

# TARRANT COUNTY

## NEWS & INFORMATION



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### County Receives Rebate For Software Development Investment

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court received a refund check recently for more than \$300,000 in return for its participation in the development of a software program that is being used by other Texas counties. In the past five years, more than \$658,000 has been rebated to Tarrant County through the statewide TechShare program.

The distribution check came as the result of Collin County's purchase of the TechShare.Juvenile Resource program that tracks and monitors cases as they move through the juvenile justice system. It was jointly developed by Tarrant, Dallas and Bexar Counties in cooperation with Texas Juvenile Justice Department. In 2013, Denton County purchased the program resulting in a \$254,000 check to the Tarrant County.

Over the past 10 years, Tarrant County has played a leadership role in developing the statewide TechShare program with the Conference of Urban Counties in Austin. The program lets counties and state agencies share the costs of technology development instead of paying for these costs individually. Tarrant County saved local taxpayers almost \$7 million through its participation in two programs – TechShare.Juvenile Resource and the Common Integrated Justice System (CIJS), a software program that allows for the tracking of lawsuits filed in County and District Courts.

Unlike software programs generically applicable to states and counties across the nation, the TechShare program allows Texas counties to develop software designed for Texas laws.

In addition to the cost savings realized through software development, the County also receives refund checks when counties that did not participate in the development phase purchase the software for their own use.

This is the third refund check received by Tarrant County under the TechShare program. In 2010, the county received a check for \$104,000 for CIJS.

Had Tarrant County paid to develop the TechShare.Juvenile Resource program on its own, it would have cost more than \$5 million. Under the joint development contract, Tarrant's cost was only \$3.7 million – a cost savings of \$1.3 million. Tarrant County taxpayers have previously realized a savings of \$5.6 million for the CIJS.

That's a total savings of \$6.9 million for participation in the TechShare program, not counting the three refund checks totaling about \$658,000. So far, the 21 counties participating in the two completed TechShare programs have seen a savings of more than \$64 million, when the cost of developing software independently is compared to purchasing generic software, according to the Conference of Urban Counties.

### Elections Office Offers Voters On-line Services

Tarrant County will provide voters with several on-line services related to the upcoming elections. Potential voters will be able to check the status of their voter registration, view or print a sample ballot, and find the location of their polling place for the May 9th elections.

On election night, periodic updates of results will be posted on the County's Elections Office website as the ballots are counted. To access all this information, go to Tarrant County's website at [www.tarrantcounty.com/elections](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/elections).

Scan the QR Code for instant access to the Elections Office Voter Lookup page. For more information, call the Elections Office at 817-831-VOTE (8683).



### Household Chemicals Need Proper Disposal

Most Tarrant County residents, including those living in unincorporated areas, have the option to dispose of household hazardous chemical waste at Fort Worth's Environmental Collection Center (ECC), 6400 Bridge Street, at the junction of Interstate 30 and Loop 820.

Household chemical wastes are often disposed of improperly by people pouring them down the drain, onto the ground, into storm sewers or into trash bags. Pouring waste onto the ground or into storm sewers is the same as pouring it directly into a creek. A single quart of used motor oil can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water. Old paint, pesticides, automotive fluids, household cleaners, solvents, batteries and pesticides are all examples of household chemicals that could be hazardous to the environment if disposed of improperly.

Forty-seven North Central Texas cities have contracted with Fort Worth to allow their citizens to use the ECC to dispose of their household hazardous waste. Before using the ECC, Tarrant County residents who live in the unincorporated areas must obtain a free voucher from the County Environmental Specialist at 817-884-2634.

### Nominations Requested for Outstanding Tarrant County Historians

The Tarrant County Historical Commission (TCHC) is now accepting nominations for preservation awards to be given at their Annual Preservation Summit.

The TCHC gives four major awards: the Tom Vandergriff Award, the William E. Jary Award, the Debbie Reynolds Hazen Young Leadership Award and the TCHC Summit Award.

About the Awards:

#### **Tom Vandergriff Award –**

This award is named for Tom J. Vandergriff, a Tarrant County citizen who gave outstanding public service and leadership in Tarrant County. Therefore, the TCHC presents the Tom Vandergriff Award on the basis of "outstanding and long term leadership contributing to the history of Tarrant County."

#### **William E. Jary Award -**

This award is named for William E. Jary, Jr. who was a citizen promoter, collector and preservationist of Fort Worth history. The TCHC presents the William E. Jary Award on the basis of honoring an individual "for their tireless efforts in preserving or collecting local history of Tarrant County."

#### **Debbie Reynolds Hazen Young: Leadership Award –**

The newest award is named for Debbie Reynolds Hazen who, beginning as a young adult, gave 20 years of outstanding public service and leadership to further historic preservation in Tarrant County. The TCHC presents the Debbie Reynolds Hazen Young Leadership Award on the basis of honoring an individual "for their efforts in preserving and collecting the history of Tarrant County."

#### **TCHC Summit Award –**

This award is given on the basis of an outstanding preservation project contributing to the preservation of architectural heritage for Tarrant County. This award is nominated and voted on only by the members of the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Nomination forms can be obtained by writing the Tarrant County Historical Commission, 200 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76196. The completed forms must be returned by August 1, 2015.