

TARRANT COUNTY

NEWS & INFORMATION



April 2011



www.tarrantcounty.com

Help stop illegal dumping

Have you witnessed dumping in your area? Dumping and littering are illegal activities that can have serious public health and safety consequences. Trash in unauthorized areas has been known to attract rats, snakes, mosquitoes and other pests, as well as creating a negative, unsightly environment.

City and county governments within Tarrant County have been working hard to prevent dumping and restore the area to its original beauty. You can help local law enforcement and elected officials by reporting illegal dumping. Doing your part as a citizen will help the community and the environment.

If you witness illegal dumping in Tarrant County, please call the North Central Texas Stop Illegal Dumping Hotline at 1-800-335-DUMP. Leave a message explaining the details of the activity that you witnessed and the information will be forwarded to the proper jurisdiction.



Get Ready For The Great Outdoors, Mosquitoes

After the winter that we had in this area, a string of warm, sunny days has been luring us outdoors. Mosquitoes are ready for us to get outdoors, too.

While most people know that mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus (WNV), not everyone takes steps to fight the bite. Start your protection and prevention measures now by taking these common-sense actions:

- Drain any standing water in your yard and neighborhood.
- Check things like flowerpots, gutters, buckets, birdbaths, pool covers, a pet's water bowl, tire swings and any other things that might hold water. It does not take much water for mosquitoes to breed, and these actions help reduce breeding opportunities.
- Try to stay indoors at dusk and dawn. These are the times of the day when mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active.
- If you plan to be outdoors, consider dressing in long-sleeve shirts and long pants. Keeping your arms and legs covered provides an added layer of protection. For additional protection, you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.
- Look for an insect repellent that contains DEET.
- You should also help fortify your home against mosquitoes by checking the screens on your windows and doors to ensure that they fit well and are not torn.

These actions will help you enjoy your time outdoors and help you fight the bite. For more information about WNV or to see if your city is involved in Tarrant County Public Health's WNV Surveillance Project, check our Web site: <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>.

Online survey helps Extension Service to design local educational programs

An online survey designed to provide insight into issues facing Tarrant County residents is being hosted at <http://extensionissues.tamu.edu>.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service Issue Identification Forum will assist local Extension Agents and the Leadership Advisory Board to identify the most critical issues affecting local citizens. The online survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The Tarrant County AgriLife Extension program has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county relating to Agriculture and Natural Resources, Families and Health, Youth Development as well as Community Development. In order to make sure that the programs being planned for the future are on target, citizen participation in the online Issue Identification Forum is essential. Your opinion is valuable, so please take a few minutes to participate.

The survey will remain open until April 29. Please contact the Extension office at 817-884-1945 if you have any questions.



Apply for Your Passport at Tarrant County on National Passport Day

The Tarrant County District Clerk's Office is joining the Department of State in observing "Passport Day in the USA," a national passport information and outreach event. As part of the effort, the office will host four separate Passport Fairs on Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The events will be held at the following locations:

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| • Southlake town Hall
1400 Main Street, Ste 340,
Southlake (817-481-8190) | • Southwest Sub-Courthouse
6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth (817-370-4570) |
| • Arlington Sub-Courthouse
700 E. Abram Street, Ste 204
Arlington (817-548-3963) | • Northwest Sub-Courthouse
6713 Telephone Road
Fort Worth (817-238-4457) |



The Passport Fairs are being held on a Saturday to provide a more convenient opportunity for families to apply for passports outside the normal Monday through Friday hours.

As a reminder, U.S. citizens re-entering the United States from Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or the Caribbean via sea or land are required to possess a valid passport book or passport card (persons travelling via air are required to possess a valid passport book).

Information on the cost and application requirements is available from Tarrant County at www.tarrantcounty.com, or from the State Department at www.travel.state.gov.