Is it HOT enough for everyone these days? With the weather we're having, it can make it really difficult for our county road crews and the roads that they are working on to repair. When they're out working on a road, remember that the temperature of the road can be 30-40 degrees warmer than the registered temperature. Please drive safely when near anyone doing roadwork. Speaking of events that are HOT, please don't miss "Coffee with the Commissioner" this Friday at 7:30-9:00 in the Hurst office.

This month we are featuring one of the best-known Mayors in the Metroplex. Mayor William D. Tate of Grapevine has served his city for over 35 years. I have been privileged to know Mayor Tate for the past 25 years. He is truly a visionary and has led Grapevine toward being one of the most livable and unique communities in the country.

Budget Talk. In the last edition of the Northeast Newsletter, we discussed the challenges facing us for the 2011-2012 Budget. It now looks like we will be able to continue with a similar level of services in most areas. The State Legislature has reduced some funding in the criminal justice area that the County will probably need to fund. All County departments have made significant reductions in many areas to reduce costs. Our main Budget goal will be to provide the services needed to serve the public while maintaining cost controls that will keep our taxes low.

Empowering Seniors 2011 will be coming on Friday, October 7. This is a great event for anyone 50 years old or more. We will again provide health screenings, lots of great information, seminars, speakers, FOOD, door prizes, and it's all FREE. This will be our third year to present this program and it's all done without spending taxpayer dollars. A big thanks to all of our sponsors who make this event possible. Last year we had over 900 attend, so don't miss it!

Roanoke is featured in our Economic Development section. A small portion of Roanoke is located in Tarrant County with the remainder being in Denton County. Roanoke has created a fantastic Restaurant Row along Oak Street. Go see it and you'll be surprised and pleased.

Our Transportation review has grown. We have added the improvements on SH 26 in Grapevine. This is actually part of the DFW Connector project that is under a separate contract from TxDOT. In the near future we will be adding the Colleyville portion of SH 26 when it starts in late 2011. All the mentioned projects are considered large TxDOT projects. When completed, we will have less congestion, improved mobility and cleaner air.

Have a great summer, stay cool and pray for rain!

Gary Fickes
William D. Tate grew up in Grapevine, Texas, part of a well-respected family. His grandfather was Grapevine’s first Night Watchman, and his father served on the School Board, City Council, and as Mayor. His parents were merchants on Main Street.

Mr. Tate has committed his life to the service of others. He began his service to Grapevine as City Attorney from 1969-77. He was then elected to the Grapevine City Council in June of 1972, and subsequently elected Mayor in June of 1975, serving until 1985. Mr. Tate was re-elected Mayor in 1988 and has continued as Mayor since that time.

Mr. Tate has been practicing law in Grapevine and the surrounding area for over 40 years. He is a well-known and respected attorney, and has a well-established law practice as well as a fee office for Federal Title. He primarily practices in Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Wise, Parker and Collin Counties, but has handled cases in many counties of Texas. His many accomplishments include Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from North Texas State University; Doctor of Jurisprudence from University of Houston; Member of State Bar of Texas as well as Member of American Bar Association; Member of Baylor Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees; received Boy Scouts of America Silver Eagle Award in May of 2007; received Citizen of the Year Award in 1976; Member of Who’s Who in Texas;

What do you do for fun? All things out of doors like hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, and walking.
Favorite Restaurant? Outback Steakhouse
Favorite Movie? “True Grit”
Last book read? “All Afire to Fight” by Martha L. Crabb - A story of the Grapevine area boys fight in the Civil War.
Favorite vacation spot? Disney with my family.
People would be surprised to know... I like to make preserves and jelly.

Keller ISD Education Foundation

The Keller ISD Education Foundation exists to support the educational process of the Keller ISD. Since its beginning in 2006, the Foundation has concentrated on providing teacher grants and student scholarships. However, the times have changed radically for the Keller ISD and so, too, have the needs of the District, its teachers and the educational process. The Keller ISD Education Foundation has made the decision to change with these times as well.

For the immediate future, the Education Foundation will work hand-in-hand with the District to help locate and provide support in specific areas that will have a direct effect on the education provided to students of the Keller ISD. The Foundation will concentrate on raising money to help fund programs or services that are in danger of being lost due to budgetary constraints.

The first need the Education Foundation will address is the issue of finding funds to assist lower income children in paying for bus transportation to school. Students must pay for bussing this year, to and from their campus. The greatest hardship is placed on those already on limited fixed income. Unfortunately, many of the 7,000 students who regularly ride the bus fit into that category.

The Keller ISD Education Foundation is collecting donations from anyone interested in helping “fill the gap” for these students. Donations can be made to the Keller ISD Education Foundation and are considered tax deductible per IRS guidelines (donation should be marked for “bus service”). The Foundation will work directly with the district to pay for bussing to the extent donations are made available.

The Foundation will also continue to work with the District and the community as they help facilitate aide with other programs, as those needs or interests arise.

For additional information on this or other areas you might choose to support, you may contact the Education Foundation at foundation@kellerisd.net or call Dale Hart, Executive Director, at 817-301-4990. For additional information regarding this topic or to schedule interviews, contact Dale Hart at 817-301-4990 or email at dale.hart@sbcglobal.net.

Our website: www.kisdfoundation.net
**EMPOWERING SENIORS 2011**

a Health and Lifestyle EXPO for Boomers & Seniors

Commissioner Gary Fickes • Tarrant County, Precinct 3

FBCE Campus West, 209 N. Industrial, Bedford, TX (Northwest Corner of Hwy. 183 and N. Industrial) [Map](#)

**Friday, October 7, 2011 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

An educational and fun event at NO COST TO YOU thanks to our generous sponsors!

---

Empowering Seniors 2011 - **REGISTRATION FORM**

(Registration must be received by Friday, September 30th, 2011 to guarantee you a free box lunch.)

Please complete the registration form and return to:

- Commissioner Gary Fickes, 645 Grapevine Highway #6, Hurst TX 76054
- or email to: mrike@tarrantcounty.com
- or fax to: (817) 581-3603

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

---

Reflecting on last years event...

“Very professional, well-organized and lots of fun!”  
• Over 900 in Attendance  
• 15 Workshops  
• 10 Health Screenings  
• 80+ Vendors  
• Great Entertainment  
• Wonderful Door Prizes

“Hospital screenings were wonderful! Great job by all!”

“Great speakers! Enjoyed every minute!”

---

“Very informative. This was a fantastic event!”
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ROANOKE
Dine, Shop and Play in Roanoke: The Unique Dining Capital of Texas

Today, Oak Street is a very successful dining destination that is frequently attracting new starts. Hard Eight BBQ, under construction at Oak and Bowie, is opening in early 2012, Outlaw Burgers is opening this month, Don Taco and Fuzzy’s Taco have just opened with several more restaurants in development. Along with our focus on dining and tourism, more shopping and family friendly entertainment are top priority. Our fast paced growth, optimal location (at highways 114, 377 and 170) and local attractions bring more new faces and revenue to Roanoke.

New and expanded family friendly events and attractions are planned to draw folks to visit and enjoy Roanoke. Just opened, Hawaiian Falls brings thousands of new visitors and is the home of the world’s largest aqua play structure. Roanoke’s downtown district, recently listed in the National Register of Places, features the Roanoke Visitor Center and Museum which was elegantly restored in 2007. Formerly the Silver Spur Saloon built in 1886, the RVCM welcomes everyone. Come by and savor the charm of Oak Street and the friendly, authentic small town feel that makes Roanoke a unique destination.

Please visit: www.roanoketexas.com

CITY OF BEDFORD SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

In October, 1982, the cities of Bedford and Hurst opened their first joint senior center in the Bedford Boys Ranch Park. The steady growth of seniors in the first two years indicated the need for expansion. In 1984, 2,206 square feet were added, followed in 1997 by an additional 3,000 square feet for a total now of over 10,000 square feet to accommodate the increase.

Some of the classes offered then and now are ceramics, party bridge, duplicate bridge, china painting, oil painting, pool, pinochle, 84, line dancing, Tai Chi, aerobic exercise and regular dominoes. The Monday night dances have always proved to be very popular with live music and sometimes records. We offer blood pressure checks twice a month and the 55-Alive defensive driving classes every other month. The All Media class presents a Judged Art Show each year with 20-30 artists showing their talents. Approximately 2500-2800 seniors attend our classes and activities each month.

Our covered dish lunches are always very well attended, but, due to a lack of space, we can only have them once or twice a year. Thanksgiving is our largest luncheon for the year. We also have special days such as Hot Dog Day, Hamburger Day, Chili Day and Ice Cream and/or Watermelon Day.

We have not been able to offer trips but do help fill the buses for the other senior centers’ trips.

In November 2009 the City of Hurst opened their own senior center and now the City of Bedford totally funds the Bedford Senior Center in the Bedford Boys Ranch Park.

Our Membership Dues are $5.00 per year for Bedford residents and $10.00 per year for other cities. All seniors 50+ are welcome.

The staff: Manager, Virginia Chamblee; Recreation Specialist, Cathy Haskell; and Maintenance Tech, Dale Dawson.

For Information call: 817-952-2325, 817-952-2326 or 817-952-2329.

Hours of operation
Monday 8:00am -10:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00am-5:00 pm.

www.ci.bedford.tx.us
The library and its staff make programming an integral part of library operations, allowing the library to serve as a cultural hub for the community. In FY 2010, 320 programs were presented to 17,771 children and adults. These programs included toddler and pre-school classes, after-school activities for elementary-aged children, teen book and chess clubs, and book clubs geared to adults. More than 50% of Colleyville households have at least one library card.

The Colleyville Public Library was the first library in Tarrant County to offer a download program, and one of only a few to offer downloadable materials in all four mediums. The digital media download program includes audio books, eBooks, music, and videos.

From its inception, the Colleyville Public Library and its staff have proven to be enthusiastic stewards of the highest principles of a public library...and all that a library should be. In response to its popularity, this year the library opened a second-floor expansion—offering storytelling space, a children’s area, as well as space dedicated to reading-related crafts and activities. The expansion program also includes a teen room located on the library’s first floor. The Colleyville Public Library’s summer reading program, which encourages reading through the summer break, continues to set new attendance records each year.

The last battle in the Tarrant County area between settlers and Indians was fought by an expedition under the command of General E.H. Tarrant in May, 1841. General Tarrant lead a group of 69 men in the Battle of Village Creek. Most of the battlefield area is located in the Lake Arlington area. The plan was to attack a series of Indian villages along the creek. The villages belonged to the Caddo, Cherokee and Tonkawa Indians. The battle didn't go well for General Tarrant. His troops were routed and he had to retreat. One of his causalities was John B. Denton, for whom Denton County was named. Three months later, the Indians abandoned the area and Tarrant County has been safe from attack since then.

A one-time powerful Texas politician tried to make his favorite flower, the cactus flower, the Texas State Flower. He ran into a little opposition when a large group of ladies from prominent Texas families spoke up for the bluebonnet, including presenting an oil painting of that flower to the legislators, and got the bluebonnet designated as the state flower. John Nance (Cactus Jack) Garner, lost his bid for the cactus and went on to become Vice President of the United States.

You probably know that San Antonio was settled by immigrants, and you probably think they were from Spain. Not true! San Antonio was settled by a group of islanders off the coast of northwestern Africa. The Canary Islands were a colony of Spain and in 1691, the Marquis San Miguel de Aguayo sent a report to the King suggesting that 200 settlers be sent to San Antonio from Cuba or the Canary Islands. The Spanish crown thought that might be a good idea, so 40 years later in 1731 they sent 15 families (65 people) to settle San Antonio. This group joined the missionaries, soldiers and ranchers to form the first self-government. Called the Villa of San Fernando de Bexar, the settlement was named in honor of the King’s son.
The Tarrant County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) serves as a criminal justice advisory committee to Commissioners Court. The membership includes representatives from Tarrant County Commissioners Court, County Administration, Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, Judiciary, Court Administrator, Attorney Appointment Office, Budget Office, Community Development, Constables, Pretrial Services, Commissioners’ Precinct Offices, District Clerk, County Clerk, Justices of the Peace, Medical Examiner’s Office, Probation Department, Jail/Confinement, Juvenile Services, and Information Technology. Other Participants: Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Agencies, Municipal Court Magistrates, Bail Bondsmen Groups, Defense Bar, Legislative Representatives and other State, County and Local Community/Government leadership as directed. The goal of the committee is to improve the analysis and understanding of crime and criminal justice systems issues at the city and county government levels. By facilitating the coordination and cooperation among agencies and units of the county’s criminal justice system, goals and objectives will be more clearly understood and more effectively addressed.

This committee won a 2010 County Best Practice Awards at the Texas Association of Counties Annual Conference in September. The following link is to the Texas Association of County Web Page containing the videos of the awards presentations.


2011 Special Olympic Games Winner Recognized

Special Olympian Colby Bannister receives a Resolution from Commissioner Fickes honoring his outstanding performance in the 2011 Special Olympic Games held recently in Athens, Greece. Colby brought home the gold in the high bar event in addition to two silver medals and two bronze medals.

Great job Colby!

2009 photo by Theresa Parsons

2010 photo by Lissa Willis

Answer to Question of the Month

Question: While Texas was an independent nation (1836-1846), the boundaries included parts of 5 current states. Can you name them?

Answer: New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming

The boundaries were changed to the current Texas borders in 1850 with the Great Compromise of 1850.

We are in search of the perfect photo for Commissioner Fickes’ Christmas Card. All photos submitted must be:

- A Christmas themed photo that represents Tarrant County
- Submit jpeg file only
- Deadline- Friday, November 4, 2011

Please submit your photo via email to: Theresa Parsons at tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com.

Be sure to include your name and contact number so we can reach you.

If selected, your picture will be featured as the front cover of Commissioner Fickes’ Christmas Card for 2011 with your name proudly displayed below! Winner will be notified within a few weeks following the deadline of Friday, November 4th, 2011.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing your pictures!

2009 photo by Lissa Willis

2010 photo by Theresa Parsons

Gary Fickes

Pictured left to right, back row: Les Smith, Bob Knowles, Jon Ed Robbins, Tom Wilder, Joe Shannon, J. D. Johnson, Cleve McAlister, Brent Carr, Randy Turner, Mark Mendez, G.K. Maenius. Front row, Betty Arvin, Patricia Ward, Debbie Schneider, Michelle Brown
The DFW Connector project has reached the height of construction and several major pieces of work continue to progress. Major traffic switches that took place recently include the westbound SH 114 ramp to northbound SH 121 and DFW Airport, as well as on the westbound SH 114 frontage road from Grapevine’s Main Street to William D. Tate Avenue. Both these areas have been switched to new concrete paving.

Currently 65% of the overall useful real-time traffic map at www.northtarrantexpress.com to provide facility users a tool to navigate lane and ramp closures and the NTE Information Center is open Monday through Saturday.

The vast majority of the paving is in place for the North Richland Hills portion of the project. The electrical subcontractor is setting bases for new street lights along the roadway. The rest of the summer will include paving at the Smithfield intersection, installation of the street lights, and grading along the parkways (shoulders) and medians. The irrigation work will closely follow grading activities. Overall, the project continues to be on track for completion this fall.

The contractor mixed and stabilized the road subgrade and laid asphalt sub-base from Dove Road south to approximately the Vaquero Club Drive entrance. We anticipate the contractor to start concrete paving in this section within the next few weeks. The contractor has started pouring concrete at the Solana/Dove intersection. This work will include pavement enhancements approved by the Town of Westlake. Once completed, we will start to see traffic being diverted to the newly constructed sections in order for the contractor to begin working on the existing roadway sections. Crews also continue to work on retaining walls, storm drains, and dirt excavation.

TxDOT will have Katy Road closed until Tuesday, September 7, 2011. A temporary road closure is necessary in order to safely construct new paving for the north half of Golden Triangle Boulevard. Motorists will be detoured on Keller-Hicks Road or Golden Triangle Boulevard to US 377. Pictured right: Storm drains at North Beach Street. The contractor is finishing the storm drains and culverts and will soon start the paving on the north half of Golden Triangle Blvd.

In April the SH 26 project shifted motorists to the southbound side of the roadway so that the northbound lanes could be reconstructed. Currently, extensive drainage improvements are underway along the length of the project that are approximately 50% complete. Motorists will be shifted to the new lanes in the summer of 2012 so that the southbound lanes can be reconstructed. Throughout construction two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction.
Calendar of Events

Aug - Sept “2011 Immunization Events” ... www.ictchome.org
Aug 9-12 “14th Annual Transportation Summit” ... www.transportsationsummit.com
Aug 10 “Back 2 School Roundup” ... www.backtoschoolroundup.org
Aug 12 “Coffee with the Commissioner” ... www.tarrantcounty.com
Aug 13 “Tarrant County Texas Joint Live Auction” ... www.renebates.com
Aug 20 “HEB ISD Operation Back-2-School” ... www.6stones.org
Aug 20 “Steaks and Stetsons” ... www.sotx.org
Aug 27 “Black Tie Bingo” ... www.netarrant.org
Sept 10 “Annual Awards Gala” ... www.heb.org
Sept 15-18 “Grapefest” ... www.grapevinetexasusa.com
Sept 17 “National Passport Day” ... www.tarrantcounty.com
Sept 7 “Run in the Dark” ... www.communitystorehouse.org
Sept 30 “6th Annual Fall Fashion Show” ... www.metroportmow.org
Sept 30 “Northeast Senior Jamboree” ... www.ci.watauga.tx.us
Oct 6 “Women Who Care Share” ... www.ywcafortworth.com
Oct 7 “Empowering Seniors 2011” ... www.empoweringseniors.com
Oct 8 “Denim & Pearls Dinner Dance” ... www.rockytoptherapy.org
Oct 14 “Legacy of Women” ... www.safehaventc.org
Oct 14-15 “CPR Fall Blitz” ... www.6stones.org

Northeast Social Service Agencies

6 Stones Mission Network ... www.6stones.org
Community Enrichment Center ... www.theecce.org
GRACE ... www.gracegrapevine.org
Community Storehouse ... www.communitystorehouse.org
United Way of Tarrant County ... www.uwtx.org

John Peter Smith Hospital Clinics
Northeast Tarrant County

Health Clinics
Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center ... 817-702-6600
6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148
JPS Health Center Northeast ... 817-920-6400
837 Brown Trail, Bedford 76022

School-Based Clinics

Birdville ... 817-547-3046
8200 O’Brien Way, N. Richland Hills, 76180
Grapevine/Colleyville ... 817-251-5751
3650 Timberline Drive, Grapevine, 76051
Birdville ... 817-759-2035
2807 Layton Avenue, Haltom City, 76117
HEB ... 817-399-3500
3115 W. Pipeline Road #B, Euless, TX 76040
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: www.jpshealthnet.org

NE Tarrant County Contacts

Northeast Sub-Courthouse
Constable Pct. 3 ... 817-581-3610
County Clerk ... 817-581-3604
Passport Office ... 817-581-3645
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 ... 817-581-3625
Juvenile Services ... 817-581-3645
Travel - Public Health ... 817-581-3636
Tax Office ... 817-581-3636
Maintenance Center ... 817-514-5000

Southlake Town Hall
Constable Pct. 1 ... 817-884-1385
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 ... 817-884-1395

Public Health Centers

NE Public Health Ctr. ... 817-285-4155
Watauga Public Health Ctr. ... 817-702-6600
Tarrant County Website: www.tarrantcounty.com
Tarrant Cares: www.TarrantCares.org

Northeast Sub-Courthouse

Southlake Town Hall

Northwest Sub-Courthouse

Southlake Town Hall

Southlake Town Hall