

# TARRANT COUNTY

## NEWS & INFORMATION



October 2015



www.tarrantcounty.com

## Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

"In a fire, seconds count," said Tarrant County Fire Marshal Randy Renois. "Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from outside the home.

To learn more about smoke alarms and "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!" visit NFPA's Web site at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) and [www.sparky.org/fpw](http://www.sparky.org/fpw).

## You Can Stop the Flu

Even healthy people can get the flu, and it can be serious. The flu shot offers protection for you and those around you. Everyone six months and older should get a flu shot. The flu vaccine is plentiful this year and there are numerous places in Tarrant County to get a flu shot.

After getting a flu shot, there are a several other prevention measures to use:

- Keep yourself healthy by eating right and getting enough rest and exercise.
- If you are sick, stay at home and don't go to work, school or other places where germs can be spread to others.
- In crowded areas and at home, keep your distance from people who are sick, and don't get close to them if you are not well.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth.

Finally, there are two common-sense measures to practice year-round:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- Wash your hands often to help protect yourself from germs and to reduce their spread.

Flu season in Texas usually runs from October to March with the majority of cases occurring in January and February.

People can check the Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) Web site: <http://health.tarrantcounty.com> or visit our Facebook page for a list of TCPH locations.

## Tax Forums Scheduled for October

Get answers to your questions about property taxes, vehicle registration and other important issues at one of the free public meetings offered this month by the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office.

Residents can find out how property values and tax rates are determined, if they qualify for an exemption and how mineral values affect property taxes. There will also be a discussion about the proposed increase in the homestead exemption to be approved by voters in the November election. The new one sticker system that combines vehicle registrations and inspections will also be explained and how it will affect 2016 registrations. Residents can also learn how to obtain a disabled placard and a toll tag for their vehicles.

Both Tax Forums will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 6

Arlington Subcourthouse  
700 East Abram Street, Arlington

### Thursday, October 8

Northeast Courthouse  
645 E. Grapevine Highway, Hurst

For more information, call the Tax Assessor-Collector at 817-884-1100.

## Historic Preservation Summit

The Tarrant County Historical Commission invites you to the Annual Historic Preservation Summit on Wednesday, October 7, from noon to 2 p.m. The free event will be held at the Northeast Courthouse, 645 Grapevine Highway in Hurst. Please RSVP by Oct 5 at 817-884-3271 or [tchc@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:tchc@tarrantcounty.com).

