

Northeast News

Tarrant County - Precinct 3



"Working together for a better tomorrow"

June 2008

Volume No. 1 ~ Issue No. 1

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

I want to thank you for taking the time to review the first edition of our internet Newsletter. We hope it's informative and we also want it to be something you enjoy reading. Precinct 3 is the largest precinct in Tarrant County with approximately 450,000 residents. We know that many of you aren't exactly sure what your County Government does or what a Commissioner does. We hope to explain that as the months go by.

We will focus each edition on a different department and explain what they do and how they function. We also plan to highlight a different County employee in each edition. That employee will tell you what they do and how they do it. If you like history, we've got plenty of it here in Northeast Tarrant County and we'll focus on a part of it in each edition. We plan on discussing economic development projects in all our cities plus other areas of the County.

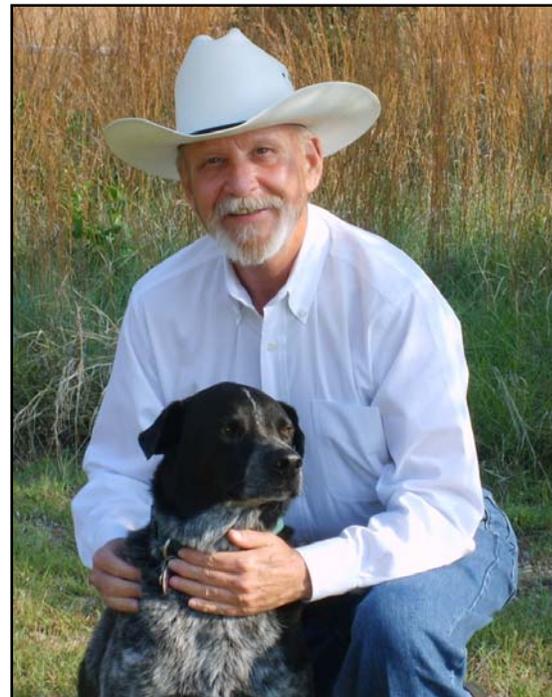
Transportation issues are my number one priority. Improving mobility and reducing traffic congestion is our goal. We have two (2) very major projects in Precinct 3: The DFW Connector (The Grapevine Funnel) where 29 lanes of traffic merge into 6 lanes, and the North Tarrant Expressway, which includes Airport Freeway, 820 North, and I-35 north of 820. These projects are currently in the design phase and will hopefully start in the near future. Both of these projects are some of the largest projects ever for TxDOT and will continue to require that all local governments keep the pressure on the State to implement them soon. Health Care

has become a major issue everywhere. Our Tarrant County Hospital District has over 30 satellite facilities throughout the County. In NETC, we have one facility located on Brown Trail in Bedford. We will be opening our second facility on June 26, in Watauga at Rufe Snow and Watauga Road. This will be a 16,000 SF full service Family Care Center. It will be named after one of NETC's pioneering leaders: The Gertrude Tarpley Family Health Center. Ms. Tarpley was a civic and business leader in our area from the 1950's until her death at age 90 in 1994. *Come join us on June 26 at 5:30 pm for the dedication and opening of this facility at 6601 Watauga Road in Watauga.*

The Hospital District also has opened 4 school based clinics to serve school-aged children. These centers are open daily and are located on school campuses in the following school districts: HEBISD, BISD, FWISD and the GCISD. We plan on opening an additional clinic in September in the HEB area.

We want your thoughts and input on our Newsletter. If you have questions, please email or call. If you know someone who might want to receive our Newsletter, just send us their email address. If you would like to be deleted from our Newsletter list, just let us know. Thanks for choosing to live in the Best Precinct in Tarrant County. Thanks to all of you who wished me well during my recent health episode. Everything is working great.

Gary Fickes
Commissioner Pct. 3



Commissioner Gary Fickes and Rex

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Question of the Month: There are 18 cities in Precinct 3. How many can you name? Some are partial portions of a city.

Email your answers to: ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Also, feel free to email any comments, questions or concerns you may have.

Employee Spotlight

Judge Russell B. Casey Justice of the Peace Tarrant County, Texas Precinct 3



On a more personal note ~

Judge Casey, what do you like most about your job? *"It's always something new every day."*

What do you do for fun? *"Read... everything, fiction and non-fiction."*

Favorite movie? *"Saving Private Ryan"*

Favorite Restaurant? *"I love many different types of foods, but I prefer Chinese and Italian."*

Vacation Spot? *"Niagara Falls"*

Last Book Read? *"State of Fear by Michael Crichton"*

People would be surprised to know... *"That for 5 years, (during high school and College) I worked as a radio DJ."*

Judge Russell B. Casey currently serves as the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3 in Northeast Tarrant County. As Justice of the Peace, he hears a variety of cases such as small claims and civil suits under \$10,000, as well as eviction suits and Class C Misdemeanors. He hears cases from other Precincts as needed. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 covers a large area including Southlake, Grapevine, Keller, Colleyville, HEB, and some of NRH.

Recently Judge Casey was selected to be the Chairman of the Texas Advisory Board to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Judge Casey has always been very active in the community. He serves on

the Real Estate Advisory Board for Tarrant County College.

Judge Casey has made Tarrant County proud by earning the respect of his fellow Judges across the State. It was in fact, his fellow JP's who selected him as the 3rd Vice President of the JPCA (Justices of the Peace and Constables Association).

Judge Casey was also appointed to the Judicial Council by the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. The Judicial Council is the policy-making body for all of the courts in Texas. Judge Casey is the only Justice of the Peace on the Council.

Raised in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma, Judge Casey moved to Texas in 1989 and has been married to his soul mate, Heather, for nine years. They

have one child, Emily who will be attending the second grade this coming fall in the HEB School District.

Northeast Tarrant County continues to grow and flourish. As a result, the courts are becoming inundated with cases. However, it is the goal of Judge Casey to keep the courts as convenient and efficient as possible for you and our fellow neighbors here in Northeast Tarrant County.



On April 29, 2008 in Commissioners Court, Sharon Homan accepts a plaque from Tarrant County Commissioner, Gary Fickes on behalf of LifeGift. Ms. Homan's mother, Susan McCarty, was an organ donor. Pictured left to right: Teresa Shafer, Ron Ehrle, Sharon Homan, and Commissioner Fickes.

If you had the ability to save someone's life... would you?



For organ donation information, please visit:

www.donatelifetexas.org



On May 17th, County Commissioner Gary Fickes sponsored "Team Fickes" in the Lifegift 2nd Chance Run to bring awareness of the need for organ donors. Team Fickes had close to 80 participants.

More than 95,000 people in the United States are in need of an organ for transplant with hundreds more added each month, and every day about 77 people get the gift that gives them a second chance at life while nearly 20 die because a donor was not available.

The "Gift of Life" touches all people as a single organ and tissue donor

can help more than 50 people of all ages and creeds and from all cultures and social backgrounds. During the month of April, all citizens of Tarrant County were encouraged to log on to www.donatelifetexas.org to sign up and become a donor. Please share this decision with family members so we can take the first step in eliminating the national waiting list for an organ

transplant. National Donate Life Month was established in 2003 to recognize the tremendous generosity of those who have saved lives by donating organ, tissue, marrow, and blood and to encourage more Americans to follow their fine example.

Please, save a life....

Share a smile



Westlake Academy was recognized by Commissioners Court for winning a total of 47 state scholastic journalistic awards at the UIL competition held in Austin in April for their student newspaper, "The Black Cow" named in honor of the cows grazing on neighboring ranchlands.



So, you need a Passport ...



Since August of 1999 the Tarrant County District Clerk's office has been an authorized Passport Acceptance agent for the U.S. State Department. It has always been our goal to simplify the application process in order to provide the highest quality service available.

In an effort to make our services as convenient as possible, we currently offer passport processing and photo services at four locations;

SOUTHLAKE - 1400 Main, 3rd Floor, Ste 340
Southlake 817-481-8190

JUSTICE CENTER - 401 W. Belknap, 3rd Fl
Fort Worth 817-884-2520

SOUTHWEST - 6551 Granbury Rd
Fort Worth 817-370-4570

SOUTHEAST - 724 E. Border St, Suite 204
Arlington 817-548-3963



Felicia Salazar and Sherry Hodges in the District Clerk's Passport Office at the Southlake Sub-Courthouse.

In addition to our office locations, the Tarrant County District Clerk's Passport Section also offers on-site processing for groups of 15 or more by appointment.

Due to recent and upcoming changes in travel requirements, U.S. Department of State recommends that individuals refrain

from making international travel arrangements until after they have obtained their U.S. Passports. For information regarding current processing times, as well as our office hours, fees, specific application requirements, or to inquire about our on-site processing, please call our main office at 817-884-2520 or visit our website at www.tarrantcounty.com and click on the Passport icon on the home page.

Thomas A. Wilder
Tarrant County District Clerk

PASSPORT FEES

Routine 4-6 Weeks

Age 16 & over \$110.00*
Under age 16 95.00*

Expedited 3 Weeks

Age 16 & over \$170.00*
Under age 16 155.00*

* Payment must be made by check or money order only. Each application will require two checks or money orders.



Tarrant County Veterans Services VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFIT OUTREACH

The Tarrant County Veterans Services Office provides VA benefit claims assistance to military veterans and their survivors **free of charge**.

Representatives are at the **Northeast Sub-Courthouse** every **Tuesday, from 12 pm to 3:30 pm**. Some types of benefit claims they assist with are Widows Pensions, Service-Connected Death Claims for Widows, Non Service-Connected Pensions for Veterans, and Disability Compensation Claims for Veterans.

Call the Veterans Services office at **(817) 531-5645** if you would like to make an appointment or need more information.

(Please note without an appointment, you may have a lengthy wait.)

Northeast Sub-Courthouse
645 Grapevine Highway
Hurst, TX 76054

Every Tuesday afternoon
12:00 to 3:30 pm
www.tarrantcounty.com



Precinct 3 Maintenance News 817-514-5000



Precinct 3 Maintenance crew working with the City of Hurst and limb cleanup on Elm Street caused by April 10th storm.

The thunder storm and high winds on April 10, 2008 gave Precinct Three the opportunity to step in and assist our cities and constituents in Hurst, Bedford, Watauga and Richland Hills with debris removal. Our Maintenance Center provided heavy equipment, trucks, chain saws, and personnel to help with the cleanup and removal of the damaged and uprooted trees.

While part of our team was helping with the storm damage we continued our street repair and reconstruction program for our cities. We have completed numerous street re-construction projects

throughout the precinct and have several additional projects planned for the coming months.

Right-of-way mowing will continue throughout the summer in unincorporated areas.



Precinct 3 crew placing asphalt on Brown Trail in Bedford

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - EULESS



GLADE PARKS

193 acres on the southwest corner of Glade Road and Highway 121 in Euless will be a mixed-use commercial/residential development known as Glade Parks.

The Planned Development District will govern construction of approximately 100 acres of commercial development that consists of the following: out parcel; in-line major retail; and lifestyle area (which include a 2.4-acre open space park) and a residential development that consists of the following: urban residential (approximately 16 acres); and townhomes (approximately 32 acres). There are approximately 30 acres of open space adjacent to the south of the Townhomes that will be enhanced as an amenity for the residential component of the development as well as containing recreational amenities and trails.

VINEYARD VILLAGE



Located at the Southeast corner of Glade Road and State Highway 121, Vineyard Village, is a 387,474 SF Shopping Center that is 96% occupied. Vineyard Village offers a variety of shopping and dining to the surrounding community with vendors such as Staples, Ross, Marshalls, Lowes, LA Fitness, Bed Bath & Beyond, Planet Tan, Freddy's Restaurant, Firehouse Subs and Baskin Robbins to name a few.

For more information on the City of Euless, please visit their website at : <http://www.ci.euless.tx.us>



School - Based Clinics and Health Centers

JPS Health Network is happy to partner with several school districts throughout Northeast Tarrant County to provide health services to students in the school districts where our centers are located. In addition, siblings of students and infants can also be seen. Our school-based centers are staffed by nurse practitioners who can do physicals, see children when sick, and write prescriptions.

Typical services include: immunizations, school physicals, Texas Health Steps, well child checks, assessment and treatment of minor injuries. They also offer management of chronic diseases such as allergies, diabetes, asthma and weight problems. Co-pay visits for students without insurance are \$5.00. Students with insurance or other coverage--such as JPS Connection, Medicaid, or CHIP- applicable co-pays apply. The centers are open on school days (M-F, 8-5) and may close on school holidays.

JPS Health Network is the tax-supported Health System for Tarrant County. The following four school-based clinic locations are in the northeast section of the county:

Birdville

8200 O'Brian Way
N. Richland Hills, TX
76180 817-547-3046

Summer Hours
through July
M-TH 8 am - 6pm

Grapevine/Colleyville

3050 Timberline Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051
817-251-5751

Summer Hours
all summer
M-F 8 am - 5pm

Haltom City

2807 Layton Avenue
Haltom City, TX 76117
817-759-2035

Summer Hours
through July
M-TH 8 am - 6pm

HEB

1100 Raider Drive
Euless, TX 76040
817-399-3500

Summer Hours
M-TH 8 am - 6pm
*As of 7/7 back to M-F hours

In addition to the School-based Clinics, JPS has two Health Centers in the northeast section of Tarrant County, one located at 837 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76022 (817-920-6400). Their hours are M-F from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility



JPS Health Network will open the doors to its newest clinic June 26th: Gertrude Tarpley Community Health Center in Watauga. Tarrant County Public Health WIC Clinic will have services available as well. Clinic hours will be M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

houses six providers, two family practice, two Internal Medicine, one Obstetrics Gynecology Nurse Practitioner. They also offer diagnostic services, a full pharmacy, Social Work Services, Dental Health and Financial Screening. A Behavioral Health staff is available three days per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Additionally, the JPS Gertrude Tarpley Community Health Center at Watauga, located

Continued on next page

School - Based Clinics and Health Centers Cont.



at the corner of Rufe Snow and Watauga Road, (6601 Watauga Rd. in Watauga) is scheduled to open June 26th. The facility will house 2 family practice physicians, 1 internal medicine physician, and 1 obstetrics/gyn nurse practitioner, along with a full service pharmacy and diagnostic services.

For more information on School - Based Clinics, JPS Health Centers and Tarrant County Public Health, Please visit the following websites:

- www.jpshealthnet.org
www.tarrantcounty.com

There's no "I" in Teamwork



Together we CAN make a difference!

*** ATTENTION ***

Tarrant County Prescription Discount Card

This card is available to you through a combined effort of Tarrant County, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and participating retail pharmacies. Save an average of 20% on your pharmacy drugs. Finding a pharmacy is easy: 8 out of 10 nationwide accept your discount card. There is no enrollment form and no membership fee. Immediate use. NO LIMITS. One card per family is all you need. You and your family members may use your discount

card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. EXTRA SAVINGS! As part of this program, you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications as well as high-tech and injectable drugs. Cards are available at the Northeast Sub-Courthouse in Hurst and at Town Hall in Southlake.

Call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit https://naco.advancrx.com

TARRANT COUNTY ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE For the Tarrant Area Food Bank JUNE 6 TO JULY 7

Please add an item or two or THREE when you shop for groceries and bring your donation to:

Commissioner Gary Fickes' Office

NE Sub-Courthouse 645 Grapevine Highway #6 Hurst, TX 76054

Southlake Town Hall 1400 Main Street, #410 Southlake, TX 76092



An Historical Moment In Time

County History Corner



The first emigrants known to permanently settle in the Indian lands between Denton Creek and Little Bear Creek came when this was the Robertson District, Republic of Texas. The wagon train left Missouri in September 1845, arrived later that year, and the emigrants settled an area from east of present Grapevine west to present Trophy Club and Keller. These were the first known permanent settlers and settlements of present Tarrant County.

A February 1846 meeting in the cabin of Charles Throop to organize a Baptist church provides a record of the area the settlers located, and as charter members of the church, the names of those settlers. The area around the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church became known as the Dove community, and is now a part of Southlake.

In March 1846 Nancy and Hall Medlin joined the church, the Medlin Cemetery in Trophy Club a reminder of settlement in that area. An area known as the Medlin-Allen community reached to where the Allen family settled, near present Keller. Of that early settlement

spread south of Denton Creek, the place that grew into a permanent town was the settlement that became Grapevine. Merchants located there and people created a town, that town being the oldest permanent town in the land area that became Tarrant County.

December 20, 1849 legislation created Tarrant County, and citizens of those early settlements became leaders of the new county when the first county elections were held in August 1850. The first elected County Commissioners were James P. Hallford and Daniel Barcoft, both of whom lived between Denton Creek and Bear Creek. The other Commissioner, Hamilton Bennett, had settled farther south near where the present Hwy 10 crosses Loop 820. Archibald Leonard, who recorded he settled in 1845 on land which became part of Grapevine, was the first County Clerk. Henry Suggs, a charter member of the Lonesome Dove Church in 1846, was the first County Treasurer. Francis Jordan, the first county Sheriff, joined the Lonesome Dove Church in 1853.

In 1850 the population, as shown by those elected, was concentrated in that

small area of northeast Tarrant County. The town of Fort Worth did not exist in 1850.

The 1849 legislation creating Tarrant County called for an election to establish a county seat near the center of the county, declaring, "the place receiving the highest number of votes shall be the county seat of said county of Tarrant, and shall be called Birdville". The county seat election was held in August 1852, after which the place chosen for the county seat became Birdville as required by the legislation.

It is interesting to consider the convenience of the current courthouse in Ft. Worth and the branch courthouses now in outlying parts of the county, as well as our ease in traveling, as compared to the hardships of those first settlers who settled when this was Robertson County. The Robertson County courthouse was in Old Franklin, far to the south about midway between Waco Village and Washington on the Brazos, when citizens had to travel by wagon or horseback to their county seat.

BULLETIN BOARD

**Tarrant County
Commissioners
Court**
Every Tuesday at
10:00 a.m.
Unless otherwise stated

June
3, 10, 17 & 24th

July
1, 8, 15, 22, 29th

August
5, 12, 19 & 26th



Father's Day
June 15th

Plan BBQ

Flag
Day
June
14th



INDEPENDENCE DAY



August

\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$
Tax Free Weekend
on school supplies
~ Be ready ~
Aug. 15, 16 & 17th

Veteran's Benefit Fair
Where: Resource Connection
Conference Center
2300 Circle Dr. #2300
Fort Worth, TX 76119

Time: Saturday, Aug. 23rd
10 am to 2 pm

Questions? 817-531-5645

June 19th
Emancipation
Day in Texas

~June 21~
First Day of
SUMMER

Transportation



Tarrant County Transportation Department - www.tarrantcounty.com
Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition - www.trtcmobility.org
Fort Worth Transportation Authority - www.the-t.com
North Central Texas Council of Governments - www.nctcog.org
North Texas Tollway Authority - www.ntta.org
Texas Department of Transportation - www.txdot.gov
Texas High Speed Rail Transportation Corporation - www.thsrc.com

Helpful links to what's going on with transportation in and around Precinct 3.

If you received a copy of the newsletter through a source other than our office (Chamber of Commerce) and would like to receive a copy of the newsletter direct, please send your email address to:

ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

If you do not want to receive a copy of our newsletter, please let us know and we'll take you off our list.

Thank you and have a great day!

**Tarrant County
Credit Union**

817-884-1470
www.tarrantcu.org



Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

Gary Fickes, Commissioner
ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Staff

Carolyn Sims, Precinct Administrator
cssims@tarrantcounty.com

Mary Ann Rike, Exec. Secretary
mrike@tarrantcounty.com

Theresa Parsons, Exec. Secretary
tparsons@tarrantcounty.com

Northeast Sub-Courthouse
645 Grapevine Highway #6
Hurst TX 76054
817-581-3600

Southlake Town Hall
1400 Main St #410
Southlake TX 76092
817-481-8234

NE County Contacts

	NE Sub-Courthouse	Southlake Town Hall
Constable	817-581-3610	817-481-8059
County Clerk	817-581-3604	817-481-8179
Passport Office	_____	817-481-8190
Justice of the Peace	817-581-3625	817-481-8132
Juvenile Services	817-581-3645	_____
Precinct 3 Maintenance	_____	_____
Travel - Public Health	_____	817-321-4707
Tax Office	817-581-3636	817-481-8141

Public Health Centers

NE Public Health Ctr. 813 Brown Trail #6, Bedford, TX 76022 817-285-4155
Watauga Public Health Ctr. 6601 Watauga Rd, Watauga, TX 76148 817-702-6600

Tarrant County Website: www.tarrantcounty.com