



Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley

Preserving The Past - Preparing For Our Future

We have restored the west end of our grand 1895 Tarrant County Courthouse. What a wonderful 120th birthday present for such an important historic building. History is important. If you don't know your history and learn from it, you can't prepare for the future.

In the mid-1950s, the county commissioners wanted to bulldoze the granite courthouse to extend Main Street across Belknap. Fortunately, that never happened.

Not to be denied messing with our architectural masterpiece, they did manage to lop off the west end of the courthouse – pillars, staircase and balcony – and then build a square and ugly civil courts building on a beautiful lawn.

That building was such an eyesore that it was actually painted to look like the original courthouse.

A few years ago we decided to fix things. We found matching granite and tore that sham building down. Once again, we have stairs, pillars and a west entrance to our beloved courthouse.

Restoring the old courthouse was the right thing to do. Preservation of Tarrant County's architectural heritage is an important gift that one generation makes to the next.

We have to be aware of our history and be mindful of what we leave to future generations.

That is especially true when it comes to building new residential communities in outlying areas. In our recent past, the roads needed to get kids to school or people to work were not always planned and built when and where they should.

Thousands of rooftops have popped up in previously rural areas and thousands more are on the way. Two-lane farm-to-market and county roads became overwhelmed and unsafe.

It's up to the cities, the counties and state transportation officials, as well as the private sector, to make sure that future generations can get where they need to go safely and efficiently; whether its school,

work or to freeways that can carry them to the urban center.

Government is not the answer. The greatness of Tarrant County lies in collaboration with the private sector and nonprofits. We solve problems working together.

We are one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Our current Tarrant County population of 1.9 million is expected to balloon to 3.1 million by 2040, that's a 63 percent increase in only 25 years.

We can't just look at the next five years. We have to consider the long view, 30 and 40 years out. We don't want to live in a Los Angeles-type environment where it takes two to three hours to get anywhere. It wouldn't be fair to future generations who choose to make their home in North Texas.

We want to be remembered for being visionary and not shortsighted. Join me in preserving our history, learning from it, and preparing Tarrant County for future generations.



The restored west entrance to the 1895 Tarrant County Courthouse

photo by Charles Davis Smith



Tarrant County Public Health

Vinny Taneja: Public Health Advocate

Tarrant County Public Health Director Started Amid Ebola Scare



Tarrant County Public Health Director, Vinny Taneja

Vinny Taneja became Tarrant County Public Health Department director two weeks before Ebola landed in Texas.

Talk about trial by fire.

“Ebola had been a very deadly and dangerous disease in Africa and to have it show up in a highly populated area of Dallas was our worst fear come true,” said Taneja, a medical doctor and public health epidemiologist who took over the department September 15, 2014.

“I knew immediately that the best

thing to do was to educate the public, and that was done through a collective effort of our Tarrant County public health team,” he said. “The biggest problem with a new disease is fear.”

The public health team put together an Ebola bulletin with information on symptoms, transmission, risk of exposure and other important facts about the disease. People need to know that the county’s public health department is a stable and credible source of information, Taneja said.

Managing a crisis like that and keeping people healthy is exactly why Taneja chose a career in public health.

Veerinder “Vinny” Taneja started working in public health distributing polio vaccine door-to-door in India. He was 22 and had just graduated from medical school. Taneja was raised in the northwest Punjab region of the country, by a father who was a physics professor and a mother who taught biology.

He did an internship at a government hospital that involved a lot of outpatient work and the prevention of polio was a priority. He also kept a registry of 1,700 active tuberculosis cases.

“I learned firsthand about the great need to prevent disease and to keep people out of the hospital,” he said. “It got me engaged in the public health field and it truly became a passion.”

He enrolled in a Master’s in Public Health program at Eastern Kentucky University in 2001. After completing the degree, he worked as an epidemiologist for county health departments over the next nine years.

In 2011, Taneja became deputy health officer in Wayne County, the large urban county where Detroit is located. Then, it was on to Tarrant County last year.

Some of the biggest public health challenges facing Tarrant County are not new: adult and childhood obesity, smoking cessation and a high infant mortality rate, he said, adding that about 25 percent of county residents lack health insurance.

“There are issues we can educate on, especially how to eat right, how to quit smoking and how to live a healthful lifestyle to give a newborn the best chance to live,” he said.

Tarrant County is also a leader in using data, technology and social media to improve public health programs, Taneja said. In keeping with a user-friendly philosophy, the health department pushes its presence on Facebook and Twitter.

“We want people to see the health department as a resource for everyone, and not just for people who have an immediate need for our services,” he said.

The department is also developing an innovative electronic recordkeeping system to provide for the automated collection of data on disease detection, reporting and surveillance as well as case management.

“We need to use technology in public health to better serve our community and to create a better picture of our public health priorities,” he said.

Taneja enjoys giving public lectures and teaching.

“Students and the public need to hear from people who practice public health,” he said. “My goal is to educate the community about the best health choices that people can make.”



At a health fair—You can never be too young to learn about wellness programs and taking care of your body.

**Contact Tarrant County Public Health at
(817) 321-4700 or visit
www.tarrantcounty.com/public-health**



WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

Support United Way to Strengthen Tarrant County

United Way of Tarrant County's 2015 fundraising campaign is rolling. The need to assist individuals and helpful organizations never stops.



LEARN WELL Education

We're counting the students who increased their reading proficiency by 4 levels.

BOLD 8,000 students at risk of dropping out will have **GOAL** graduated on time by 2020.

Our **LEARN WELL** partnerships include:

- GO Center
- Wild About Reading
- Reading Oasis
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



EARN WELL Income

We're counting the 78 families that became new homeowners.

BOLD 24,000 low-income working families will be on the **GOAL** path to financial stability by 2020.

Our **EARN WELL** partnerships include:

- VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Adult Literacy
- Job Training/Employment
- Financial Coaching



LIVE WELL Health

We're counting the thousands we've helped through our health services.

BOLD We will have improved the lives of 17,000 adults with **GOAL** ongoing health concerns by the year 2020.

Our **LIVE WELL** partnerships include:

- Diabetes Salud!
- A Matter of Balance
- Health Literacy
- REACH - Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health

Click on "Get Involved" at the United Way website unitedwaytarrant.org/give. Contribute online or learn more about how to advocate or volunteer through United Way and its partners.

United Way of Tarrant County



WE DON'T JUST HELP PEOPLE. WE GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO HELP THEMSELVES.

Central Office
1500 N. Main Street
Suite 200
P.O. Box 4448
Fort Worth, TX 76164
817-258-8000
unitedwaytarrant.org

2-1-1 - A toll-free, 24-hour referral service with free information on literacy and financial education classes, health services and more.
Dial 211
tarrantcounty211.org

Northeast Tarrant Office
221 Bedford Rd.
Suite 306
Bedford, TX 76022
817-282-1160
unitedwaynortheast.org

Arlington Office
401 W. Sanford Street
Suite 2600
Arlington, TX 76011
817-548-9595
unitedwayarlington.org

Area Agency on Aging and Disability Resource Center of Tarrant County Resources for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.
888-730-2372
unitedwaytarrant.org/aaa



TARRANT COUNTY LEADER HONORED

Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building



*Tarrant County Judge
Tom Vandergriff
1991—2007*

Former Tarrant County Judge Tom Vandergriff was too humble to think that a courthouse in downtown Fort Worth would be named for him.

But that recognition was waiting in the wings.

The state-of-the-art Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building opened this summer. It's expected to stand for 100 years, and that century is how long people will recall Tom Vandergriff's great contribution to Tarrant County and North Texas.

Mayor of Arlington for 25 years and a congressman, before becoming county judge, Vandergriff

brought the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, the Texas Rangers baseball team and Six Flags Over Texas to Tarrant County, crafting a regional entertainment area that later drew the Dallas Cowboys football team to the area.

Vandergriff co-founded the North Central Texas Council of Governments, which promotes regional cooperation among local governments. As county judge, he continued that regional effort to enable collaboration. He also led two successful bond programs that helped Tarrant County and the services it provides keep pace with the population increase of the past 20 years and the tremendous growth that is expected.

"From my viewpoint Tom Vandergriff was a visionary leader who believed in building for the present and the future," said State District Judge David Evans, vice chair of the Civil Courts Advisory Committee that oversaw the planning of the courtroom floors.

Tarrant County has 1.9 million residents and is expected to grow to 3.1 million residents by 2040.

The six-story courthouse that bears the Vandergriff name was approved as part of Tarrant County's 2006 bond package. It replaces the unattractive and inefficient 1958 civil courts building, now torn down, that was mashed against the west side of the 1895 courthouse and painted to look like the historic building.

The new courthouse holds 13 courtrooms, 10 filled now with civil courts, two set aside for the future and one that is larger than the others. One floor has been set aside for the Second Court of Appeals, which is expected to relocate to the new building.

Evans said that the committee did a thorough national review of cutting-edge technology available for courtrooms.

"We used the most current ideas and did what was most cost-efficient and practical," he said.

The courtroom has the latest technology for juries, lawyers and judges, with the needed space to accommodate jury and non-jury cases, the late attorney Dee J. Kelly, chair of the advisory committee, said at the opening of the building.

"The citizens of Tarrant County have one of the finest and best equipped buildings in the country to house their civil courts system," Kelly said.

The energy efficient building, designed by HOK/HKS and built by Yates Construction is certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design at the Gold level, which means that its operation will save taxpayer dollars.

Three of the justice angels on the old civil courts building were preserved and plucked from the walls before it was demolished. Two of the 40-foot-tall, carved Indiana limestone angels, with upswept wings, are sentinels by the entrance on the west side of the new Civil Courts Building.

The other angel, on the east side of the building, welcomes travelers to Fort Worth as they enter the city.



Yates/John Thomas Photography

The new Tarrant County Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Tarrant County Helps Veterans Get Jobs

Veterans who return home from service to our country and are looking for a job can get help in Tarrant County.

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County and the Texas Veterans Commission, partnering with a supportive private sector, are often able to help veterans get the jobs they need.

The valuable work and leadership skills that veterans develop in the military are identified and paired with a choice of civilian employment or job training. The collaboration is a regional effort that involves industry, different kinds of jobs and employers, schools and other resources.

“Businesses ask for veterans because of their skills and work ethic,” said Sal Adamski, the workforce improvement director for the county agency.

Companies that have Department of Defense contracts are required to have veterans in their workforce, said Adamski, a Navy veteran who also serves on the Texas Veteran’s Commission Employment and Training advisory committee.

In Tarrant County, the concentration of aerospace companies and industries plays a significant role serving veterans, Adamski said. Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopter are always looking to employ veterans. General Electric, which builds locomotives, has been able to use the expertise of Fort Hood soldiers who have worked with tanks, he said.

Businesses also are able to apply for training grants to upgrade the skills of newly hired veterans.

Workforce Solutions works with the Fleet and Family Services Support Office at the Fort Worth Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, sharing new initiatives and information to help returning veterans and those leaving the military to find jobs, training, and other resources.

Veterans get priority treatment at the county’s Workforce centers. They get to view job leads before others, for the first 48 hours after they are posted. At the centers, they can access information on training opportunities, take classes in how to do a job search and get advice on preparing resumes and job applications.

The Texas Veterans Commission has a representative at the centers. They are career consultants who are trained to assist veterans. There is also a statewide job matching system, **WorkInTexas.com**, which is available 24 hours a day.

Workforce Solutions partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington several years ago to develop a training course for human resource officials and front-line supervisors to help companies better understand and respond to veteran workplace issues, including PTSD.

Most important, Adamski said, is the one-on-one help at the centers that veterans get and the special attention paid to wounded warriors.

“When wounded warriors come back, we identify and engage them as soon as possible,” he said. “We are the Tarrant County employment connection to help veterans.”

For more information: workforcesolutions.net

Hiring Red, White & You!

Statewide Hiring Fair



CALLING ALL TEXAS VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS & GENERAL PUBLIC

Join the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions for Greater Dallas, North Central Texas and Tarrant County and our partners for the statewide.

4TH ANNUAL HIRING RED, WHITE & YOU! STATEWIDE HIRING FAIR

NOVEMBER 12, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Globe Life Park in Arlington
1000 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX 76011

Connecting Texas Veterans, their Family Members & the General Public with area employers looking for qualified candidates for a variety of positions.

For more information & to register for your **FAST PASS** visit, <https://2015rwyjobseeker.eventbrite.com>

PRESENTED BY:











SENIOR SPIRIT AWARDS

Honors For Service to Tarrant County's Older Adults

Individuals and groups who work to improve the lives of older adults in North Texas have been recognized by Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County with the 2015 Senior Spirit Awards.

The award recipients include J. Howard Davis, the City of Haltom City, Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes and Hedy Collins of Jewish Family Services.

"It is a community-wide effort to honor and care for the older generation," said Jerry Mosman, executive director of Senior Citizen Services, a nonprofit that helps to coordinate care for older adults across the county. "We are blessed to have so many live so long in our community and to have wonderful people to support them."

The awards were given to a few of the many people who work or volunteer to help our senior community, he said.

"We work in partnership," Mosman said. "Collaboration is key in valuing our older generation."

Davis, 89, received the Evelyn Siegel Vision Award, named for a cofounder of Senior Citizen Services, for his work the past 25 years improving computer access for the senior community by volunteering with Computers for the Blind. Davis, since he retired, transports donated computers to a refurbishing center in Richardson and then redistributes them along with making them internet accessible.

The City of Haltom City, received the Mae Cora Peterson Healthy Aging Award, named for a 98-year-old longtime supporter of Senior Services, for its commitment to keep Haltom City seniors independent and active. City officials, department heads and employees help with activities, classes and meals at the Haltom City Senior Center and have built a special park for older adults.

Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes was given the Carlton Lancaster Award, named in honor of the Senior Citizen Services former executive director, for creating and hosting the Empowering Seniors Expo in Northeast Tarrant County. The annual event, in its seventh year, helps 1,500 seniors discover local resources and opportunities.

Hedy Collins received the President's Award for Service for her nine years as senior center director for Jewish Family Services. She has worked with many refugees from Russia, helping them resettle, learn English and access services.

"All of these programs work to reduce senior isolation and to give older adults new purpose and life," Mosman said. "We want older adults in Tarrant County to maintain their independence and to maximize their ability to age in place."

Founded in 1967 with one senior center in Fort Worth, Senior Citizen Services now has more than 27 senior centers in Tarrant County.

The senior centers are really older adult activity centers, Mosman said.

"You don't go there to crochet or rock in a chair," he said. "You go there to make new friends and learn new things."

The nonprofit agency provides programs and activities to educate, inform and empower older adults to age in place and live independently. The programs address the needs of seniors facing aging and isolation.



J. Howard Davis- 2015 Senior Spirit Award Winner

Community Programs

Nutrition Program: Hot meals served daily in a home-away-from-home environment

Senior Centers: Network of neighborhood centers offering socialization services and activities

Matter of Balance Program: An eight week fall-prevention program

Health For Me: A six-week, chronic disease self-management program to improve health through personal planning and wise choices

Aging Mastery Program: A 10-week National Council on Aging Program teaching older adults how to take charge of their health and their aging process.

Senior Source: A partnership with Tarrant Area Food Bank that provides free food at senior centers

Transit for Seniors: Rides to senior centers and to community events



★ Healthy Aging Starts Here ★

For information on programs or volunteering

Call (817) 413-4949

Go to the website www.scstc.org

Sr. Citizen Services offices are located at The Resource Connection
1400 Circle Drive, Suite 300, Fort Worth, TX 76119



Interstate 30 – State Highway 360 Long-Awaited Interchange To Be Built

After a half-century of use, one of the most troublesome freeway interchanges in Tarrant County is getting a makeover.

The intersection of Interstate 30 and State Highway 360 in Arlington was built when Elvis Presley was king, in the late 1950s, as part of the DFW Turnpike.

The get-off-the-freeway, stop-at-the-traffic-lights, turn and get-back-on-the-freeway action hasn't changed much in the intervening years.

"Now it's going to be a major interchange," said Texas Department of Transportation spokeswoman Jodi Hodges.

Construction on a fully directional interchange, tabbed at a cost of about \$236 million, is expected to begin in the Spring and likely will take four years.

Utilities have to be relocated and the project had to be designed around an historic cemetery in the northeast corner of the interchange.

The P.A. Watson Cemetery, with graves that date to 1846, is considered to be the oldest known cemetery in Tarrant County. It is maintained and still in use, but limited to descendants of those already interred there. It will stay put.

In fact, very little right of way will have to be acquired for the project, Hodges said.



An artist's rendering of the redesigned I-30 and SH360 Interchange

TxDOT is working with the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, Six Flags Over Texas, Hurricane Harbor Water Park and the City of Arlington to make sure that access to the commercial area is maintained, Hodges said.

"We will maintain the traffic flow," said Hodges, of the high-traffic-volume sports and recreational hub in the heart of North Texas.

Traffic will be monitored and there will be a website, email and text alerts, as there have been for previous projects like the DFW Connector and the North Tarrant Express.

Volunteer Drivers Training



Train to be a volunteer driver as part of a program to improve transportation for older adults, veterans, people with disabilities and those going to work or job training.

Tarrant County and The United Way of Tarrant County, with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, is seeking members of civic groups and faith-based organizations, as well as individuals, to join in this innovative Tarrant Riders Network Volunteer Drivers Program. Easy training to become a volunteer driver is available in Fort Worth, Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County.

For information and to register for training, contact Merrissa Kuylen, volunteer driver training coordinator at Catholic Charities at (817) 413-3936 or mkuylen@ccdfw.org.

Fort Worth
249 W. Thornhill Dr.
Oct. 15th; 12:30 pm
Nov. 5th; 6:00 pm
Nov. 19th; 12:30 pm
Dec. 3rd; 6:00 pm
Dec. 17th; 12:30 pm

Colleyville
1004 Tinker Rd.
Nov. 4th; 10:00 am
Dec. 2nd; 10:00 am

Arlington
217 W. Sanford St.
Oct. 20th; 10:00 am
Nov. 17th; 10:00 am
Dec. 15th; 10:00 am

PROPOSITION 7

Transportation Measure On November Ballot

An amendment to the Texas Constitution to increase statewide funding for transportation, Proposition 7, is on the upcoming November 3rd ballot.

Proposition 7 calls for \$2.5 billion of sales tax revenue to go to the State Highway Fund annually, beginning in September of 2017, but only when the revenue collected exceeds \$28 billion. It also calls for 35 percent of motor vehicle sales tax revenue to go to the highway fund annually, but only when that revenue exceeds \$5 billion, beginning in 2019.

The legislative boost to transportation can be used for construction and maintenance of roads or for right of way acquisition, but it cannot be used for toll roads.



Flu Season is Here: Get Immunized

Flu can be a headache cold with the chills or it can be a very serious illness that can lead to hospitalization or even death.

Always get a flu shot. It is the best way to protect yourself from such an unpredictable illness.

Older adults with chronic health conditions and children under 5 have the most serious complications from the highly contagious viral respiratory disease. Immunization is important for children and adults with chronic heart, lung and immune system diseases.

Tarrant County Public Health vaccinates at public health centers and flu shots are offered by some employers and schools and at other locations, including pharmacies and college health centers.

Flu season can start as early as Halloween and last until May. It usually peaks in late January or early February.

People who are at high risk for serious complications should seek

treatment with flu antiviral drugs as soon as they are ill, at the first symptoms. It can make a difference in the severity of the infection.

Flu spreads when sick people cough, sneeze or talk and tiny droplets land on people. Flu can spread by touching a surface that has virus on it and then touching the mouth, eyes or nose. It is contagious one day before symptoms develop and up to seven days after.

Wash your hands and cover coughs and sneezes. If you get sick, keep away from others and stay home from work and school.

The most predictable thing about flu is that, for the most part, it can be prevented. Now is the time to get your flu shot. Contact your primary health care provider to get vaccinated or do it on your own.

Website: <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tarrantcountypublichealth

Get Vaccinated At These Tarrant County Public Health Centers

- Southeast Public Health Center** - 536 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76011
- Bagsby-Williams Public Health Center** - 3212 Miller Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76119
- La Gran Plaza Mall Public Health Center** - 4200 S. Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76115
- Northwest Public Health Center** - 3800 Adam Grubb Road, Lake Worth, TX 76135
- Southwest Public Health Center** - 6551 Granbury Road, Fort Worth, TX 76133
- Watauga Public Health Center** - 6601 Watauga Road, Suite 122, Watauga, TX 76148

A flu shot costs \$25 per person

Medicaid and Medicare Part B will be accepted

For Vaccination Times and Any Questions: Visit <http://health.tarrantcounty.com> or call 817-321-4700

Tarrant County Public Health

Safeguarding Our Community's Health



TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

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.....	817-884-1195

District Attorney

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

Fire Marshal

Human Services

Public Health

.....	817-838-4660
.....	817-531-5620
.....	817-321-4700

<u>Resource Connection</u>	817-531-7600
<u>Tax Assessor-Collector</u>	
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 every Tuesday at 10 am
Tarrant County Administration Building
100 E. Weatherford Street, 5th Floor**

County Judge, Glen Whitley.....	817-884-1441
Commissioner Roy Brooks, Precinct 1.....	817-531-4500
Commissioner Andy Nguyen, Precinct 2....	817-548-3900
Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3.....	817-581-3600
Commissioner JD Johnson, Precinct 4.....	817-238-4400

GENERAL INFORMATION 817-884-1111



For additional information, visit: www.tarrantcounty.com