



Northeast Newsletter

Tarrant County - Precinct 3

“Working together for a better tomorrow”



December 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

How time can fly! Two years ago, when I started as County Commissioner for Precinct 3, I never dreamed what path this journey would take. During this time, the issues that were important to the citizens in Precinct 3 haven't changed that much. We still believe that improving mobility and reducing traffic congestion remain our top priority. With the continued help from all of our city leaders in NETC we inch closer every month toward starting two major transportation projects: the North Tarrant Expressway and the DFW Connector. I know there'll be a few bumps along the road, but our long-term goal is to help get you, the citizen, out of stalled traffic!

We hope to continue the local Road and Street Sharing Program we have with all of our local cities. This very successful program has allowed the county and cities to work together on road and street projects. The cities provide the materials and the county provides the labor and equipment to complete the work. We have completed numerous major projects around Precinct 3 with this program.

With the trying economic situation we are experiencing, healthcare becomes a major concern for many in NETC. Access to quality care is paramount to successfully solving this problem. We must do a better job of taking care of individuals in need on a timely basis rather than treating these cases through our local emergency rooms. We will continue to upgrade and expand our local family health care centers and also our school-based clinics. The new Gertrude Tarpley Com-

munity Health Center in Watauga has been a great addition by providing services in the western portion of Precinct 3. Drop by the facility located at Rufe Snow Drive and Watauga Boulevard—you'll be impressed.

Economic development in NETC has become even more important than ever because of the economic challenges we are seeing today. We have been somewhat blessed in our area because our local business climate continues to prosper. No, it's not as robust as it was 18 months ago, but we still have businesses moving here, commercial construction is still taking place, and houses are still selling in most of our communities.

As we enter the New Year, we'll need to stay focused on the above issues but also look toward other areas of importance in Tarrant County. The issues that affect our senior citizens need our top consideration. As we have stated in past newsletters, we will be forming a Senior Task Force Committee to look at the issues and possible solutions to some of the challenges that seniors face daily. If you have time and the desire to be involved in this committee, please contact our office for details: 817 581-3600.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who showed your concern for my health during this past year. I am almost ten months past my transplant and everything is doing well. I do what my doctors tell me and they say I'm doing great. I appreciate all of you and look forward to a great 2009!

Gary Fickes
Commissioner Pct. 3



All of us join in wishing you a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!
Commissioner Gary Fickes and his staff



Pictured from left to right: Charles "Neal" Welch, Theresa Parsons, Mary Ann Rike, Roselee Kerr, Rex, Carolyn Sims and Commissioner Gary Fickes

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Tarrant County Juvenile Services | 2 |
| Question of the Month | 2 |
| Employee Spotlight on Sammy Teal | 2 |
| An Historical Moment in Time - The Tarrant County Courthouse | 3 |
| Economic Development—Watauga | 4 |
| Precinct 3 Maintenance News | 4 |
| TCC Northeast Campus teams up with TC Public Health | 5 |
| North Fort Worth Alliance | 5 |
| Proclamation presented in Commissioners Court for the 50th Anniversary of HEB ISD | 5 |
| Big Changes Coming To Your Analog/Digital Televisions | 5 |
| Bulletin Board | 6 |
| Transportation—Helpful Websites | 6 |
| Contact Information | 6 |

Tarrant County Juvenile Services



Pictured from left to right: David VanHook, Marci Foley, Carter Jordan, Diane Hunt, Brett Harper, Nakia Cole, Patricia Gonzalez, Liz Huie, Joy Hall, and Brent Davis.

It is an exciting time to be working for the Tarrant County Juvenile Services Department! We have had a lot of fun this past year with providing services to the NE Community. It should not go unnoticed that the NE Team worked very hard to make sure the families and clients made it to the groups or sessions. They did an excellent job! WAY TO GO NE TEAM!

We continued to provide gender specific services for our female offenders through a

partnership with The Women's Center and Safehaven. Both agencies do an excellent job getting information to our young ladies through group activities.

This past year Ms. Sarita Esqueda, Project Aspect Coordinator, kicked off a dynamic cognitive based group in our area. In partnership with Santa Fe Adolescent Services this Project has served around 30 of our NE high risk male youth.

The NE Team partnered with Lena Pope

Home's Parenting with Love and Limits program this past September through October 2008. This is a six week group program that provides individual family therapy for 12 weeks. We currently have 9 families continuing with the individual sessions that completed the group sessions.

Lastly, the Tarrant County Juvenile Services Department continues to work hard at developing a new computer system (JCMS - Juvenile Case Management System) that will take place of the KIDS system that we currently use. The other project that will go live in January of 2009 is an assessment tool called Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). The PACT will help us better serve the families, clients and community of Tarrant County.

For more information on Juvenile Services: www.tarrantcounty.com

Question of the Month:

What significant event followed the completion of the Tarrant County Courthouse in 1895?

Email your answers to: ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Employee Spotlight

On May 6th, I was recognized at Commissioners Court for 35 years service with Precinct 3. It brought back memories of my friend, Ken Mayfield, who was our Director of Field Operations. Ken and I attended Haltom High School together and started working for the road crew at Precinct 3 in the summer after high school graduation. We were in each other's weddings.

My wife, Donna, and I have been married for 32 years. We live in North Fort Worth and have three children. Our oldest son, Gregg, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and is employed by HKS Architects in Dallas. He is married to Tricia and they have two sons, Noah and Noble. Our daughter, Jaime, graduated from the University of North Texas and is employed by Healthmarkets in Hurst as an Administrative Assistant. Jaime and her husband, Austin Butler, have one daughter, Caroline. Our youngest son, Samuel, is attending Tarleton State University and majoring in music education.

I enjoy spending weekends watching my grandsons, Noah and Noble, play soccer. They look forward to our weekly trip to Krispy Kreme donuts after the game. I am called "G Dad" because the boys could not



Sammy Teal, Assistant Director of Field Operations at Precinct 3 Maintenance Center.

say Granddad when they were little.

Family traditions are very important to our family. Some of our favorites are Friday night dinners at Mexican Inn, Memorial Day camping, Barnum & Bailey Circus, and the Parade of Lights downtown Fort Worth. We have a travel trailer and enjoy camping and travelling throughout Texas. We cruised to Alaska in 2006 and would like to do more cruising in the future.

Our family dog, Bogey, is an English springer spaniel. Bogey is seven years

old and a real companion. He "speaks" to me upon arrival from work each day awaiting his favorite treats.

My wife and I are members of Fellowship of the Parks Church in Keller and attend weekly lifegroup meetings studying topical bible studies. I am a Mason and a member of the Haltom City-Riverside Lodge since 1984.

On a more personal note ~

Sammy, what do you like most about your job?
"Serving the citizens of Tarrant County and building relationships with our employees."

What do you do for fun? *"Camping, fishing, and spending time with my grandchildren."*

Favorite movie? *"Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars"*

Favorite Restaurant? *"Babe's and Mexican Inn"*

Vacation Spot? *"Around Texas and on cruises"*

Last Book Read? *"Daily Bible readings and I'm currently reading Josh Hamilton's 'Beyond Belief'"*

People would be surprised to know... *"I was a rodeo participant in the 70's in the Steer Wrestling Competition and an East Texas Rodeo Champion."*



An Historical Moment In Time

The Finest County Courthouse in the State of Texas

TARRANT COUNTY



1895 COURTHOUSE

TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Built in 1894 -1895 the Tarrant County Courthouse is in the Renaissance Revival Style. Designed by Gunn and Curtiss of Kansas City, Missouri. It skillfully melds the prominent forms and shapes of Renaissance Revival with a prototypical County courthouse clock tower.



All of the trial courts, civil or criminal, were on the second level. Three were designated for civil cases and one for criminal trials. Located on the north side of the building, the criminal court connected to a third, concealed stair. This stair, no longer extant, led from the sub-basement tunnel under Belknap to the County Jail in what is now Paddock Park north of the Courthouse. From the tunnel it led up to the second floor courtroom for prisoner delivery, and on up to the top floor.

The tall ceilings, monumental corridors, tall window transoms over doors and other impressive features were designed into the building to allow free and open air circulation. Tuberculosis and cholera were major urban threats at the time. A healthy environment was thought to include plenty of ventilation through and around all buildings, and particularly public spaces where

people gathered. Vented skylights capped both corridors as well as the large courtrooms at each end of the building. The center rotunda was over openings through the floors from first through top floors. Openings in the top floor east and west corridors allowed air to circulate from the second level up through the vented skylights. Forced air ventilation evacuated all large courtrooms. Three fans in the attic, four feet in diameter, were powered by electric motors. They exhausted inside air through louvers seen in the cap over the barrel vaults at each end of the building and through the louvers of the bell level in the tower.

The Courthouse utilized all available contemporary design technology of the time. In addition to the electric fans, it was also equipped with electric lighting in the courtrooms and primary offices, and with electric clocks in all courtrooms. They initially planned two electric elevators, that were deleted as part of initial cost cutting. The bid price, just over the \$400,000 budget, required deleting elevators as well as tile floors in public toilet rooms (they received concrete floors). Electricity, however, was not entirely trusted.



Light fixtures also had gas jets for lighting as well. This can be seen in the courtroom photograph included as part of this article.

Structurally, the building was founded in solid masonry construction resting on bedrock. This is historically typical for all large public buildings. The bell level and tower dome were framed by cast iron. Steel was used for floor beams, porch beams and for suspension of second floor rooms from roof trusses. The building, required to be of non-combustible construction, had floor and roof framework consisting of fitted clay tiles between steel "T" shapes and beams. These produced enormous horizontal thrusts, and are



part of the reason the exterior and interior masonry walls are as thick as they are.

There have been a number of changes to the building, including the copper roof, which

replaced the original shingles (first slate, then cement asbestos) in the 1950's. Original cast iron urns and other decorative work on the outside edges of the roof disappeared earlier in the 1930's. The original Architect's landscape and paving design was never even bid. The first landscape was a minimal sidewalk design prepared for \$5.00 and "up to 100" trees installed at \$1.00 each. Of interest, gray granite was originally specified for the design. When sufficient quantity could not be found in Texas, the same red granite used for the State Capital was accepted as a substitute.

As part of the 1984 renovation, the second floor mezzanine offices at each end of the building



were expanded into a whole new floor, increasing the building from a basement plus three to a basement plus four floors. The goal of the 1984 renovation, to keep the historic building in use, was Successful - from the original primary five courtrooms when first built, it has had as many as eleven functioning courtrooms.



The building, today, fully embodies the spirit of the original design and construction. Although it has added a floor, greatly reduced

the size of original courtrooms and has major changes in the use of the different spaces in the building, still would never be mistaken by anyone from 1895 for anything other than what it is - the finest County Courthouse in the State of Texas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - WATAUGA

State Highway 377 (also known as Denton Highway) is one of Watauga's two major north/south corridors and serves as a center for commercial activity. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the highway is the most heavily traveled roadway in the City's trade area. Several retail shopping centers are located along S.H. 377 including the Watauga Town Center, Watauga Towne Crossing, and Watauga Pavilion.



Watauga Town Center

Watauga Town Center is a grocer-anchored neighborhood shopping center featuring 65,280 sf. of gross leasable space on S.H. 377. Situated at a main retail intersection

with significant visibility, the property has access via three bordering thoroughfares to a high income, rapidly-growing trade area. Albertson's grocery store anchors the center which has other notable tenants including, Washington Mutual, CitiFinancial, State Farm, Eyemasters, and H&R Block. These national retailers create a high volume of consumer traffic.



Watauga Towne Crossing

Watauga Towne Crossing is a 42-acre retail development located at Tarrant Parkway and S.H. 377. Super Target is the center's anchor store, which is a terrific draw for the area and gives the area validity for

being a strong retail corridor. Other tenants include Staples, Petco, Bath & Body Works, Cotton Patch Café, and Marshalls.

Watauga Pavilion is located on approximately 220,000 sf. of gross leased space near the intersection of S.H. 377 and Starnes Road. This retail center has a



Watauga Pavilion

unique identity that was achieved through the use of unique building materials and design. Tenants include Bed, Bath & Beyond, PetSmart, Party City, Sports Authority, Pier 1 Imports, Pei Wei, and Chipotle Mexican Grill. Quality national tenants, stability of cash flow, and residential growth make Watauga Pavilion a solid investment.

Watauga Road Corridor

Watauga Road is the primary east/west connector between the S.H. 377 and Rufe Snow Corridors. It is the only east/west connector that has commercial activity running its entire length, and therefore has the most opportunity for future development. Watauga has sought to capitalize on the retail momentum it has experienced along S.H. 377 in an attempt to spur similar investment along Watauga Road. In a proactive approach, the City Council adopted a set of Architectural Design Guidelines for the Watauga Road Corridor. The Council also appointed an Architectural Review Commission to implement these Guidelines. Following adoption of the Design Guidelines, First Enterprise Corporation (in association with Townview Realtors) engaged an architectural firm to site plan a mixed-use development on six acres along Watauga Road, just south of where Whitley Road dead ends. The City hopes to ride the coattails of recent improvements to The Marketplace and Watauga Middle School to spur additional development and redevelopment along what some consider Watauga's "Main Street".

For more information on the City of Watauga: <http://www.ci.watauga.tx.us/>

Precinct 3 Maintenance News 817-514-5000



Completed project - asphalt overlay on a section of Randol Mill Road

In October we reconstructed a parking lot at Meadow Park for the City of Bedford, and started a road reconstruction project on Willow Springs North for Precinct Three. In November we completed two asphalt overlay projects for the City of Southlake: Randol Mill Road from FM 1709 to north of Brookforest and Carroll Avenue from FM 1709 to Federal Way. We also completed the reconstruction project on Willow Springs North.

With the winter months closing in on us, we are beginning to get ready for cold weather. We will inspect the salt and sand spreaders to make sure they operate correctly when bad weather finds its way here. We also inventory our stockpiles of salt and sand so we can cover the major

intersections in the un-incorporated areas of Precinct Three when the roads ice over.

We hope to complete the right-of-way mowing in early December and start the crack seal operation. The cracks in the asphalt are wider in the winter than in the summer so we fill the cracks with a rubberized material that will flex as the pavement expands and contracts. The rubberized seal prevents water from getting under the pavement and creating potholes.

Our team also trims trees in the right-of-way that are growing out far enough to restrict sight distances at intersections. We trim the trees in the winter when it does less damage to the trees and the trees have less foliage, which reduces the amount of debris that has to be hauled away from the jobsite.

TCC Northeast Campus teams up with TC Public Health

The Public Health Preparedness Program at Tarrant County Public Health conducted a drive-thru exercise on Nov. 15 to evaluate its capability to quickly dispense medications in a simulated public health emergency. Hepatitis A vaccine was provided free of charge to participants through funds received from a federal Public Health Preparedness Grant.

Tarrant County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, community volunteers and public health staff braved 30 mph winds and frigid temperatures at Tarrant County College Northeast Campus to conduct the exercise.



Participants line up to get shots as they drive through.

During the exercise, 89 vaccinations were provided to prevent Hepatitis A in our community. As a result of this collaborative effort between Tarrant County Public Health, Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, the City of North Richland

Hills and the City of Hurst, response plans were tested and Tarrant County is better prepared to respond during a public health emergency. Additionally, what the groups learned from the exercise will help expand Public Health's and the community's ability to work together in any public health emergency.

In a public health emergency, Tarrant County Public Health may need to dispense medications to 1.8 million residents within 48 hours. Exercises like this provide the training and experience needed by volunteers who will assist Public Health with this task.

People interested in becoming a part of efforts like this can get more information by visiting our volunteer Web site at www.bealocalhero.org.



Responders act quickly to handle a simulated allergic reaction.



Dr. Jeff Burnett, President of the HEB ISD Board of Trustees, receiving the Proclamation from Commissioner Gary Fickes celebrating the 50th Anniversary of HEB ISD

Question from previous issue was: Who was the first native born Texan to serve as Governor of Texas?
Answer is: James Stephen "Big Jim" Hogg
 Congratulations to those who answered correctly! Stephen Lopez, Paul Mitchell, Carol Smith, MG 'Jerry' Spencer, and Betty Murray Springer.

North Fort Worth Alliance

The **North Fort Worth Alliance** is a group of active community members from neighborhoods in far North Fort Worth. Currently, 20 neighborhoods are represented. The Alliance was founded in March of 2006 and is a registered member of the City of Fort Worth Neighborhood Associations.

The purpose of the **Alliance** is to provide a forum to foster communication and cooperation among the neighborhood associations, civic groups, and other organizations that seek to improve the community and encourage responsible growth within North Fort Worth.

The boundaries of the **Alliance** are: FM 1171 on the north, North Tarrant Parkway to the south, Highway 377 on the east, I-35W on the west. (The western boundary also includes those neighborhoods west of I-35W that are located within Fort Worth City Council District #2)

Several active committees in the **Alliance** work on issues such as zoning and land use, transportation, infrastructure and public services. The **NFWA** has concentrated much time over the last year on responsible growth and transportation gridlock created by growth.

NFWA monthly meetings are held on the

third Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Please check our website for location. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend

CURRENT NFWA COMMUNITIES

Arcadia Park Estates-Beechwood Creek-Coventry Hills-Crawford Farms-Harriet Creek Ranch-Harvest Ridge-Heights of Park Vista Heritage-Heritage Glen-Kingsridge-Lost Creek Ranches-Manor Hill-McPherson Ranch-Sendera Ranch-Sunset Hills-Tehama Ridge-Trace Ridge-Vineyards at Heritage-Vista Meadows-Woodland Springs

Colleen Demel, Executive Director
nfwaexedir@gmail.com

Russell Fuller, Associate Director
Nfwa.pubser@gmail.com

Robert Mohler, Secretary
Nfwa.webmaster@gmail.com

North Fort Worth Alliance
 P. O. Box 161611
 Ft. Worth, TX 76161

For more information:
www.northfortworthalliance.com

BIG CHANGES ARE COMING TO YOUR ANALOG / DIGITAL TELEVISIONS—BE READY!

For those whose televisions are already hooked up to cable or satellite or those who have televisions with built-in digital tuners—the transition should be seamless. But if you get your programming on an analog television through a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears,” you will have to take action to keep your TV sets working after the transition as of midnight, February 17, 2009. For more information:

- About coupons and converter boxes: www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888 DTV 2009 (TTY: 877-530-2634)
- About the transition to digital television: www.dtv.gov or call 1-888 CALL FCC (TTY: 888-835-5322)
- About consumer protection in general: www.ftc.gov or call 1-877 FTC HELP (TTY: 866-653-4261)



BULLETIN BOARD

***** ATTENTION *****
Tarrant County Prescription Discount Card
 Save an average of 20% on your pharmacy drugs. There is no enrollment form and no membership fee. Call toll free 1-877-321-2652
 or visit <https://naco.advancercx.com>

FLU SHOTS - \$20.00
Tarrant County Public Health
 For information call 817-238-4448 or visit www.tarrantcounty.com

Tarrant County Veterans Services Administration Benefit Outreach
 Assistance free of charge.
 Every Tuesday ~ Noon to 3:30 p.m.
 Call for appointment 817-531-5645
 NE Sub-Courthouse
 645 Grapevine Hwy., Hurst TX 76054

December
Christmas Holiday
 (County Holiday)
 Tarrant County Offices will be closed Dec. 25th & 26th
 Warm coat, blanket, hat, gloves or socks needed. Drop off by 12/31 at:
 Tarrant County Veteran Services
 1200 Circle Dr., #300 in FW
 Mon-Fri 8-4:30 Closed at noon
 More info 817-531-5645

January
Happy New Year!
New Year's Day
 (County Holiday)
 Tarrant County Offices closed Jan. 1, 2009
Martin Luther King Day
 (County Holiday)
 Tarrant County Offices closed Jan. 19

February
Groundhog Day
 Feb. 2nd
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
President's Day
 (County Holiday)
 Tarrant County Offices closed Feb. 16

Tarrant County Commissioners Court
 Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
 100 E Weatherford Fort Worth, TX
 Unless otherwise stated

December 2, 9, 16 & 30th

January 13, 20 & 27th

February 3, 10, 17, & 24th



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 (i.e. Chamber of Commerce) and would like to receive a copy of the newsletter direct, please send your email address to:

tcparsons@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.

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

Thank you and have a great day!

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

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mrrike@tarrantcounty.com

Theresa Parsons, Exec. Secretary
tcparsons@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 Pct. 3 | 817-581-3610 | 817-481-8059 |
| County Clerk | 817-581-3604 | 817-481-8179 |
| Passport Office | _____ | 817-481-8190 |
| Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 | 817-581-3625 | 817-481-8132 |
| Juvenile Services | 817-581-3645 | _____ |
| Travel - Pub. Health | _____ | 817-321-4707 |
| Tax Office | 817-581-3636 | 817-481-8141 |
| Maintenance Center | 817-514-5000 | _____ |
| Constable Pct. 1 | 817-884-1385 | Serve a section of Haltom City, Hurst, Fort Worth, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, and Watauga. |
| Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 | 817-884-1395 | |

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