



Tarrant County: Our North Texas Home



*Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley*

We Must Stop Shifting State Government Costs Onto the Backs of Local Taxpayers

Tarrant County always tries to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

Every nickel counts.

I'm the same way when it comes to money for my own family.

At the county, we treat taxpayer dollars like they are our own.

And one of the best ways to protect Tarrant County taxpayer dollars is for the Texas Legislature to stop passing laws that require the county to implement programs and measures without funding them.

The laws are called unfunded mandates, and local taxpayers are forced to pick up the tab. The bottom line: You and I pay more in taxes.

Our state lawmakers are well-practiced at this move. All too often, the state shifts the burden of paying for its government programs to the local level, including counties, cities and schools.

Well folks, if the programs are that important to the state, then the state should arrange to pay for them.

Fortunately, the Texas House has taken a step in the right direction.

The House passed a proposed Constitutional Amendment to prohibit the unfair practice of unfunded mandates. It is the right thing to do because it will protect local taxpayers.

The Senate still has to approve the amendment.



Tarrant County is all too familiar with the state's unfunded mandates.

The state requires Texas counties to provide lawyers to people who can't afford to pay for them. It's called indigent defense. The state agreed to cover the cost, but hasn't done that.

In 2016, the state paid about \$1 million of the \$16.2 million paid to attorneys, leaving Tarrant County taxpayers to cover \$15 million. Since the law passed, Tarrant County has paid about \$193 million in indigent defense costs, while the state reimbursed the county for only \$20 million.

Tarrant County taxpayers spend millions of dollars every year housing prisoners in our jail who belong to the state. If the county has custody of a state inmate, the county must pay all the expenses. If the state picked up its prisoners sooner, county taxpayers pay less.

Unfunded mandates eat up tax dollars that could go to programs that local voters favor. They make it more difficult for counties, cities and school districts to deliver essential services that some of us may take for granted.

The state budget is always tight and it should be.

But, the practice of shifting state government costs onto local taxpayers has got to stop!

Please call your state senator and urge approval of the Constitutional Amendment to end unfunded mandates.

The state government should work together with counties, cities and school districts to jointly identify problems, goals and solutions.

That is the best way forward.

**Online Tools To Keep Up
With The 85th Texas Legislature**

Texas Legislature Online
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Legislative Reference Library
www.lrl.state.tx.us/

<https://legiscan.com/TX>

THE SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MARKET AT ARLINGTON

A New Folk Art Market in Arlington Promises Beautiful Surprises

Remember that beautiful hand-woven rug you really wanted but didn't buy?

You'll get another chance to get a classy carpet like the one you missed, and other one-of-a-kind items from around the world at next month's new international folk art market in Arlington.

The first Santa Fe International Folk Art Market at Arlington, an offshoot of the famous hilltop art market in Santa Fe, will take place June 16th and June 17th on The Green at College Park on the south side of the University of Texas at Arlington campus.

"If you have an appreciation for unique and beautiful handmade things, you will really like this art market," said Linda Dipert, event co-chair and longtime Arlington civic leader.

The market will feature about three dozen master artists and their hand-made goods from Italy, Ghana, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Ukraine, South Sudan, Myanmar, Peru and many others countries.

"It is an extraordinary gathering of artists," Dipert said.

The folk art can vary from established centuries-old traditions to inspiring innovations rooted in traditional culture.

The art entries are juried by experts and carefully curated to represent the highest quality folk art made by individual artists, family enterprises, and artist cooperatives, Dipert said.

The 14th International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, billed as the world's largest folk art festival, with 160 Master Artists from 53 Countries will be a month later, on Santa Fe's Museum Hill.



improvement in the artists' country of origin. The artists have returned home to build schools, bridges, wells, community centers and even purchased milk cows and medical supplies for their communities.

In addition to the fine folk art, the Arlington event in June will have international foods and entertainment, Dipert said.

"The Santa Fe International Folk Art Market at Arlington will be a very special event in Tarrant County and I look forward to it becoming a wonderful annual celebration of folk art," said Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley.

The success of the first event in Arlington will allow the art market to grow larger and include more artists from more countries in the future, Dipert said.



Santa Fe International Folk Art Market at Arlington June 16, 17

All Events Ticketed Except Evening Market

VIP Shopping Event Friday
June 16, 2017 - 6:30 to 9p.m.

Saturday Early Bird
June 17, 2017 - 8 to 10 a.m. \$25

General Admission Saturday
June 17, 2017 - 10 to 6 p.m., \$10
Free for those 16 and under

Evening Market - Free
June 17, 2017 - 6 to 8 p.m.

The Green at College Park
University of Texas
at Arlington

www.folkartalliance.org/arlington/

This is the first time the market will be held outside of Santa Fe.

"UTA is a great partner for the event," Dipert said.

Often, the income the artists earn exhibiting at the original Santa Fe show is used for economic and social



Mount Olivet Cemetery

6:30 p.m. 2301 N. Sylvania Ave. Fort Worth, TX
www.mtolivetcemeteryassociation.org

Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

11 a.m. 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX
www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/dallasftworth.asp

Northwest Tarrant Memorial Day Salute

10 a.m. 7005 Charbonneau, Lake Worth, TX
www.nwtcc.org

Grand Prairie Veterans Memorial

10 a.m. 925 Conover Dr., Grand Prairie, TX
www.grandfunGP.com