, Crowley, Euless, Forest Hill, Grapevine, Haltom City, Hurst, Mansfield, Saginaw, Southlake and Weatherford all contributed equipment and/or personnel.



Historic Preservation Summit scheduled

The Tarrant County Historical Commission will sponsor the 5th Annual Tarrant County Historic Preservation Summit on October 30. The Summit will be held 4 to 7 p.m. at the Tarrant County Plaza Building, 200 Taylor Street, in downtown Fort Worth.

The Summit is a networking opportunity for Tarrant County citizens to learn about historic preservation. This year the summit will focus on the preservation of local cemeteries.

Anne Shelton, Texas Historical Commission, will be the guest speaker. She will talk about the R.I.P. (Record, Investigate, Protect) program which should prove to be very helpful for those interested in preserving old or neglected cemeteries.

The Commission will be awarding the first ever "Tom Vandergriff Award" and will hear from Brent Morton on grants. Quentin McGown will be the guest MC for this event. Attendees will be taken by a charter bus to tour the Birdville Cemetery, which is the oldest working cemetery in the county.

Everyone is invited to come and share your preservation ideas. A barbeque dinner will be served. This is a free opportunity for you if you are interested in Tarrant County History.

Get a flu shot

Getting a flu shot protects people at home, at work and when they are out and about. It can be especially important before they gather with friends and family during the coming holiday season. Flu shots are recommended for people ages 6 months and older. Maximum protection occurs in about two weeks after the shot.

Flu season typically runs from October through March, peaking in January and February, and a flu shot is the best protection.

Tarrant County Public Health offers flu shots at the following public health centers:

Arlington Public Health Center

536 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington 817-548-3990

Bagsby-Williams Public Health Center

3212 Miller Avenue, Fort Worth 817-531-6738

La Gran Plaza Mall Public Health Center (children's flu shots only)

4200 S. Freeway, Fort Worth, 817-920-5752

Northeast Public Health Center

813 Brown Trail, Bedford 817-285-4155

Northwest Public Health Center

3800 Adam Grubb, Lake Worth 817-238-4441

Southwest Public Health Center

6551 Granbury Road, Fort Worth 817-370-4530

In addition to the public health center locations, people may get a flu shot at several community events during the month of October. For more information, call 817-238-4448 or visit the Tarrant County Public Health Web site at <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>.

Flu vaccinations are \$20. Medicare Part B and Secure Horizons are accepted.

Voter Registration Deadline Monday

Monday, October 6, is the last day to register to vote in the November 4 General Election. All Texas Voter Registration Applications must be received by the County elections officer by the end of the business day on Monday for the applicant to be eligible to vote.

Early Voting begins October 20 and will continue through October 31. Tarrant County registered voters are eligible to request and receive a ballot by mail if any of the following conditions prevents them from voting in-person during the early voting period or on election day:

1. Expected absence from the County during both the early voting period and on election day
2. Disability
3. 65 years of age or older
4. Confinement in jail and not finally convicted of a felony

For additional questions on registering to vote or participating in Early Voting, contact the Tarrant County Elections Office at 817-831-VOTE (8683) or visit our website at www.tarrantcounty.com. Click on the "Tarrant Votes" logo.

Early Voting By Personal Appearance Days/Hours

Oct 20-24	Mon-Fri	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct 25	Sat	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Oct 26	Sun	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Oct 27-31	Mon-Fri	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.