



Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley

TARRANT COUNTY: OUR NORTH TEXAS HOME

Serving the Public is Our Mission

Tarrant County is a service organization. We are all about serving the 1.9 million people who live here and others who live nearby.

When snow and ice make travel difficult, our county road crews work around the clock to help people get to work or worship or the hospital with minimal delay. We make it possible

for firefighters to get to a burning home and for paramedics in the ambulance to save lives.

Every day our District Attorney and our courts interpret and enforce the law, settling differences when they occur and keeping our community safe from criminals. Our Sheriff's department runs the jail to make sure the bad guys stay off the street and behind bars.

The County Clerk records history: life's major events and transactions – marriages, births, deaths, property records and other important documents.

Our county's emergency services stand prepared and ready to assist when the need arises.

Because Tarrant County lies in the heart of our nation's fourth largest urban area, we provide many important services to folks who live in neighboring counties.

In the hot and dry summers, our fire marshal pays close attention to the wildfires that can scorch nearby rural communities and organizes and dispatches urban fire-fighting teams to provide help.

We are a hub of hospitals, medical care and social services that stretch well beyond the Tarrant County line.

In this issue of the Quarterly, there is an article on the county's Resource Connection, a one-stop center that works with partner agencies to connect people to available resources for education, employment and health and human service needs.

There is also a story about the Moncrief Cancer Institute's mobile cancer survivor clinic - a big rig and trailer that drives to folks who may need counseling, mammograms, physical

therapy, exercise and nutritional advice while fighting or after beating cancer.

Because we are a big urban county, we can be a safety net for others in surrounding counties across North Texas.

In Tarrant County there are many nonprofits, faith-based organizations and social service agencies that strengthen the safety net. Many in our community volunteer to help out and they cannot be praised enough for lending a helping hand.

Often these non-governmental agencies do a great job meeting the needs of our citizens. They strengthen the efficient delivery of services, help hold down government costs and ease the tax burden.

Older adults can learn about that safety net in Tarrant County at the annual Senior Synergy Expo at Will Rogers Center on Thursday May 7th. A variety of service providers will be on hand to present information, seminars and workshops at the event.

We have a long history in Tarrant County of working together and collaborating to improve our community and to make it a better place to work, live and raise families.

As your county judge, it is a privilege and a great responsibility to serve the public in Tarrant County. I pledge to continue to do the best job that I can.



Photo: Lissa Willis

When the historic Tarrant County Courthouse wears a beautiful winter cloak, Tarrant County workers are clearing the roads of ice and snow.





GIVING OUR HEROES A SECOND CHANCE

Veterans Court: A Great Success



Hon. Judge Brent Carr of the Veterans Court

When some veterans return home they can have a tough time, make bad choices and run afoul of the law.

In Tarrant County our heroes get a chance to turn their life around.

The Veterans Court Diversion Program, a specialty court celebrating its fifth anniversary this spring, successfully reintegrates veterans who broke the law into the community they left when they went to war.

“We have had amputees get substance abuse under control, alcohol abusers reunite with families and profoundly injured people get their life back,” said Judge Brent Carr, of County Criminal Court No. 9, who created the program.

“This is my part. It is the least I could do,” said Carr, a former Marine Corps officer with two sons on active duty. “I can actually have some impact on the people returning.”

The program offers judicially supervised treatment. It takes veterans out of the traditional criminal justice process, but only after they have been screened, assessed, and approved for participation.

But it is not for everyone. Veterans who have committed serious felonies, are on parole or have a dishonorable discharge are not eligible. The cases of veterans referred to the court are reviewed by the court’s program manager, a mental health professional and representatives of the district attorney and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To be eligible, the veteran must have a clinical diagnosis of a brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder that is a result of military service in a combat zone or other hazardous duty area. The diagnosis must precede the criminal offense.

An individualized treatment plan is developed for the veterans. They have a case manager, report to a probation of-

ficier and attend group meetings. Services for education, counseling, and other needs are provided by outside agencies. All participants are required to attend bi-monthly compliance hearings and must have a job or be in school.

The veterans work through their problems, get treatment and take control of their lives. Upon successful completion of the program, the case is dismissed. If they fail, the case goes back to court.

Of 873 referrals in the past five years, 149 have been admitted to the program, which can take anywhere from six months to two years to complete. Two thirds of the participants are under the age of 35, an indicator that they are veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan era.

The veterans may have been involved in driving while intoxicated, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of a weapon or a misdemeanor assault or other infractions. The program has achieved a recidivism rate of only 5 percent and an 87 percent completion rate.

Judge Carr tells the story of a soldier in a combat zone who spotted a car loaded with explosives heading for a convoy and rammed it with his own vehicle. It blew up and he ended up with a brain injury and PTSD.

“The man comes to the program, gets a job, gets married, is stabilized and moves away,” Carr said. “Some of our graduates have gone on to law school and many are motivated and high-functioning people. Often it is about the need to reestablish the boundary lines.”

There are very sad moments, too. A man who was 100 percent disabled finished the program, but within two years he cut everybody off and then committed suicide, Carr said.

Carr, who started a mental health diversion court in 2003, said “the light came on” about starting the veterans court and he applied for a grant in 2009. The court was the second one in Texas and it is now in part funded by the Texas Veterans Commission. The court has served as a template for the establishment of other veterans courts.



To reach Tarrant County Veteran's Court, contact Courtney Young, Program Manager, at 817-884-3225 or at cdyoung@tarrantcounty.com.



JUSTICE FOR VETS



More than 100 exhibitors



SENIOR SYNERGY EXPO



Free Admission, Parking & Lunch*

*Registration before April 30th guarantees lunch & parking

Thursday, May 7, 2015
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Will Rogers Memorial Center
3401 West Lancaster Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107

If you are 50 years of age or better, we hope to see you at Senior Synergy Expo—a health and lifestyle event for boomers, seniors and caregivers!

• **Health Screenings**
Dental, blood pressure, vision testing, fall risk/ balance assessment, mammograms and much more!

• **Keynote Speaker**
Dr. Sid O'Bryant of UNT Health Science Center will discuss healthy brain aging

• **Workshops**
Healthy Head, Heart and Hips; Financial Health; Caring for the Caregiver and much more!

Register Today:

817-884-1234 or www.SeniorSynergyExpo.com

SPONSORS



Ciera Bank • Kindred Hospital Tarrant County • Kroger • Oncor
Oceans Behavioral Health Hospital • Signature Senior Living

A health and lifestyle expo for boomers, seniors and caregivers



Tarrant County's Multi-Purpose Service Center

The Resource Connection Answers the Call

Tarrant County's Resource Connection is a very special one-of-a-kind place in North Texas

Seniors, veterans or autistic children can get help there. So can refugees, people with disabilities and first-time students learning how to access higher education. Public health community programs and agencies that fight child abuse are housed there.

There is even a community garden with access for people with mobility impairment who have difficulty bending over or need to dig in the dirt from a wheelchair.

The Resource Connection is an incredibly diverse mix of services: a one-stop center that works with partner agencies to connect people to available resources for education, employment and health and human service needs.

The cooperation between the agencies with similar purposes enhances their work, said Judi Ketchum, Resource Connection executive director.

"Collaboration is the glue," she said. "We hook agencies up with each other."

Even though the Resource Connection is a Tarrant County operation, it is not funded by the county. It must stand on its own as a public-private partnership.

It operates as an Enterprise Fund, a self-supporting entity of Tarrant County government. Every agency housed there pays rent, including Tarrant County departments and the rental income pays for the operational expenses.

The county is responsible for administrative management, upkeep, and 24-hour security services, Ketchum said.

Nearly 40 different agencies, programs or services make their home in 16 buildings on the 300-acre site in south Fort Worth, just east of Interstate 35W and north of Interstate 20. The Fort Worth Transportation Authority, the-T, provides regular bus service there and a campus shuttle carries some of the 1,600 daily clients to different locations.



Master Gardener Glenn Dickerson works in the Resource Connection garden that is accessible to people with mobility impairment.

The campus of one-story cinder block buildings was once the Fort Worth State School for people with intellectual disabilities. The school was ordered to close in 1992 and did shut its doors three years later. A task force was formed and there were public hearings to study alternative uses for the property.

Under the leadership of Tarrant County Judge Tom Vandergriff, then State Senator Mike Moncrief, and other community leaders, the choice was made to pursue a governmental-nonprofit partnership model.

Jerry Mosman, executive director of Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, which has administrative offices there, can't say enough good things about the Resource Connection.

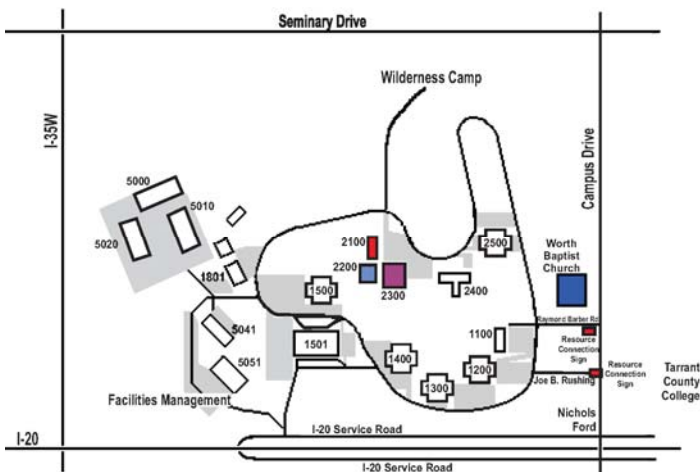
"It is a blessing for nonprofit organizations," Mosman said. "We save \$15,000 a year in rent and \$10,000 in parking compared to the offices we had in downtown Fort Worth and those savings go to providing services."

His organization is able to use the old state school kitchen to prepare between 800 and 1,000 meals a day for seniors, another money saver, he said.

"Being among so many other agencies, really helps networking with other organizations that care about older adults," he said. We have access to meeting rooms and clients can use the indoor pool and exercise areas, remnants of the state school.

Three times a year, Senior Citizen Services holds a dance in the big conference center that they have access to because they are Resource Connection tenants.

"What a wonderful sight to see several hundred seniors dancing," he said. "The facilities here are amazing."



The Resource Connection in South Tarrant County



SOME RESOURCES AT THE RESOURCE CONNECTION

Autism Treatment Center, Ste. 101	1100 Circle Drive	817-566-1100	www.atcoftexas.org
Health Masters - Ste. 200	1100 Circle Drive	817-927-9550	www.healthmastersinc.com
Tarrant County Human Services, Ste. 200	1200 Circle Drive	817-531-5640	www.tarrantcounty.com/ehumanservices
Tarrant County Veterans Services, Ste. 300	1200 Circle Drive	817-531-5645	www.tarrantcounty.com/eVeterans
SER-Jobs For Progress National, Inc., Ste. 302	1200 Circle Drive	817-536-3600	www.ser-national.org
Department of Veterans Affairs, Ste. 400	1200 Circle Drive	817-534-3563	www.tarrantcounty.com/tc_resource
MHMRTC - Mental Health Clinic, Ste. 401	1200 Circle Drive	817-569-4750	www.mhmrtarrant.org
MHMRTC - IDD	1300 Circle Drive	817-569-4141	www.mhmrtarrant.org/Services
Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) - MHMRTC	1300 Circle Drive	888-730-2372	tarrantcountyadrc.org
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, Ste. 100	1400 Circle Drive	817-531-5670	www.workforcesolutions.net
Senior Citizens Services Administration, Ste. 300	1400 Circle Drive	817-413-4949	www.scstc.org
TCPH - Nurse Family Partnership, Ste. 300	1500 Circle Drive	817-413-6320	www.nursefamilypartnership.org/locations
WIC Clinic/Immunization Outreach, Ste. 300	1500 Circle Drive	817-321-5400	www.tarrantcounty.com/tc_resource
Health and Human Services Commission	1501 Circle Drive	817-321-8000	www.hhsc.state.tx.us
Dept. of Family Protective Services (DFPS)	1501 Circle Drive	817-321-8600	www.dfps.state.tx.us
Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	1501 Circle Drive	817-321-8700	www.tdcha.state.tx.us
Texas Star Program - MAXIMUS	1501 Circle Drive	800-964-2777	www.maximus.com/duals
Refugee Services of Texas	1801 Circle Drive	817-413-3772	www.rstx.org
Tarrant County Juvenile Services, Ste. 100	2100 Circle Drive	817-531-6765	www.tarrantcounty.com/eJuvenile
Tarrant County Housing Assistance, Ste. 200	2100 Circle Drive	817-531-7640	www.tarrantcounty.com/ehousing
Aquatic Center	2200 Circle Drive	817-531-7667	www.tarrantcounty.com/tc_resource/aquatic
Conference & Recreation Center	2300 Circle Drive	817-531-7600	www.tarrantcounty.com/tc_resource
Guinn Healthcare Technologies, LLC, Ste. 2307	2300 Circle Drive	817-349-8787	www.guinntech.com
Dept. of Assistive Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Ste. 200	2400 Circle Drive	817-759-3500	www.hhsc.state.tx.us
JPS Health Network South Campus Clinic, Ste. 100	2500 Circle Drive	817-920-7340	www.jpshealthnet.org

Vote in Local Elections on May 9

Cities, schools and some special districts will hold elections on Saturday May 9th. Mayors, city council members, school board trustees and some elected agency board members will be on the ballot.

Study the issues, candidates and other measures closely, so you can make an informed decision when you go to the polls. You are voting for people who will have a say on local streets and parks and economic development near where you live.

“Casting your vote in a local election is a way to make a statement about how well you think your community is doing,” said Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley. “In our free country, we should all be grateful that we can go to the polls and let our voice be heard.”

A few special districts will be on the ballot.

The Tarrant County College Board of Trustees, with seven board members, oversees five campuses and the education of more than 50,000 students. It is the seventh largest college or university in Texas.

The Tarrant Regional Water District, with five board members, provides water to North Texas communities, implements flood control measures and creates recreational opportunities. It operates Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake and the Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers reservoirs. It has built 150 miles of pipelines, 27 miles of levees, 40 miles of Trinity River Trails and a 260 acre wetland water reuse project.

Be aware that if there are no contested races in a city, or for a seat on a school board, the organization may choose to save taxpayer dollars and not hold an election.

Be Prepared To Vote

Make sure you are registered to vote and know where early voting locations are and where your polling place is on Election Day.

Check your polling place by going to www.tarrantcounty.com. Click the “Elections” link and view the list of election-day polling places. For information on elections call 817-831-VOTE (8683)

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Mon.-Friday, April 27 to May 1	8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 2	7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 3	11:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Mon.-Tue., May 4 & 5	7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Transportation Advocacy for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Next TRN Meeting
June 24, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.

Moncrief Cancer Institute
Education Center
400 W. Magnolia Ave.
Fort Worth, TX



Transportation Needs in West Tarrant County

New Roads a Must for Counties, Cities and Schools to Meet Population Growth

Tarrant County officials have launched the West Tarrant Transportation Initiative to tackle the tremendous population growth expected west of Interstate-35W.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, County Commissioners J.D. Johnson and Roy C. Brooks, county transportation staff and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The goal is to identify strategic transportation corridors that now exist or may need to be built and the roads that may need to be improved.

The existing patchwork of small roads that stop, start and zigzag across western Tarrant County must change to a more useful set of roads that can get people where they need to go. Improving east-west and north-south connectivity is a priority. So is access to I-35W, Interstate 30 and Loop 820.

A team of transportation experts and county officials have been meeting with elected leaders and city and school district staff to learn more about their local needs and priorities.

“We need to work together now to develop an inventory of possible road improvements so that we can take advantage of transportation funds when they become available,” Whitley said. “If we wait for the growth to happen it will be too late.”

Key to the success of the initiative is communication with the community and a comprehensive approach to transportation planning.

Dramatic demographic projections signal a doubling of the population in the west part of the county by 2040 with a total Tarrant County population of nearly 3 million residents.

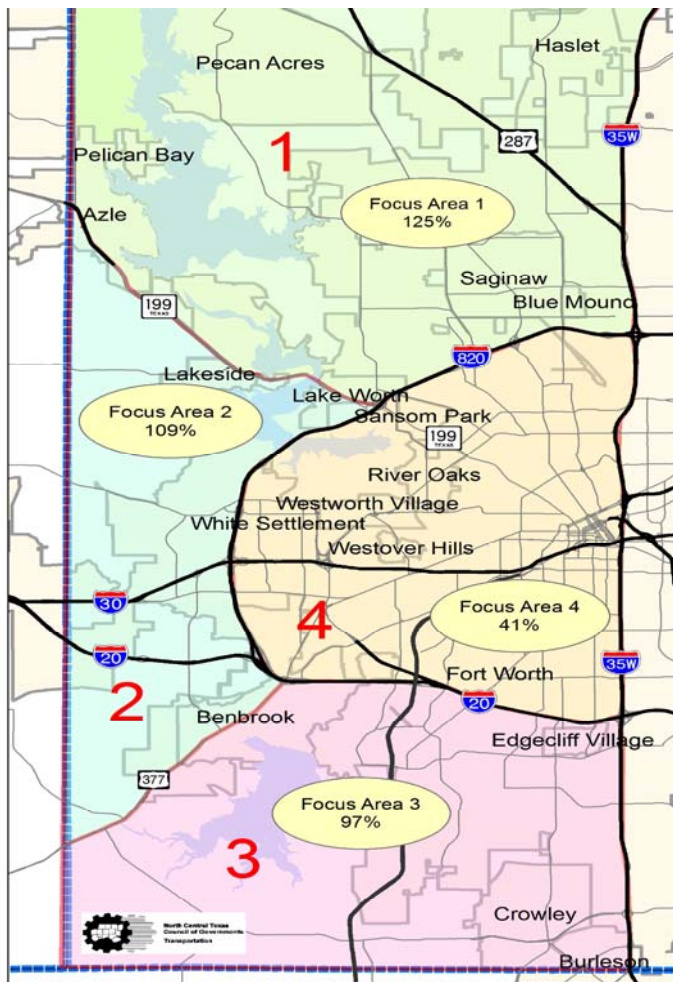
In the coming years, tens of thousands of people are expected to settle along the Tarrant-Parker County line in newly planned developments like the Walsh Ranch, the Beggs Ranch and other proposed subdivisions. There will be a need for those residents to access Fort Worth and other North Texas urban centers. But, other than I-30, roads to carry that amount of traffic currently aren't there.

For the purpose of the initiative and to simplify the collection of information, Tarrant County west of I-35W has been divided into four focus areas. One area is inside Loop 820, while the other three are outside the Loop. One is north of Jacksboro Highway, State Highway 199, another is between 199 and State Highway 377, and the fourth is south of 377.

The Council of Governments is providing technical assistance to the initiative, making available forecast data on traffic volumes, population and employment.

In addition to working with Fort Worth, which is updating its master thoroughfare plan, the county will coordinate with TxDOT to develop an inventory of its current assets and planned transportation projects. There will also be an effort to identify possible partnership opportunities.

County transportation planners expect to have a summary report on the roads and strategic corridors by the end of May.



Population Growth in Western Tarrant County Areas

Projected Demographics

	Population 2015	Population 2040	Growth
Region	6,940,000	10,630,000	53%
Tarrant County	1,980,000	2,820,000	42%
Focus Area 1	140,500	315,400	125%
Focus Area 2	49,300	103,100	109%
Focus Area 3	180,500	356,500	97%
Focus Area 4	271,500	383,200	41%
East Tarrant	1,337,500	1,936,500	45%
Denton County	729,900	1,241,700	70%
Hood County	51,600	81,600	58%
Johnson County	160,500	245,800	53%
Parker County	120,000	195,300	63%
Wise County	62,500	101,900	63%



The Moncrief Cancer Institute Hits the Road



A new custom-built big rig and mobile medical clinic brings care to cancer survivors.

Helping Cancer Survivors Get Their Lives Back on Track

The Moncrief Cancer Institute, which helps cancer survivors put their lives back together after a long and debilitating struggle, is taking its restorative programs to surrounding counties.

Based on the east side of Fort Worth's medical district, the institute now has a custom built tractor trailer that travels to outlying communities to help folks who don't have easy access to cancer experts or have a tough time driving to the city for rehabilitative care.

It serves a very real and important need for cancer survivors, said Dr. Keith Argenbright, director of the nonprofit Moncrief Cancer Institute. The prevention and support institute is an affiliate of UT Southwestern's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"We've gotten a lot better at curing the cancer, but the person can be pretty beat up and we need to heal some other things," Argenbright said. "We need to look at nutrition, psychological impacts, exercise and stamina, and our program is designed to address all of those areas."

The institute serves the social, emotional and physical needs of cancer patients and survivors.

"We try to help people with whatever they are struggling with," he said.

The institute staff includes social workers, dieticians, psychologists, genetic counselors, financial advocates, outreach workers, mammogram technicians, fitness trainers and others.

The 18-wheeler has five slide-out walls, so that when it arrives at its destination it unfolds into a clinic on wheels. It has a retracting exterior stair, an extended awning that pops out and a wheelchair lift.

The mobile clinic has a four-seat reception area and is equipped with digital (3-D) mammography equipment, two patient examination rooms, an exercise area and access to electronic records. It has high-speed, secure telemedicine links to enable consultations with specialists at UT Southwestern.

Patients don't need paperwork, medical records, referrals or

proof of insurance or income to attend the mobile clinic. Most services are free to patients and survivors, no matter when they were diagnosed.

"It's very easy," said Julie Johncox, the community outreach manager. "There's not a lot of bureaucracy and red tape."

First, patients have their history reviewed and then a treatment summary and plan is developed. They can get help with emotional and financial challenges. They learn about nutrition planning to promote healing and restore energy. They can be counseled about risk assessment for families with a history of cancer.

Karen Schrepel, a retired teacher and a melanoma survivor from Granbury, was fatigued and lost 30 pounds after her bout with cancer. She knows the benefits of the Moncrief program.

"Coming out of a year of treatment I lost so much body weight, strength, and endurance. The exercise program would have gotten me back up to speed faster and the nutrition counseling would have helped get me back to a stronger body quicker," Schrepel said.

"The facility on wheels is awesome. It would have saved me an 80 mile roundtrip," Schrepel added.

The mobile clinic will serve patients in Ellis, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Navarro, Parker, Somervell, Wise and Tarrant counties. Visits will be scheduled at the same location in participating counties twice a month.

Moncrief already has a well-established breast-care program with a mobile unit serving many North Texas counties to examine women to see if further care may be needed.

At the main Fort Worth building, UT Southwestern is in the process of establishing a laboratory, scanning capabilities, chemotherapy infusion suites and a pharmacy.

"We've had success and touched a lot of people," Argenbright said. "What we do is improve quality of life."

Visit www.moncrief.com/survivors or call (800) 405-7739. The Moncrief Cancer Institute is located at 400 W. Magnolia Avenue, Fort Worth TX 76104



CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Tarrant County Clerk's Office: Mega Efficient

The Tarrant County Clerk's Office prides itself on being a technologically modern, user-friendly, full-service operation. Now, the office is getting even more useful, accommodating and 21st Century in a mega way.

Using a new search tool, called Mega Search, Tarrant County residents can purchase copies of important property records from home and no longer have to trek to the Clerk's office.

Mega Search is a new web-based application that allows the public to purchase certified copies of public records online. Previously these records could only be acquired in the Tarrant County courthouse.

The Mega Search application simplifies searching for records. It allows the location of records using keywords similar to a search of the Internet using Google.

"Mega Search was specifically designed to make it easier to find records," said County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia.

"By leveraging technology we control operational costs while saving taxpayers time and money" Garcia said. "This makes it easier for the business community and the public to locate records."

The original search engine for property records is still available at the County Clerk's office.

Garcia and her team record life's major events and transactions - marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, property records and other personal and business documents. The office provides administrative support for 10 criminal courts, three county courts-at-law and two probate courts, keeping records on criminal, civil and probate cases.

County Clerk customers already have around-the-clock access to copies of marriage licenses and birth and death certificates through the Internet.

The Mega Search application will ultimately provide public access to approximately 26 million records.

Users can access the application by clicking on Mega Search on the Tarrant County Clerk's website at <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eCountyClerk/> or access it directly at <https://tcrecordsonline.com/>.

The County Clerk's office is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Fort Worth and at seven neighborhood sub-courthouse locations. Addresses and phone numbers are on the Tarrant County Website or call 817-884-1195.



Tarrant County Clerk
Mary Louise Garcia

TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

GENERAL INFORMATION 817-884-1111

County Clerk

Criminal / Misdemeanor Records	817-884-1066
Probate Courts	817-884-1770
Records Intake / Deeds	817-884-1062
Records Library	817-884-1069
Vital Records: Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses, and Business Records/DBA's	817-884-1550

District Attorney 817-884-1400

District Clerk

Civil Records	817-884-1240
Criminal Records	817-884-1342
Family Court / Divorce Records	817-884-1265
Jury Services	817-884-3820
Passports	817-884-2520

Elections 817-831-8683

Fire Marshal 817-838-4660

Human Services 817-531-5620

Public Health 817-321-4700

Resource Connection 817-531-7600

Tax Assessor-Collector

Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes	817-884-1100
<u>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</u>	817-884-1945
<u>Veterans Services</u>	817-531-5645
<u>Sheriff's Office</u>	817-884-3009
Jail Information	817-884-3116
Victim Information	877-894-8463
Warrant Division	817-884-1320

**Commissioners Court meets Tuesday at 10 am
Tarrant County Administration Building
100 E. Weatherford Street, 5th Floor**

County Judge, Glen Whitley	817-884-1441
Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Precinct 1 ...	817-531-5600, 817-370-4500
Commissioner Andy Nguyen, Precinct 2	817-548-3900
Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3	817-581-3600, 817-481-8234
Commissioner J.D. Johnson, Precinct 4	817-238-4400

For additional information, visit: www.tarrantcounty.com

