



# Northeast Newsletter

Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes - Precinct 3

Volume 17, Issue 1

“Working together for a better tomorrow”

February 2024

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



I hope the new year has been going well for you. Here at Precinct 3, we are excited to present the 14th Annual Transportation Summit with the TRTC on Friday,

February 9, at the Hurst Conference Center from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year's event theme, "SURGE: Readiness for Exponential Growth," will focus on how we can collectively work to ensure our infrastructure keeps up with the continued growth of our region. The summit will feature a keynote conversation between Lorie K. Logan, President and CEO of Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Ross Perot, Jr., Chairman of The Perot Companies and Hillwood. In addition, each session will highlight an area of the western region of Dallas-Fort Worth in-depth, with panelists discussing the incredible opportunities and unique challenges this unprecedented population growth poses. For more information, visit [www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com](http://www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com). Join us for a great opportunity to listen, learn, and network with like-minded people interested in Tarrant County's transportation future.

Early voting for the March 5, 2024, Primary Elections begin on Tuesday, February 20 and end on Friday, March 1. If you are registered to vote, you may vote at any polling location in Tarrant County and you can also check the wait times online in real time. View more information about the elections [here](#).

February is American Heart Month. The [American Heart Association](#) will celebrate 100 years in 2024 and invites you to visit its website to learn about heart health and how it began the fight against cardiovascular disease a century ago.

I invite you to read this edition of the Northeast Newsletter for information about community leader Victor Vandergriff, executive director of Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, DFW Airport's 50th anniversary, Precinct 3 Maintenance Center, senior news, and more!

We will not be hosting Coffee with the Commissioner this month; however, you can join us at the Tarrant Transportation Summit! Click [here](#) to purchase individual tickets. Our next Coffee with the Commissioner will be Friday, April 12. We hope to see you there!

*Gary Fickes*

### Question of the Month

What year did air passenger service begin in Texas?

[Answer on page 4.](#)

**The Quote of the Month** - "If you're fixin' to head to Texas, you'd best study up on what it means to be tough. The quickest way to round up respect in the Lone Star State is to demonstrate that you've got true grit."

—AAA Texas Tour Book, 2005

There is no Coffee with the Commissioner this month, so please plan on joining us this Friday for the

### Tarrant Transportation Summit

Register at

[www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com](http://www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com)



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**Tarrant 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Transportation Summit**  
 Commissioner Gary Fickes • Tarrant County • Precinct 3

Presented by **cintra** **TEXPRESS.**  
 LBJ | NTE | NTE35W

**SURGE**  
*Readiness for Exponential Population Growth*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024 • 8 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.**  
 Hurst Conference Center • 1601 Campus Drive, Hurst, Texas

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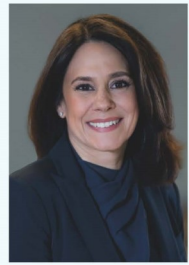
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| Grapevine   | Westlake                                 |
| Haslet      | Watauga Economic Development Corporation |
| Hurst       |  |

The western region of Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the fastest-growing population centers in America. In a keynote conversation, two of our region's most prominent leaders, **Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Lorie Logan** and **Hillwood Chairman Ross Perot Jr.**, will discuss the incredible opportunities, as well as unique challenges, our unprecedented population growth poses. Audience members will gain insight into how these leaders make key decisions that affect businesses, families, and ultimately infrastructure development across North Texas.

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION



**Lorie K. Logan**  
President and CEO  
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



**Ross Perot, Jr.**  
Chairman  
The Perot Companies and Hillwood

**This year's summit will explore growth throughout the region.**

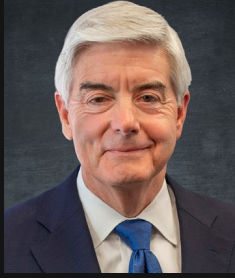
**Confirmed panelists include:** Tarrant County Commissioner Manny Ramirez; Parker County Judge Pat Deen; Texas Rangers EVP Rob Matwick; Fort Worth Economic Development Partnership President & CEO Robert Allen; Majestic Realty EVP Craig Caviler; NCTCOG Director of Transportation Michael Morris, former Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, and North Richland Hills Mayor Oscar Trevino, among many more!

To register or learn more, visit [tarranttransportationsummit.com](http://tarranttransportationsummit.com).



## COMMUNITY LEADER

### Victor Vandergriff



**Executive Director  
Tarrant Regional  
Transportation Coalition**



As the Executive Director of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, I have been fortunate to serve in a

role that allows me to facilitate discussions and bring together the necessary organizations to move planning on projects forward. TRTC is a coalition of public and private sector members from cities, counties, regional authorities, and business interests. They share a common vision of increasing mobility and advancing economic development in our region. TRTC does not make decisions to develop, fund, or construct projects. We serve as a coalition builder supporting regional needs and projects to address those needs.

My interest in road planning and development stems from my family's background in car dealerships and a strong commitment to public service. Throughout my career, I have been an attorney, automobile dealer business owner, and facilitator of transportation projects. I have also been blessed with numerous opportunities for public service as an appointed member of Boards and Commissions. Collectively, these opportunities have been the most rewarding aspect of my career.

I received an in-depth educational experience in local government service as a member and later the Chair of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. I also served as the Chair of the Department of Motor Vehicles and was appointed to the North Texas Tollway Authority Board by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. Later, I joined the Texas Transportation Commission as an appointee of Governor Rick Perry where I actively served until February of 2018.

The cumulative impact of my knowledge and experiences has enabled me to continue to provide substantive assistance to North Texas and the Western Region.

**What do you do for fun?** *“Spend time with one, some, or all of our eight grandchildren. Exploring and enjoying life with them can be tiring, but it is always mentally and emotionally invigorating!”*

**Favorite movie?** *“Any movie that makes my wife Kristin smile and laugh. Her joy brings me joy.”*

**Restaurant?** *“Too many great ones to choose from. We enjoy a meal anywhere we can have friends and family join us.”*

**Vacation spot?** *“La Jolla, California. We have spent many wonderful summers there. We also got engaged in La Jolla.”*

**Last Book Read?** *“I read a couple of books a month and countless newspapers and journals daily. Sadly, most of what I read is online, even the books I purchase. I miss hard-copy reading but at least I am not adding to my physical collection of books. I have retained far too many!”*

**People would be surprised to know. . . what?** (This is the fun one!) *“I am friends with people I have publicly disagreed with and visa versa. I appreciate wisdom, logic, and passion tied to another point of view.”*

## PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

Tarrant County registered voters can vote at any Election Center location during early voting or on Election Day.

**VOTING DAY**  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



### EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

February 20 - 23	Tuesday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
February 24	Saturday	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
February 25	Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
February 26 - 29	Monday - Thursday	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 1	Friday	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information visit: <https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/elections.html?linklocation=trending&linkname=Elections>

## Precinct 3 Maintenance Center News February 2024



One of the major functions of county government is to build and maintain a network of roads and bridges in the county's unincorporated areas. In Tarrant County, our four county commissioners are responsible for constructing and maintaining approximately 430 miles of county roads, with 41.34 miles of these roads located in Northeast Tarrant County, Precinct 3, which our Maintenance Department maintains.

The Transportation Services Department supports these efforts by providing engineering, planning, environmental, and right-of-way acquisition services to each County Commissioner's Precinct and other County Departments.



In addition to maintaining roads in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County, each maintenance department collaborates with the cities located within their precinct on interlocal agreements. An interlocal agreement is a collaborative contract between public bodies to provide more efficient, less costly public services. Interlocal agreements between public agencies result in mutual benefits for all the parties and usually consist of the city funding the project and our maintenance department providing the workforce and equipment to complete the project. Our Precinct 3 cities include Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Hurst, Keller, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Southlake, Watauga, and Westlake.

We take our commitment to the safety of our community seriously, especially during winter weather conditions. During these times, we create a rotating 12-hour shift schedule to implement road maintenance solutions. We are well-prepared to handle any winter weather that comes our way with two pickup sanders and one tandem dump truck to spread a sand/salt mixture on our county roads. Our loaders and motor graders are strategically stationed at our stockpile locations and ready to go into action when needed.

Our team is always in communication with the cities in our precinct and ready to assist them whenever possible. We are committed to keeping our roads safe for you during the winter months.



## Question of the Month

**Question:** What year did air passenger service begin in Texas?

**Answer:** Air passenger service in Texas began in 1928 when Air Transport Service initiated service linking Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Galveston. Service expanded rapidly with additional line and routes.



# Senior News

## TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is an IRS-supported, free income tax preparation program for low to moderate-income individuals and families. Community volunteers, certified by the IRS, help taxpayers prepare their tax returns at no cost and make sure they claim valuable tax credits for which they're eligible, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC).

VITA helps taxpayers who make less than \$64,000 per year and need to file a return for the prior or current tax year.

VITA helps individuals keep more of their hard-earned money and brings millions of dollars back into the local economy through refunds and tax credits.

### Northeast Tarrant Locations

#### Community Enrichment Center

6250 Northeast Loop 820  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180  
Open January 26 - April 26

#### GRACE Grapevine

837 E. Walnut  
Grapevine, TX 76051  
Open January 22 - April 15

For more information, visit: <https://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/what-we-do/programs-we-run/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-vita>

## Free Tax Preparation for TCCU Members and Non-Members!

IRS-certified TCCU staff volunteers will provide **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** by appointment at the Tarrant Plaza location, 200 Taylor Street, Suite 215, on weekdays beginning February 5th through April 15th, 2024. This FREE service is available to members and non-members who made less than \$64,000 in 2023.

The service available is basic tax return preparation. We are unable to assist with complicated tax returns. If you qualify and would like to have your tax return prepared at no cost, please email [vita@tccu-tx.com](mailto:vita@tccu-tx.com) to make an appointment or call us at **817.884.1470** and press "9."

TCCU does NOT offer tax advice.



## Senior Events

**Mar 19** Colleyville Chamber: SCOS Senior Health Fair  
[www.colleyvillechamber.org](http://www.colleyvillechamber.org)

**Apr 20** City of Keller Senior Center: Spring Craft Show & Market  
[www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com)



## Colleyville Senior Center



Colleyville Senior Center celebrated its ribbon cutting on January 16th. Programs include a variety of fitness, dance, art, special interest, and education fitness; social events; and senior trips. Meals on Wheels is offered twice each month, with bingo after lunch.

For more information, visit: <https://www.colleyvilleparksandrec.com/seniorcenter>

## NORTHEAST TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES

### Transportation for Seniors, Disabled, and Low-Income

#### Call A Ride of Southlake (CARS)

CARS transports senior citizens and disabled adults who live in Southlake. CARS transports within a 25-mile radius for medical appointments and a 7-mile radius for social, business and personal needs. Volunteers, using personal vehicles, provide the transportation.

**CARS was established in 1999 | 817-798-4022**



#### HEB Transit



HEB Transit provides low-cost rides for transportation-disadvantaged residents of Hurst, Euless, and Bedford. Trips are provided for work and work-related activities within H.E.B., including Trinity Railway Express (TRE) stations at Hurst/Bell and CentrePort/DFW Airport. Services are supported by the cities of H.E.B. and community partners.

**HEB Transit was established in 2006 | 817-336-8714 | hebtransit.org**

#### North East Transportation Service (NETS)

NETS is a door-to-door, demand-responsive para-transit service and is available to any resident or non-resident of a participating city who is disabled or 65 years of age or older. NETS may be used for medical appointments, socialization, employment, essential shopping, and education purposes.

**NETS was established in 2002 | 817-336-8714 | ridenets.com**



#### Serving Our Seniors (SOS)



SOS provides transportation for routine medical appointments and quality-of-life drives. All services are provided free of charge to any senior friend 65 and older or 60+ with a disability. Services are provided in 11 cities.

**SOS was established in 1981  
817-282-0531 | servingourseniorstexas.org**

#### Social Transportation for Seniors (STS)

STS provides non-emergency round trip transportation for seniors 62 years and older in North Richland Hills for leisure and social activities to re-engage isolated seniors back into the community. Services are provided within a 7-mile radius by volunteers.



**STS was established in 2009 | 817-427-6696 | stsrides.org**





## DFW Airport Marks 50 years of Serving North Texas

Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) opened its doors on Jan. 13, 1974, becoming the country’s newest and most modern commercial airport. The airport is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a year-long event that will reflect on its success, look forward to its future, and thank the community for their support. The airport has come a long way in the last 50 years, and it's important to recognize this milestone to show appreciation for the community's involvement.

Then and Now	
1974	2023
World's largest airport by land area	Third largest airport by land area
Four terminals	Five terminals (sixth to break ground in 2024)
Three runways	Seven runways
66 gates	171 gates
Nine airlines	28 airlines
6.8 million passengers	80 million passengers (estimated)
75,000 tons of cargo	791,192 tons of cargo (FY)



(1970's Supersonic Jet)

To read more visit: <https://www.dfwairport.com/dfwnewsroom/golden-anniversary-dfw-airport-marks-50-years-of-serving-north-texas/>



Black History Month is an annual observance that takes place in February. It is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. The month-long celebration dates back to 1926 when historian Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, which later evolved into Black History Month.

### Heart Awareness Month



February is National Heart Month, a time to raise awareness about heart disease and promote heart health. Heart disease is a leading cause of death worldwide, so it's important to take steps to reduce the risk. This month, organizations and healthcare professionals organize events and campaigns to teach people about heart health. They may discuss the importance of a healthy diet, regular exercise, and managing risk factors like high blood pressure and cholesterol levels. By making small changes to daily habits, people can improve their cardiovascular health and reduce their risk of heart disease.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/american-heart-month>

### February 14, 2024



### February 19, 2024



**Presidents' Day** is a federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the third Monday of February. It was originally established in honor of George Washington, the first President of the United States, and later expanded to include Abraham Lincoln and other presidents. Many people view this day as an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of past presidents and their impact on the nation's history.

## Calendar

- Feb 9 Tarrant Transportation Summit .....[www.tarranttransportationsummit.com](http://www.tarranttransportationsummit.com)
- Feb 10 Southlake Spring Festival.....[www.visitsouthlaketexas.com](http://www.visitsouthlaketexas.com)
- Feb 10 Bedford Center YMCA Disco Rodeo Sweetheart Dance.....[www.bedfordtx.org](http://www.bedfordtx.org)
- Feb 10 City of Watauga: Family Dance-Daddy Daughter Dance.....[www.cowtx.org](http://www.cowtx.org)
- Feb 13 Southlake Chamber: Fat Tuesday Bingo Night.....[www.southlakechamber.org](http://www.southlakechamber.org)
- Feb 13 Mission Central: Galentine’s Night.....[www.missioncentraltx.org](http://www.missioncentraltx.org)
- Feb 14 Valentine’s Day.....
- Feb 17 Alliance for Children: Let’s Play Bingo.....[www.allianceforchildren.org](http://www.allianceforchildren.org)
- Feb 17 Clubhouse for Special Needs: Clubhouse in Wonderland...[www.theclubhouse.org](http://www.theclubhouse.org)
- Feb 19 Presidents’ Day.....
- Feb 23 Kids Matter International: The Snowball.....[www.kidsinternational.org](http://www.kidsinternational.org)
- Feb 24 Special Olympics/Bedford Polar Plunge.....[www.givebutter.com](http://www.givebutter.com)
- Feb 24 10th Annual Prostate Screening Event.....[www.tarrantcountytx.gov](http://www.tarrantcountytx.gov)
- Feb 24 Colleyville Rotary Club Dancing for the Stars.....[www.colleyvillerotaryclub.org](http://www.colleyvillerotaryclub.org)
- Feb 29 Friends of SOS.....[www.servingourseniorstexas.org](http://www.servingourseniorstexas.org)
- Mar 1 CASA of Tarrant County Pull for Kids Clay Shoot.....[www.speakupforachild.org](http://www.speakupforachild.org)
- Mar 2 City of Roanoke: Fishing in the Park.....[www.roanoketexas.com](http://www.roanoketexas.com)
- Mar 7 NE Tarrant County 66th Annual Awards Banquet.....[www.netarrant.org](http://www.netarrant.org)
- Mar 9 City of Bedford: Holi Festival.....[www.bedfordtx.gov](http://www.bedfordtx.gov)
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time.....
- Mar 16 Flower Mound Father Daughter Prom.....[www.flower-mound.com](http://www.flower-mound.com)
- Mar 17 St. Patrick’s Day.....
- Mar 23 Metroport MOW:Party in the Pasture.....[www.metroportmow.org](http://www.metroportmow.org)
- Mar 24 Keller Chamber: Kids Summer Expo.....[www.kellerchamber.com](http://www.kellerchamber.com)
- Mar 25 Meals on Wheels 25th Annual Golf Classic.....[www.mealsonwheels.org](http://www.mealsonwheels.org)
- Mar 25 Colleyville Lions Club Scramble Golf Tournament.....[www.colleyvillelions.com](http://www.colleyvillelions.com)
- Mar 29 Good Friday.....
- Mar 31 Easter.....
- Mar 31 Cesar Chavez Day.....
- Apr 5 CWC Spring Fashion Show.....[www.c-w-c.org](http://www.c-w-c.org)
- Apr 13 City of Colleyville: Annual Car Show.....[www.colleyville.com](http://www.colleyville.com)
- Apr 17 Lena Pope: Fiesta de Oro.....[www.lenapope.org](http://www.lenapope.org)

## Chambers of Commerce

- Colleyville Chamber of Commerce .....[www.colleyvillechamber.org](http://www.colleyvillechamber.org)
- Grapevine Chamber of Commerce .....[www.grapevinechamber.org](http://www.grapevinechamber.org)
- HEB Chamber of Commerce .....[www.heb.org](http://www.heb.org)
- Greater Keller Chamber .....[www.kellerchamber.com](http://www.kellerchamber.com)
- NE Tarrant Chamber of Commerce .....[www.netarrant.org](http://www.netarrant.org)
- Southlake Chamber of Commerce.....[www.southlakechamber.org](http://www.southlakechamber.org)

## Senior Centers

- Bedford Senior Center ..... (817) 952-2326 [www.bedfordtx.gov](http://www.bedfordtx.gov)
- Colleyville Senior Center ..... (817) 503-1195 [www.colleyville.com](http://www.colleyville.com)
- Eules Family Life Sr. Center..... (817) 685-1671 [www.eulesstx.gov](http://www.eulesstx.gov)
- Grapevine Active Adults at The REC (817) 410-3465 [www.gograpevine.com](http://www.gograpevine.com)
- Haltom City Sr. Citizens Center..... (817) 834-8021 [www.haltomcitytx.com](http://www.haltomcitytx.com)
- Haslet Senior Weekly Meetings ..... (817) 439-5931 [www.haslet.org](http://www.haslet.org)
- Hurst Sr. Citizens Activities Center (817) 788-7710 [www.ci.hurst.tx.us](http://www.ci.hurst.tx.us)
- Keller Senior Activities Center..... (817) 743-4370 [www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com)
- N. Richland Hills Senior Center ..... (817) 427-6600 [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com)
- Richland Hills Sr. Activities Center (817) 616-3738 [www.richlandhills.com](http://www.richlandhills.com)
- Southlake Senior Activity Center ... (817) 748-8315 [www.ci.southlake.tx.us](http://www.ci.southlake.tx.us)
- Watauga Senior Center ..... (817) 514-5892 [www.ci.watauga.tx.us](http://www.ci.watauga.tx.us)



Centered in Care  
Powered by Pride

### Locations In

#### Health Clinics

- Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center ..... 817-702-1100  
6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148
- JPS Medical Home Northeast Tarrant.....817-702-6474  
3200 W. Eules Boulevard, Eules 76040

#### Pediatric Clinic

- Grapevine/Colleyville .....817-251-5751  
3050 Timberline Drive, Grapevine, 76051

For a complete list of Health Clinics visit:  
[www.jpshhealthnet.org](http://www.jpshhealthnet.org)

## COUNTY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

#### Presidents’ Day

February 19, 2024

#### Cesar Chavez

March 25, 2024

#### Good Friday

March 29, 2024

### Commissioner’s Office Precinct 3

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#### Northeast Courthouse

645 Grapevine Highway, Suite 200  
Hurst, Texas 76054  
817-248-6295  
Fax: 817-581-3603