

Winter 2019

COUNTY JUDGE Quarterly

News & Notes from the Tarrant County Judge
and important information from Tarrant County

Vol. 6, No. 3

TARRANT COUNTY: OUR NORTH TEXAS HOME



*Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley*

Working Together to Solve Problems

It's a new year, and with it our biennial chance to work with our partners in the State Legislature to make Texas an even better place to live, work, and play. In our Texas history classes, we learned of the brilliance and vision of our state founders as they recognized the importance and belief that decision making is best made by those closest to the people they serve. This was especially true in Texas due to the size and broad diversity our state enjoyed then and now. Our state founders' vision truly works best when the State partners with its 254 counties to fulfill many of their constitutional obligations.

To provide for our citizens, the State created and partnered with schools to educate our children and counties to operate the jails and courts, prosecute citizens charged with crimes, construct and maintain our roads and bridges, collect of vital statistics, record important documents, coordinate emergency management, conduct state and federal elections and much more.

Funding for schools comes from a combination of local property taxes and State funds. For counties, the State has allowed counties to charge limited fines and fees with the remainder coming from local property taxes.

As the legislative work in Austin begins, State leaders, listening to citizens, have set as their top priority public education and property taxes. The state's top leaders have all proposed more overall state funding dollars for education, while also reforming our

property tax system. If they are successful in this endeavor, it should improve our education system while making a meaningful reduction in your local property taxes.



Texas State Capitol constructed from 1882 - 1888 located in Austin, Texas.

Ambitious plan? Yes, but it can be achieved. County leaders here and throughout the state are prepared to assist our legislative leaders in crafting these reforms. We work best when we work together – state leaders and county leaders together, solving problems and making Texas better.



Meet Precinct 2 Commissioner Devan Allen



Precinct 2 Commissioner Devan Allen

For Devan Allen, Tarrant County’s new Precinct 2 Commissioner, it is all about community. “Cultivating productive and mutually beneficial relationships is a key factor in achieving goals in our community,” said Commissioner Allen. As a connector, with over a decade of experience in leadership and service to the community, Commissioner Allen has learned that what matters most, regardless of the issue, is treating people well, valuing their priorities and executing on deliverables to incrementally achieve a set of shared goals.

As the Founder and Principal of Allen Realty Advisors (ARA), she opened doors for those pursuing business investments or the dream of homeownership. But growing up as the youngest child of incarcerated parents and having faced homelessness at a young age, she didn’t conceive that her own path would lead her to becoming an entrepreneur and an advocate for at-risk youth and women. At the heart of her successes is her core belief that success is attainable if one is willing to work diligently to achieve it.

Prior to launching ARA, Commissioner Allen built a solid career in public service, serving as the District Director in both the Texas Senate and House, and most recently serving as Campaign Manager for State Representative Chris Turner, Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. She has also served Tarrant County as a Council Aide to a Fort Worth Mayor Pro Tem, and as Senior Director of External

Affairs for the University of Texas at Arlington. Once headed for a career in the healthcare field, including serving as a nationally and state certified Emergency Medical Technician, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UTA, including undergraduate coursework at Tarrant County College.



From left: Commissioner Gary Fickes, Judge Whitley and Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks welcome Commissioner Allen during a reception in her honor.

Known for her passion for public service, her diplomacy and proven track record of connecting people and resources successfully, Devan has been tapped to serve on a number of boards and commissions in addition to a host of non-profit organizations including: Day Resource Center, Chair of the Arlington Community Relations Commission, inspirED Advisory Committee, New Leaders Council Advisory Board, Women Inspiring Philanthropy, and is a founding member of BRIDGE Young Professionals. In 2015, Fort Worth CEO Magazine named her one of “20 Women to Watch in Business”.

When Devan is able to kick up her heels, she laces up her running shoes. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Devan enjoys training for and participating in marathons. She is also certified as a Dietary Guidance Provider through the Cooper Institute.

Devan resides in Arlington with her husband, Mark Allen, a Commercial Real Estate Broker and Principal of Allen Multifamily Advisors with Colliers International, a leading global real estate investment firm. They enjoy traveling, attending sporting events, hiking, following cutting-edge developments in business and technology, and spending time with friends and family.



Judge Whitley performs the oath of office for Pct. 2 Commissioner Devan Allen during a swearing in ceremony on January 1, 2019.



New Year, New Beginnings



Judge Gallagher administering Judge Glen Whitley's oath of office on January 1, 2019

With the 2018 elections behind us it is time to start the new year. Tarrant County ushered in the New Year with a swearing in ceremony for newly elected and re-elected officials.

Twenty-one local and state officials, along with their families and supporters, came together for this bi-partisan ceremony in the Tarrant County Commissioners Courtroom early on New Year's Day.

The ceremony began with messages from three local

clerics. Reverend Ralph Emerson from Rising Star Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Rabbi Aaron Griffin from Sar Shalom Synagogue in Saginaw, and Dr. Mohammed Patel from the Ismaili Center in Carrollton began with messages of thanks and unity.

Judge Glen Whitley, surrounded by his family, received his oath of office from District Judge George Gallagher. Judge Whitley then administered the oath of office for most of the other officials in attendance.

Congratulations to all these and the many other officials starting their new term of office in Tarrant County!

"No problem of human making is too great to be overcome by human ingenuity, human energy, and the untiring hope of the human spirit."

- President George H.W. Bush (1939-2018)



Tarrant County Elected Officials attending swearing-in ceremony on January 1, 2019.

2019 State of the County Address

Friday, March 15, 2019

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Sheraton Arlington Hotel

Presenting Sponsor



VIRIDIAN

[Click Here](#)



Judge B. Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

CITY OF AZLE

Future Forecast is Sunny and Bright!



Azle can count itself among the communities in the northwest portion of the Metroplex who is seeing substantial residential growth. The city has experienced an estimated 10% growth in population from 10,947 in 2010 to an estimated 12,140 in 2018 and is still growing.

Housing

2018 saw the completion of a 224-unit Reata West Apartment complex, two (2) elementary schools, and currently has 245 residential lots under construction. Three (3) separate residential developments, totaling 423 lots, are planned for 2019 along with the completion of a 197-unit senior living complex, Legacy Oaks.

New Municipal Complex

The City of Azle held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 8 for the new Azle Municipal Complex. The Municipal Complex will be located at 505 W. Main Street and will consist of Azle City Hall/Council Chambers and the Police Facility. The Complex will be approximately 30,000 square feet, split nearly equally between City Hall and the Police Station and cost approximately \$12.6 million. This new City Hall will finally consolidate all the administrative offices under one roof, thus reducing the number of stops a citizen has to make to conduct almost any city business. The architect is GSBS Architects and the contractor is Byrne Construction. Completion is slated for late 2019.



Architect rendering of the future Azle Municipal Complex Main Street entry.

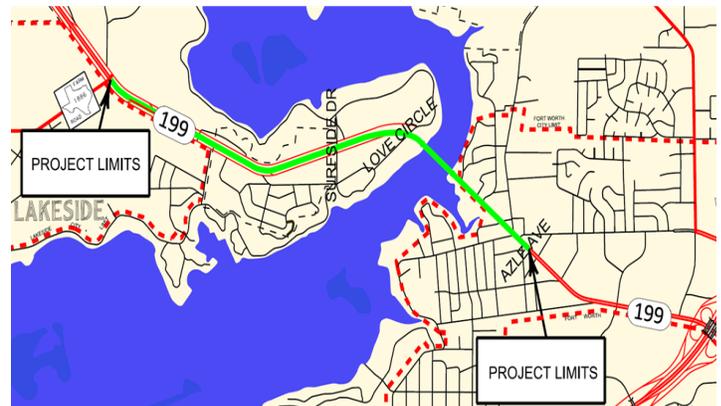
Infrastructure

Azle City Council has been focused on a revitalization of Main Street. Currently, the waterline under Main Street is being replaced and upgraded. Main Street (Loop 344) is a TxDOT road and once the waterline project is complete, the City and TxDOT will work on transferring ownership of Main Street to the City. The City Council is hopeful the new waterline, transferred ownership of Main Street, and the new Municipal Complex will jumpstart the revitalization of Main Street.

Transportation

In 2017, construction began on SH 199 from Western Center Boulevard to Nine Mile Bridge Road. The first of four phases of the SH 199 improvement project is close to completion and is expected to be officially opened in the coming weeks.

A contractor is expected to be awarded the next phase of the improvement project in 2020. This phase will improve mobility, capacity and safety on SH 199 from FM 1886 to Azle Avenue/Merrett Drive.



SH 199 - FM 1886 to Azle Avenue/Merrett Drive Project Map

To keep up to date on these and future SH 199 projects you can contact TxDOT at 817-370-6500 or visit the [TxDOT website](http://www.txdot.gov) for the current project status on each phase of this ongoing project.

For more information about the City of Azle and services they provide, you can visit the City's website at www.cityofazle.org or call 817-444-2541.



NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Human Trafficking: Slavery Still Exists

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and an opportunity to bring awareness about human trafficking. Human trafficking is a highly lucrative industry which generates billions of dollars a year and is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable transnational crime. To understand human trafficking first you must understand what it is.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is not limited to sex trafficking. While sex trafficking is one form, any kind of forced labor is considered human trafficking. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure someone into forced labor in both legitimate and illegitimate industries such as sweat shops, agriculture, restaurants, and domestic service to name a few.

Traffickers use a variety of methods to lure people who are vulnerable and can be easily manipulated. Social media, nightclubs, and malls are just some of the places traffickers look for their next victims.

These victims are usually afraid to come forward because of the threat of violence to them or their families. In some cases, they may not have control of their own identification documents. As a result, most victims and survivors go unidentified, therefore, making it difficult to rescue and provide services to these individuals.

A recent study conducted by the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work estimated that there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas, including 79,000 minors and youth victims of sex trafficking and nearly 234,000 adult victims of labor trafficking.

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department Human Trafficking Unit was formed in March 2017 by Sheriff Bill Waybourn. In collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and social providers, the unit is committed to rescuing victims of human trafficking and con-

ducting investigations that lead to the prosecution of human traffickers.

Nationally, the Department of Homeland Security started the Blue Campaign to help combat human trafficking. This campaign offers awareness, education, and training in an effort to raise awareness, increase investigation of human traffickers and protect victims through a victim-centered approach.



dhs.gov/blue-campaign



To find information about how to avoid being a victim, please contact the local resources shown below or visit the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign website at www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign. These resources also provide valuable information about identifying victims and victim assistance.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IMPACT IN TEXAS



When using this data please use the following citation: Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Nale, N.L., Kammer-Korwick, M., Kellison, B., Torres, M.L.M., Cook-Helfron, L., Nelms, J. (2018). Human Trafficking by the Numbers: Initial Benchmarks of Prevalence & Economic Impact in Texas. Austin, TX: Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.

Tarrant County Resources

The Net FW

682-233-4283 or visit www.thenetfw.com

Unbound

817-668-NIMC (6462)
or visit www.unboundnow.org

Valiant Hearts

855-524-3747 or visit www.valianthearts.org

**Tarrant County Sheriff's Department
Human Trafficking Unit**

817-884-2941

or email humantrafficking@tarrantcounty.com

**The National Human Trafficking Resource
Center Hotline 1-888-373-7888**

or visit www.humantraffickinghotline.org

Crime Stoppers of Tarrant County

817-469-TIPS (8477) or visit www.469tips.com



PROVIDING SERVICES USED EVERY DAY

Local Government Works For You

Local governments, like Tarrant County, cities and schools, are the front door to services used every day. Our local governments are the backbone to our quality of life, making our days easier, more efficient and more enjoyable.

Tarrant County keeps records, builds roads, operates courts, the sheriff's department and the jail. The county works to protect public health and coordinate emergency management. Cities offer many services, including parks and pools, police and fire protection, libraries, trash collection, senior centers and much, much more.

Here are examples of local government services. Step out your front door, look around your community and think of the many ways you use local government services.

Tarrant County Emergency Management



Tarrant County works with area municipalities to provide a coordinated response and recovery effort in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management (TCOEM) organizes the County's participation in the development of the local emergency management plan. State law allows

the County Judge to declare a local state of emergency for up to seven (7) days in some cases.

While some cities within Tarrant County have well-established emergency management programs, the county assists many of the smaller ones. During an emergency, weather or otherwise, the Tarrant County Emergency Management Coordinator, David McCurdy, and his staff coordinate with local, regional, state and federal agencies.

TCOEM serves as the coordinating entity for disaster response, damage reporting, recovery efforts, and local disaster declarations in the event of a countywide disaster. For example, the county may use road equipment to clear debris and personnel to help manage an incident.

Severe Weather - KnoWhat2Do

The **KnoWhat2Do** disaster preparedness program can help you put together a family severe weather response plan. Emergency shelter information is provided, as well as checklists for emergency kits and equipment.

Each Tarrant County community has its own severe weather warning system. Local emergency management offices have details on the warnings used in your area.

The website, www.KnoWhat2Do.com, provides lifesaving measures to follow in a severe weather crisis. For example, it is recommended citizens purchase weather radios to listen for weather alerts. By using the website Tarrant County residents can participate in their own safety, find solutions that work for their own circumstances and help others around them.

Tarrant County Emergency Management Coordinator, David McCurdy, and his staff are part of the County Administrator's office. For more information, you can call (817) 884-1473 or visit the [Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management](#) website.

Tarrant County Fire Marshal

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal, Randy Renois, and his staff have many responsibilities when it comes to taking care of our citizens. They investigate all fire and explosive incidents that occur in the unincorporated areas of the County and, upon request, assists state and local agencies.



Larger investigations may require calling on other agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or the Tarrant County Arson Task Force. The Fire Marshal's office will often work with other local fire and law enforcement agencies to create mutual aid firefighting teams working closely with the [Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. 1](#) to ensure all areas of unincorporated Tarrant County have fire and ambulance coverage.

This office also conducts fire safety inspections of businesses, public buildings and group homes, regulates outdoor burning, and inspects retail fireworks stands.

As of August 1, 2018, the Tarrant County Fire Code for the unincorporated areas went into effect. The Tarrant County Fire Code will be applied to all new construction or substantial improvements of commercial, public buildings, and multifamily dwellings. The Tarrant County Fire Code consists of the International Fire and Building Codes 2015 Edition, the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2015 Edition, and the NFPA 70 Electric Code latest edition.

For more information on the Tarrant County Fire code and the Fire Marshal's Office go to the [Tarrant County Fire Marshal's website](#) or call 817-838-4660.



A health and lifestyle expo event for boomers, seniors and caregivers!



7th Annual SENIOR SYNERGY EXPO

F R E E • E X P O

Platinum Sponsor care@care Insurance Company, Inc.

Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Platinum Sponsor FORT WORTH BUSINESS PRESS

Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley and Cigna invite you to the 2019 Senior Synergy Expo. Come learn about the services available in Tarrant County that will empower boomers, seniors and caregivers to live a healthier lifestyle.

FREE: Admission • Health Screenings • Workshops • Parking • Lunch*

REGISTER

To attend the EXPO, register today at: www.seniorsynergyexpo.com / 817-884-1234 klotter@tarrantcounty.com

*Must register before April 26th to guarantee lunch.

LOCATION

Will Rogers – Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Hall 3400 Burnett-Tandy Drive Fort Worth, TX 76107

OUR OTHER SPONSORS



AARP • Blue Cross & Blue Shield • Ciera Bank • Dallas Nephrology Associates • Encompass Health • Home Instead Senior Care MHMR of Tarrant County • ONCOR Electric • Bath Expo & Window Expo • Christian Care Communities • Dan Dipert Tours & Coaches • Lift-Aids, Inc. • Lucas Family Funeral Homes • Medical City Fort Worth • Senior Downsizing Experts

Knowledge is power, come learn about services available for you to live a healthier and independent lifestyle.



TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

<u>County Administrator</u>	817-884-1267	<u>Resource Connection</u>	817-531-7600
<u>County Clerk</u>		<u>Sheriff's Office</u>	817-884-3009
Criminal / Misdemeanor Records	817-884-1066	Jail Information	817-884-3116
Probate Courts	817-884-1770	Victim Identification	817-884-8463
Records Intake / Deeds	817-884-1062	Warrant Division	817-884-1320
Records Library	817-884-1069	<u>Tax Assessor-Collector</u>	
Vital Records: Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage		Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes	817-884-1100
Licenses, and Business Records/DBA's	817-884-1550	<u>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</u>	817-894-1945
<u>Criminal District Attorney</u>	817-884-1400	<u>Veterans Services</u>	817-531-5645
<u>District Clerk</u>		<p style="text-align: center;">Commissioners Court meets every Tuesday at 10 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tarrant County Administration Building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100 E. Weatherford Street, 5th Floor</p>	
Civil Records	817-884-1240		
Criminal Records	817-884-1342		
Family Court / Divorce Records	817-884-1265		
<u>Jury Services</u>	817-884-3820		
<u>Fire Marshal</u>	817-838-4660	County Judge, Glen Whitley	817-884-1441
<u>Human Services</u>	817-531-5620	Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Precinct 1 ...	817-531-4500
<u>Public Health</u>	817-321-4700	Commissioner Devan Allen, 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

Tarrant County Legislative Delegation

Texas House

<u>District 90 Representative: Ramon Romero, D-Fort Worth</u>	ramon.romero@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0740
<u>District 91 Representative: Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth</u>	stephanie.klick@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0599
<u>District 92 Representative: Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford</u>	jonathan.stickland@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0522
<u>District 93 Representative: Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth</u>	matt.krause@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0562
<u>District 94 Representative: Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington</u>	tony.tinderholt@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0624
<u>District 95 Representative: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth</u>	nicole.collier@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0716
<u>District 96 Representative: Bill Zedler, R-Arlington</u>	bill.zedler@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0374
<u>District 97 Representative: Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth</u>	craig.goldman@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
<u>District 98 Representative: Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake</u> ...	giovanni.capriglione@house.state.tx.us ...	512-463-0690
<u>District 99 Representative: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth</u>	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	512-463-0610
<u>District 101 Representative: Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie</u>	chris.turner@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0574

Texas Senate

<u>District 9 Senator: Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills</u>	kelly.hancock@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0109
<u>District 10 Senator: Beverly Powell, D-Burleson</u>	beverly.powell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0110
<u>District 12 Senator: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound</u>	jane.nelson@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0112
<u>District 22 Senator: Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury</u>	brian.birdwell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0122

