Northeast



Newsletter

Tarrant County - Precinct 3

Commissioner Gary Fickes

Volume 10, Issue 5

September 2017



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER Aren't these cool mornings refreshing?! It's a reminder that fall is right around the corner and so is **Empowering Seniors** 2017! We hope you can join us for our 9th annual premier expo

for Caregivers, Boomers, and Seniors on Friday. October 6 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at First Euless Campus West. You can look forward to professional health screenings, informative workshops, the "Ask the Doctor" panel, over 150 exhibitors, totes and treats, a comfort lounge area, FREE food, entertainment, BINGO, door prizes, win a \$500 VISA gift card, and more! This totally FREE event will be a hit with returning guests Neil Sperry, WBAP Radio Talk Show Host and Star-Telegram Columnist and Troy Dungan, Iconic Weatherman and Care N' Care Member! Be sure to register to attend today by visiting www.empoweringseniors.com or by calling 817-581-3600. Read more about new additions to Empowering Seniors on page 2 and 7.

Tarrant County continues to monitor the need for emergency assistance from Hurricane Harvey, and we offer our thoughts and prayers to those affected by Hurricane Irma in Florida. The best way for Tarrant County residents to help those affected by these disasters is through a financial donation to the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Continue to monitor updates for hurricane assistance in our area by visiting

www.tarrantcounty.com.

The new budget year for Tarrant County will begin on October 1st. I am excited that the Tarrant County Commissioner's Court was able to adopt a county general budget tax rate of \$0.244 which is lower than last year's rate of \$0.254. The Tarrant County Hospital District (JPS) adopted tax rate is \$0.224429 lower than the 2017 rate of \$0.227897. Tarrant County's combined tax rate is the lowest in the State of the five major urban counties. Check out more from Commissioner's Court by visiting www.tarrantcounty.com.

Tomorrow, September 14th, is North Texas Giving Day which is the Communities Foundation of Texas' annual 18-hour online giving extravaganza for North Texas nonprofits with the goal to help build awareness and support for nonprofits in the North Texas region. Scheduled giving is now open with gifts being processed on Thursday, September 14th. Find your favorite nonprofit and schedule your donation at www.northtexasgivingday.org. Read more about the giving day on page 5.

We have included in this newsletter information about Birdville ISD Superintendent of Schools, Darrell Brown, a welcome to the new Precinct 3 Tarrant County Historical Commission members, Drive Nation Sports, Tarrant County Information Technologies (IT) Department, Precinct 3 Maintenance Center, transportation updates, senior updates and much more! There will not be a Coffee with the Commissioner this month, but we will resume in November. I

Gary Fickes

Ouestion of the Month

Question: Why did President Franklin D. Roosevelt order that Thanksgiving be celebrated one week early?

(Answer on page 4)

Our new series...

"The Quote of the Month"

"If I owned Hell and Texas, I would rent out Texas and live in Hell. - Philip Henry Sheridan

NOTICE

Due to preparation for our Empowering Seniors event, we will not be hosting Coffee with the Commissioner in September, however, we will make up for it in November!

Save the Date **COFFEE WITH THE** COMMISSIONER

Friday, November 10, 2017

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Start your day with us!

Northeast Courthouse

645 Grapevine Hwy., Ste. 200 Hurst, Texas 76054



MASSCARETASKFORCE Serving North Texas when disaster strikes

MASS CARE TASK FORCE **ACTIVATED IN RESPONSE TO** HURRICANE HARVEY

www.masscaretaskforce.org

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www.TarrantCounty.com



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Darrell G. Brown, Ph.D. ECSO Superintendent of Schools

Birdville ISD encompasses 40 squaremiles of Northeast Tarrant County and portions of seven cities. These diverse cities provide unique opportunities for BISD, and Dr. Brown is continuously working to maintain and enhance strong relationships across the District.

Upon his arrival in BISD, Dr. Brown began outreach efforts toward various district and community groups to develop relationships, and establish open lines of communication. With this in mind, he established the *Superintendent's Communications Council* (composed of teachers from every campus and a representative from each professional organization) that meets quarterly; the *Student Leadership Council* (composed of students from each of the District's high schools); and the *Community Communications Council* (city leaders and campus PTA presidents) that meets regularly. Each Council is designed to strengthen relationships within/between the District and community, and serves as a venue for sharing pertinent information and ideas.

Because of Dr. Brown's encouragement and support, the District's Communications Department has significantly expanded its diligent efforts to be the trusted resource for reliable, relevant and timely information throughout the District and surrounding community. To accomplish this goal, the following communications tools are utilized:

•Regular articles in the *Northeast Times* newspaper, also posted online and on social media.

• An award-winning District website, which had more than 4.7 million visitors between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

•Active social media sites (Facebook, with more than 15,200 followers; Twitter, with more than 5,200 followers; and Instagram, with more than 1,500 followers.)

•An active news feed where more than 5,700 subscribers receive District news in their email several times each week.

•A weekly electronic newsletter to more

than 3,000 BISD staff.

Dr. Brown is continuously working to promote positive community relationships. Whether it be face-to-face, in print, or in electronic format, he strives to reach people where they are.

On a more personal note -

What do you do for fun? *Outdoor activities, sporting events, spending time with family and friends.*

Favorite Movie? *"The American President"*

Favorite Restaurant? Italian Cuisine

Favorite vacation spot? *Mountains, Beach*

Last book read? "No Excuses Leadership" by Damon Lopez

People would be surprised to know... *I enjoy singing gospel, country, and classic rock music.*

Tarrant County Information Technology Department



Chris Nchopa-Ayafor, Chief Information Officer, awarding ITD Staff Gold Coins for Extraordinary Success.

The Tarrant County <u>Information</u> <u>Technology Department</u> (ITD) has approximately 200 staff members in six divisions striving daily to fulfill our vision to be the best IT organization in state and local government within the United States.

Using our motto of **Business First**, **Technology Second** and driven by core <u>Guiding Principles</u> of quality, stewardship, teamwork, integrity and customer service, we constantly review the dynamic business technology landscape to ensure we fulfill our mission of providing costefficient, high-quality IT solutions to Tarrant County departments, residents, and corporate and government partners. ITD's <u>Vision 2020 Strategic Plan</u>, is the framework that ensures information technology investments align with the County's strategic business goals.

Enabling resident participation in their government improves the quality of life in Tarrant County. The County's newly modernized <u>website</u> has received over 3.2 million visitors during the first seven months of 2017. <u>OpenBooks</u>, promoting awareness of county business and financial health status, Election's <u>Voter</u> <u>Lookup</u> and Public Health's <u>Be Mosquito</u> <u>Free</u> campaign are other examples.

These accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Being recognized as a <u>2017</u> <u>Top 10 Digital County</u> in the 1,000,000 or more population category by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and National Association of Counties (NACo) is an honor ITD is very proud to receive. The recent <u>NACo Achievement Awards</u> <u>and Best of Texas Awards</u> further highlight the outstanding work by Tarrant County's talented staff and business partners. ITD was recently recognized by the



Dallas CIO Leadership Association at its ORBIE Awards in the nonprofit/public sector category.

Each of these prestigious awards affirms the vision to be the best IT organization in state and local government within the United States.

We are proud of our success in meeting and exceeding the expectations of about 100 Tarrant County business units by focusing on cohesive partnerships and business best practices.

Article courtesy of Jan Allred,, Special Projects and Relationship Manager

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Former NBA All-Star Jermaine O'Neal is building the paradigm of amateur sports facilities and performance training programming in the United States at DFW Airport. Drive Nation Sports will allow studentathletes to train, compete, and succeed at the highest levels of their sport.

The Drive Nation Sports Facility is located on 16.2 acres at the Dallas Fort-Worth International Airport that includes such amenities as basketball and volleyball courts, player lounges, mezzanine viewing areas, a made-to-order kitchen and multipurpose conference rooms. The 91,000 square-foot facility features an indoor performance training area with a 10,000 square -foot weight room, 50-yard all-purpose turf playing surface and a 55-yard speed track.

"My mission is to create the total athlete experience not just from a performance

training and skills development standpoint, but also from an emotional wellness, leadership, and character standpoint as well. We want to develop kids for college. That is the ultimate goal," said O'Neal.

With the facility scheduled to open this October, Drive Nation has established partnerships with brands such as Nike, Gatorade, PepsiCo, Hydroworx, PlaySight, ShotTracker, Andrews Institute, Children's Health and EXOS Sports Performance.

In addition to its performance training platforms, Drive Nation will be a premier destination for year-round amateur basketball and volleyball sports events. Drive Nation has already been selected as a host for the prestigious Nike-sponsored Elite Youth Basketball League tournament in 2018.



O'Neal will co-direct Drive Nation's amateur basketball clubs after recently expanding its presence by acquiring the locally-based RM5 group led by former NBA player, Mo Williams, who will guide basketball operations along with O'Neal. Drive Nation's amateur volleyball club recently named former Division-1 coach, Stevie Mussie, as its Director of Volleyball. Both clubs will participate in amateur competition beginning next January.

For more details, please visit <u>www.drivenationsports.com</u>, or Drive Nation Facebook, and Instagram pages at DriveNation_DFW.

> Article courtesy of Jay Ory, Director of Business Development and Marketing



Question of the Month

Question: Why did President Franklin D. Roosevelt order that Thanksgiving be celebrated one week early?

Answer: It was during the Great Depression and his goal was to extend the Christmas Shopping Season.



SEPTEMBER IS



https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/ prostatecancer/index.htm



To give to your favorite participating Nonprofits, click here.

WHAT IS NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY?

North Texas Giving Day is Communities Foundation of Texas' **annual 18-hour online giving extravaganza** for North Texas nonprofits that is powered by creative nonprofits, social media activism, area wide collaboration, and of course you!

North Texas Giving Day's goal is **to help build awareness and support** for nonprofits in the North Texas region.

Since 2009, Communities Foundation of Texas' North Texas Giving Day has pumped more than \$156 million, for over 2,500 local nonprofits, into the North Texas Community. In 2016, \$37 million was raised through more than 142,000 gifts benefiting 2,518 nonprofits.



2016 Highlight Video

WHEN IS NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY?

Giving Day 2017 is **Thursday, September 14, 2017** from 6 AM Central – Midnight.

WHERE IS NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY?

North Texas Giving Day is an online event. Most of the activity takes place via this NorthTexasGivingDay.org website.

In addition, Communities Foundation of Texas and some nonprofits will host donation stations on September 14, 2017. For more information on donation stations <u>click here</u>

WHAT IS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS?

In 2009, Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) created North Texas Giving Day, as one of the first—and now the largest community-wide giving events in the world! Presenting North Texas Giving Day is one of the many ways CFT serves as a hub for philanthropy in North Texas. As one of the largest community foundations in the nation, CFT professionally manages nearly 1000 charitable funds for families, companies, foundations and nonprofits and has awarded more than \$1.7 billion in grants since its founding in 1953.

NEWS AND UPDATES WILL BE POSTED REGULARLY TO SOCIAL MEDIA SITES: FACEBOOK: <u>NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY</u> AND TWITTER <u>@NTXGIVINGDAY</u>

#NTxGivingDay Responds to Harvey

Like you, our hearts are with those on the Texas coast. Thanks to each of you for providing important services to those displaced by Hurricane Harvey. To further encourage donors to support both short and long term recovery, North Texas Giving Day has giving profiles for both the Mass Care Task Force and CFT's Relief and Recovery Fund. The Mass Care Task Force, a collaboration between the American Red Cross North Texas Region, the Salvation Army DFW Metroplex Command, the North Texas Food Bank, and VolunteerNow, is actively serving those evacuating to shelters throughout the state. To give to Mass Care Task Force now, <u>click here</u>. In addition, CFT is collecting funds to support mid-to long-term reconstruction and rebuilding needs following the immediate crisis period. To support the Relief & Recovery Fund, <u>give here</u>. From September 7-14, donors will be able to give to both opportunities via NorthTexasGivingDay.org as well.

Demands on the North Texas region will continue to increase in the short and long term as many Harvey evacuees relocate to our area to escape the storm damage. In addition to supporting recovery efforts, we are encouraging everyone to continue to give generously to local nonprofits who keep our region strong. We believe in our local nonprofit sector and want all to be equipped to accept newcomers while also continuing to serve those across the North Texas region.

A community that gives together grows together. Thank you for supporting your neighbors!



Tarrant County Historical Commission Welcomes Five New Members

Last month we welcomed five new members from Precinct 3 to the Tarrant County Historical Commission. County historical commissions are authorized by the Texas Legislature for the purpose of "initiating and conducting programs for the preservation of the historical heritage of the county." Their role is to recognize, publicize and preserve the colorful history of the county. Members also provide assistance with archaeological studies, environmental impact assessments and the promotion of historic appreciation throughout our communities. They also conduct programs at schools and service organizations through their Speakers Bureau.

Our new members represent a wide variety of occupations and bring a wealth of experience and years of dedication to our Northeast Tarrant communities. We welcome these new additions to the commission:

• Frank Carroll of Colleyville is a trial and appellate lawyer with the firm of Dykema Cox Smith in Dallas. He and his wife Bonnie are 20+ year residents of Colleyville, where Frank was a member of the City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

- Wayne Lee of Southlake is a thirdgeneration resident of Northeast Tarrant County with his family moving here around 1900. He has been involved in the development of more than 100 subdivision phases in our area. He was on the team that helped charter Texas National Bank in Southlake, which was then the city's first local bank.
- Debi Meek of Grapevine has deep historical roots in Tarrant County. She currently serves as President of the Grapevine Historical Society and is a member of the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Advisory Board.
- David Reyff of Grapevine is a licensed architect and has worked for the past seven years as a design and construction project manager with the General Services Administration in Fort Worth. In this capacity, he has engaged with the

Texas State Historic Preservation office and has also worked with federal historic preservation committees in Washington, D.C.

• Randy Shiflet of North Richland Hills has enjoyed a 30-year career in public service. He began as a police officer and advanced to Deputy City Manager of North Richland Hills, from which he retired in 2002. Since 2004, he has served continuously on the City Planning & Zoning Commission and has held the chairman position since 2006.

The TCHC consists of 39 members, with seven appointed by County Judge B. Glen Whitley, seven by each of the four Tarrant County Commissioners and four at-large members.

To fulfill its mission, the Commission engages its board members on the following committees: 1895 Room Museum, Administration, Archaeology, Archives, Education, History Appreciation & Awards, Historical Markers & Cemeteries, Public Relations, and Tourism.

If you are interested in an opportunity to serve on one of the Tarrant County Boards and Commissions, we welcome an opportunity to visit with you.



To request an appointment to the Commission: Submit a letter requesting the appointment with your address showing you live in Precinct 3 (Northeast Tarrant County) to:

Commissioner Gary Fickes Northeast Courthouse 645 Grapevine Hwy., Ste. 200 Hurst, Texas 76054

Commission members are appointed by the Commissioner's Court.

- Commission Meeting Requirements: - 2-Year Term
- Meetings are 6 Times Per Year (The 4th Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November) at 1:30 p.m. on the 5th floor of the Plaza Building located at 200 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76196.
- Additional special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair.

Boards & Commissions

- Child Protective Services Board
- Cultural Education Facilities Finance
 Corporation
- Emergency Services District Board
- Fort Worth Transportation Authority
- Health Facilities Development Corporation
- Historical Commission
- Hospital District Board of Managers
- Human Services Advisory Committee

- MHMR of Tarrant County Board
- North Texas Tollway Authority
- Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Board
- Sheriff's Department Civil Service Commission
- Tarrant County Civil Service Commission
- Workforce Development Board
- 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance District Board

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about the education and skills needed so you can start off on the right track!

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



Medicare Open Enrollment

October 15th to December 7th

Getting started with Medicare

Whether you're new to Medicare, getting ready to turn 65, or preparing to retire, you'll need to make several important decisions about your health coverage. If you wait to enroll, you may have to pay a penalty, and you may have a gap in coverage. Use these steps to gather information so you can make informed decisions about your Medicare.

- Step 1: Learn about the different parts of Medicare
- Step 2: Find out when you can get Medicare
- Step 3: Decide if you want Part A & Part B
- Step 4: Choose your coverage
- Step 5: Sign up for Medicare
- Step 6: Learn about 5 tasks for your first year with Medicare

Learn about these steps at <u>www.medicare.gov</u>.

Important Links

Tools to Help You Choose

- Medicare.gov
- Medicare & You 2017 Handbook
- Sign Up-Change Plans
- **Contact Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for assistance understanding prescription drug coverage. 1-800-252-9240
- What Medicare Covers
- Drug Coverage
- Medicare Costs
- Forms-Help-Resources
- Supplements and Other Insurance
- Find Medicare plans
- You can get personalized health insurance counseling at no cost to you from your local <u>State Health Insurance Assistance</u> <u>Program (SHIP)</u>; Local SHIP office for Tarrant County: 817-258-8102 <u>http://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/aaa</u>
- Contact Social Security:
 - **By phone** Call 800-772-1213 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call us at TTY 800-325-0778.
 - In person Visit your local Social Security office. (Call first to make an appointment.)
 - Find local Social Security Office
- Texas Department of Insurance
- Manage Your Health at My Medicare

Information on Extra Financial Help

- Help With Paying Costs
- <u>Limited Income and Resources</u>
- <u>SSA Information</u>

CALENDAR

Sep 16 ECPAAA BBQ Dinner.....<u>www.eulesstx.gov</u> Oct 6 Empowering Seniors 2017 ...<u>www.empoweringseniors.com</u> Oct 7 Junk in the Trunk Garage Sale....<u>www.eulesstx.gov</u> Oct 14 Keller Sr. Activity Ctr. Craft Fair...<u>www.cityofkeller.com</u> Oct 25 NRH Senior Center Arts & Crafts Fair....<u>www.nrhtx.com</u>

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Southlake 817-748-8098 www.cityofsouthlake.com

perimeter of the intersection. •North of the intersection, crews continue to reconstruct the new northbound and southbound lanes and have almost completed the new retaining wall located along the west side of FM 1938. •Minor construction, including irrigation and landscaping, is also continuing on some side



streets connecting to FM 1938. •Other activity includes construction north of Fawkes Lane to Randol Mill Avenue, and the construction of the screen wall located on the east side of FM 1938 near Lovegrass Lane. • The \$20 million, 1.6 mile project will widen the roadway to two lanes in each direction with raised curbed medians, and will expand the intersection at FM 1709, so there will be two left-turn lanes in all directions. The project also includes landscaping along the roadway, with illumination and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway provided by the City of Southlake.

Project information can be found on Facebook and Twitter @fm1938mobility.

Calendar of Events

Sep 14 North Texas Giving Day	www.northtexasgivingday.org
Sep 14-17 31st Annual GrapeFest	
Sep 15 Colleyville Lions Club Hole-In-One Shoot Ou	t www.colleywillelions.com
Sep 15-16 Kidfish & Campout at Capp Smith Park	
Sep 16 Meals On Wheels Havana Nights Casino & Su	
Sep 16 HEB Chamber 62st Birthday Bash	
Sep 16 Alliance for Children Picnic at the Park	
Sep 18 NW Metroport Chamber Golf Classic	
Sep 19 Keller Chamber Warrior Golf Classic	
Sep 22 Arts Council Northeast Shining Stars	.www.shiningstarsartscouncil.org
Sep 23 Community Storehouse Run in the Dark	
Sep 25 Meals On Wheels Golf Classic	
Sep 28 HEB State of the Cities Breakfast	
Sep 28 Community Enrichment Center Love & Hope	
Sep 29 Metroport Meals on Wheels Wine & Design	
Sep 30 North Texas SNAP Boots & Bling Gala	
Oct 2 Texas Wounded Warrior Pro-Am Weekend	
Oct 3 National Night Out	
Oct 6 Empowering Seniors	<u>www.empoweringseniors.com</u>
Oct 6 SafeHaven Legacy of Women Award	<u>www.safehaventc.org</u>
Oct 6 -8 Southlake Chamber Oktoberfest	
Oct 7 City of Hurst Fall Festival	
Oct 7 City of Bedford Pet Fair	
Oct 7 NRH Road Runner 5K	www.nrhroadrunner.com
Oct 9 Columbus Day	••••••
Oct 13 The Women's Center Monster Mash	<u>www.womenscentertc.org</u>
Oct 13 Communities in Schools Women & Shoes	www.winewomenandshoes.com
Oct 14 Celebrate Roanoke	
Oct 14 Walk to End Alzheimer's-Northeast Tarrant C	ounty <u>wwwact.alz.org</u>
Oct 14 GRACE Gala "Angels Among Us"	www.gracegala.org
Oct 17 Grapevine Chamber Women's Chili Cook Off.	www.grapevinechamber.org
Oct 19 Keller Chamber Wine and Jazz	
Oct 20-21 6 Stones CPR Blitz	www.6stones.org
Oct 21 Colleyville Chamber City Slickers Auction	www.colleyvillechamber.org
Oct 21 7th Annual Westlake Classic Car Show	
Oct 23 NET Chamber Annual Golf Tournament	
Oct 24 Multi-Chamber Mixer - Great Wolf Lodge	
Oct 25 North Texas Regional Job Fair	
Oct 26 HEB Chamber Annual Chili Challenge	
Nov 2 Mid-Cities Care Corp - Festival of Friends	
Nov 3 NLF Heart of North Texas Business Conference	
Nov 3 I Heart BBQ Cook Off & Music Festival	
Nov 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends	
Nov 9 Arts Council Taste of Northeast	

OCTOBER BREAST CANCER awareness MONTH

For more information available at:

www.nationalbreastcancer.org

www5.komen.org

www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/ resources/



Read about Childhood Obesity

www.tarrantcounty.com



JPS Hospital Clinics in Northeast Tarrant County

Health Clinics

- Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center .. 817-514-5036 6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148
- JPS Health Center Northeast 817-920-6400 837 Brown Trail, Bedford 76022

School-Based Clinics

Georgia Kidwell - HEB 817-399-3366 3115 W. Pipeline Road #D, Euless TX 76040

For a complete list of Health Clinics and School–Based Clinics log onto: <u>www.jpshealthnet.org</u>

COUNTY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November 23 & 24 Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25 Christmas



Commissioner's Office Precinct 3

Gary Fickes, Commissioner gfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Rebecca Barksdale, Precinct Administrator <u>rbarksdale@tarrantcounty.com</u>

Devin Sanders, Community Outreach Coordinator dwsanders@tarrantcounty.com

Theresa Parsons, Assistant Precinct Administrator tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com

Freida Landerholm, Office Administrator <u>fmlanderholm@tarrantcounty.com</u>

Northeast Courthouse 645 Grapevine Highway, Suite 200 Hurst, Texas 76054 817-581-3600