

**Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes - Precinct 3** 

Volume 15, Issue 1

"Working together for a better tomorrow"

February 2022

There is no Coffee with the Commissioner this month, so please **plan on** joining us this THURSDAY for the

> **Tarrant Transportation** Summit

**Register** at www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com



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After a one-year pause, our Tarrant Transportation Summit returns with an incredible lineup you won't want to miss this Thursday, February 10th at the Hurst Conference Center. We're so glad to be back! This year's

event will feature topics including the Transportation and Mobility Outlook for North Texas, Transformation of Texas' Transit System, Technology in Transportation, A Case Study in Managed Lanes, Update from the Texas Demographic Center and a Special presentation from Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar. For more information. visit

www.TarrantTransportationSummit.com.

Early voting begins Monday, February 14 for the March 1, 2022 Primary Elections. You may vote at any polling location in Tarrant County if you are registered to do so, and you can also check wait times in real time online. View more information for the elections here.

You know one of the greatest things about living in Tarrant County? The sheer amount of cultural diversity around every corner. This February, we celebrate the contributions and history of the African American community during Black History Month. Local resident Opal Lee has led the charge in making Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday. On June 17, 2021 The White House invited Lee to a Juneteenth bill signing officially making June 19 a national holiday.

## **COMMISSIONER'S CORNER**

On that day in 1865, the final enslaved African Americans were granted freedom all the way in Galveston. Learn more about this local leader of influence here.

February is also the American Heart Association's Heart Month. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we all feel like we've skipped a beat. Stress has soared while physical and mental health have declined. But now's the time to Reclaim Your Rhythm. Visit the American Heart Association for help on how to create or rebuild healthy habits that work best for you and take back control of your physical and mental well-being.

A reminder that the public may view Commissioners Court meetings every Tuesday at 10 a.m. online. This is a great way to stay informed with the decisions your leaders make in Tarrant County. The next Court meeting will be March 1. View Commissioners Court information here.

I invite you to read on in this edition of the Northeast Newsletter for information about the Fort Worth TxDOT District's new director Carl L. Johnson, P.E., a commuter rail love story from Trinity Metro, COVID-19 update, Precinct 3 maintenance center news, senior updates and more! Our office will once again not be hosting a Coffee with the Commissioner this month, but will see you soon!

Gary Fickes

## **Question of the Month**

The Fifty Cent Act - Question:

So, you think land and housing costs are outrageous now? Look what you could have bought in Texas in 1879.

Answer on Page 3

*The Quote of the Month:* All new states are invested, more or less, by a class of noisy, second-rate men who are always in favor of rash and extreme measures, but Texas was absolutely overrun with such Sam Houston men.





Learn about Tarrant County at: www.tarrantcounty.com Please like us on Facebook

## COMMUNITY LEADER

Carl L. Johnson, P.E. Fort Worth District Engineer Texas Department

of Transportation





Carl L. Johnson, PE is the district engineer for the Fort Worth District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), which comprises nine counties: Erath, Hood, Jack, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise. Johnson oversees the planning, designing, building, operation and maintenance of the state transportation system for the Fort Worth District.

A graduate of Texas Tech University, Johnson began his career with TxDOT in the Lampasas Area Office of the Brownwood District in 1995. While in Lampasas, Johnson was involved with many design and construction projects. In 2012, he was promoted to Director of Operations for the Brownwood District, where he oversaw maintenance and traffic functions for the district. In addition to his district duties, Johnson was also a leader in many statewide initiatives, such as the development of the Statewide Winter Storm Plan.

Johnson was named the Abilene District Engineer in 2017. As district engineer, he worked to improve pavement scores and served as a member of the Ports to Plains Advisory Board and a member of Abilene's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He was instrumental in maintaining a collaborative working relationship between the MPO, TxDOT and the city of Abilene. While in Abilene, Johnson also had several statewide assignments, including participating on TxDOT's district peer review committee.

Appointed as Fort Worth District Engineer in September 2020, Johnson serves on NCTCOG's Regional Transportation Council working to address Metroplex-area transportation challenges and opportunities. Under Johnson's direction as district engineer, he oversees more than \$4 billion in construction including major projects such as I-35W, the I-30/SH 360 Interchange, and the Southeast Connector. Johnson also serves on TxDOT's statewide sealcoat committee.

> Article courtesy of TxDOT Fort Worth District office.



The **Fort Worth District** has the state's third highest population and number of registered vehicles.



I-820 / SH 121 Interchange



## **Regional Transportation Council**

The Regional Transportation Council is the independent transportation policy body of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. RTC meets the second Thursday of each month, and the 44 members inside local elected or appointed officials from the metropolitan area and representatives from each of the area's transportation providers. RTC oversees the metropolitan transportation planning process. Primary activities include:

- Guiding the development of multimodal transportation plans and programs.
- Determining the allocation of federal, state, and regional transportation funds.
- Selecting transportation projects for some programs and recommending projects to the Texas Transportation Commission for other programs.
- Ensuring transportation providers coordinate services.
- Ensuring the metropolitan area complies with state and federal laws and regulations regarding transportation and air quality.

A Historical Moment In Time

### Love-struck at Bell Platform "Commuter Romance Leads to Marriage"



For James McNair and Elizabeth Leamon, love struck when they least expected it. The setting wasn't on a moonlit beach or a romantic restaurant – it was on the Trinity Railway Express platform at Bell Station.

James and Beth first became acquainted in June 2015 while waiting on the TRE to commute to work. He traveled to Fort Worth while she was headed to Dallas. Being a passenger for many years, Beth always had "her spot" on the platform and was familiar with the usual morning crowd. One morning, she noticed someone different was waiting nearby. James did not catch her eye, and for several mornings they didn't speak.

When they began conversing, it was casual and friendly. After several weeks of morning conversations, romance began to bloom and a growing fondness was

evident. They started arriving even earlier (like 5:30 a.m.) for their scheduled departure and would bring each other treats such as a snack or drink.

James mentioned that his birthday was August 1st, and Beth took the opportunity to ask him out to dinner for his birthday. They had a romantic dinner and confessed their love for one another.

It's fitting that the couple met at "Bell" because "wedding bells" were soon in the air. The Bell platform was where they first hugged, where they visited on their first anniversary, and it's where James proposed.

On October 17th, the romance came full circle when Beth and James were married on the Bell platform. "When we got engaged, we didn't even have to think twice about where we would get married," Beth said. "So many of our memories are connected to the train station that we couldn't think of a more perfect – or romantic – venue!"

Article and Photo Courtesy of Trinity Railway Express



Do you have a passion for history? We would welcome an opportunity to visit with you about serving on the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

> For more information send an email to our office at: commissioner3@tarrantcounty.com

**Question of the Month** 

The Fifty Cent Act - Question: So, you think land and housing costs are outrageous now? Look what you could have bought in Texas in 1879.

**Answer:** The Fifty Cent Act advocated by Governor O.M. Roberts was approved by the Texas Legislature July 14, 1879. It provided for selling Texas public land at fifty cents an acre, one half of the proceeds to be used for paying the public debt, and the other half to be used to establish a public school fund. The Act opened to settlement about fifty-two West Texas counties, out of which 3,201,283 acres were sold for \$1,600,645.55. The Act was repealed in January 1883. (Treasury of Texas Trivia, 1997)

#### **Tarrant County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** 偷 The 2020 Care 4 Tarrant program provided rental assistance to over 2,300 households within Tarrant County, but a large need still exists. Through ERAP, Tarrant County hopes to continue providing rent and utility Emergency Rental assistance to residents financially hurt by COVID-19. ERAP is open to Tarrant County renters outside the cities Assistance of Fort Worth and Arlington. Program Applications opened on Monday, March 29th, 2021. For more information on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, please review the FAOs and Documentation Requirements or visit the website here. Should your organization have questions about this program, please contact ERAPInfo@tarrantcounty.com **COVID-19 INFORMATION CARE 4 TARRANT** Tarrant County Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information Page Tarrant County COVID-19 Updates; County Declarations and Orders Report a Covid-19 About Covid-19 Contact Tracing Contact Tracing Local County Covid-19 Vaccine Covid-19 Testing Case Alert Messaging Orders En Españo Tiếng Việt Covid-19 Frequently Asked Covid-19 Health **Covid-19 Guidance** Latest News Covid-19 Family Transmission Questions for Schools Guidance Resources

#### March 1st Republican & Democratic Primary Elections

Tarrant County Early Voting Begins February 14th							
February 14-18	Monday-Friday	8:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.					
February 19	Saturday	7:00 a.m 7:00 p.m.					
February 20	Sunday	10:00 a.m 4:00 p.m.					
February 21	Monday	Closed (Holiday)					
February 22-25	Tuesday - Friday	7:00 a.m 7:00 p.m.					

## **ELECTION DAY**

Tarrant County registered voters on Election Day can vote at any Vote Center location from 7a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### **Election Day-March 1st**



View Polling Locations & More Information

#### **Community Resources & Volunteer Opportunities**

2-1-1 <u>6 Stones</u> <u>ACH Child & Family Services</u> <u>Alliance for Children</u> <u>Area Agency on Aging</u> <u>Call A Ride Southlake (CARS)</u> <u>Catholic Charities Fort Worth</u> <u>Christ's Haven for Children</u> <u>Community Enrichment Center</u> (CEC) <u>Community Storehouse</u> <u>The Gatehouse</u> <u>GRACE</u> <u>HEB Transit</u> <u>Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County</u> <u>Metroport Meals on Wheels</u> <u>MHMR of Tarrant County</u> <u>Mid-Cities Care Corps</u> (MCCC) <u>Mission Central</u> <u>North Texas SNAP</u> One Safe Place

SafeHaven of Tarrant County Salvation Army DFW Senior Transportation Services Sixty and Better Tarrant Area Food Bank Tarrant County Homeless Coalition The Women's Center of Tarrant County United Way of Tarrant County U.S. Small Business Administration

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(Scheduled Apr. 22)

(Completed Nov. 21)

(Scheduled Oct. 22)

(Scheduled Sep. 22)

(Scheduled Sep. 22)

(Completed Oct. 21)

(Completed Oct. 21)

(Completed Nov. 21)

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(Completed Oct. 21)

(Completed Nov. 21)

(Completed Nov-21)

(Scheduled Nov. 22)

(Scheduled Nov. 22)

(Scheduled Nov. 22)

(Scheduled Jul. 22)

(Scheduled Aug. 22)

Precinct 3 Maintenance Center News February 2022



This year our construction schedule is jam-packed with LOTS of projects - more than ever before. We have 72 ILA (city) projects estimated and scheduled throughout all thirteen of our cities, as well as a project proposed in the BISD School District. Currently, most project requests are in the process of getting the contracts approved through City Councils and Commissioners Court. We already have a strong start, and have completed several projects. Below is a list of projects proposed for this fiscal year, thru next December 2022. These 72 projects will yield an estimated \$6.4M in saving to the Cities by using County equipment and personnel for construction.

#### **INTERLOCAL PROJECTS**

These projects are a cooperative effort between the County and Cities to complete needed resurfacing, rehabilitation and reconstruction projects on City streets. The City provides the material funding and the County provides the labor and equipment to perform the work. Projects we have completed or scheduled for this year (Oct 1, 2021 thru December 2022) include: (Projects and schedules may be subject to change)

#### Bedford

Harwood Rd. Forest Ridge Dr.

<u>Colleyville</u> Tinker Rd. Jackson Rd. (Scheduled May 22)

(Scheduled May 22)

(Scheduled Oct.22) (Scheduled Mar. 22)



Allendale St.(ScheDeepwood Rd.(ScheHickory Hill Ln.(ScheSherwood Ln.(ScheSpring Hollow St.(ScheCarisbrooke Ct.(ScheCumberland Ct.(ScheEaton Cr.(ScheWilton Woods Ct.(ScheGlen Dale Dr.(ScheOxford Ct.(ScheBeckley Ct.(ScheW. Scarbourough Hill Ln.(Sche

#### Euless Delta Dr.

Harris Dr. Oak Ln. Signet Dr. South Mills Dr.

#### Fort Worth

Westport Pkwy. Avondale Haslet Rd. Keller Haslet (1) Keller Haslet (2) Oak Haven Dr. Oak Leaf Trl. Sunset Cl. Misty's Run Old Denton Rd. Velda Kay Ln. Whisper Willows Dr Willow Ranch Wav Willow Tree Dr. Willow Tree Ct. Singleton Ct. Weeping Willow Dr. Western Willow Dr. Moss Dr. Willow Crossing Dr. Whisper Willows Ct.

#### Grapevine

Hughes Rd. Oak Grove Loop Snakey Ln. Oak Grove Parking Lot

#### Haslet

White Lane(1)(Scheduled May. 22)White Lane(2)(Scheduled May. 22)Harmon Rd.(Scheduled Nov. 22)Fire Station Parking & Dr. (Scheduled Aug. 22)Nance Field Parking & Lt. (Scheduled Aug. 22)HurstBentridge Dr.(Scheduled Jun. 22)Melbourne Rd.(Scheduled Jun. 22)



(Scheduled Mar. 22)	
(Scheduled Mar. 22)	
(Scheduled Apr. 22)	

(Scheduled Apr. 22) (Scheduled Apr. 22) (Scheduled Apr. 22) (Scheduled Apr. 22) (Scheduled Apr. 22)

(Scheduled Aug. 22) (Scheduled Jul. 22) (Scheduled Sep. 22) (Scheduled Sep. 22) (Scheduled Feb. 22) (Scheduled Feb. 22) (Scheduled Mar. 22) (Scheduled Sep. 22) (Scheduled Oct. 22) (Completed Feb. 22)

Scheduled Jun. 22)
Completed Jan. 22
Scheduled Dec. 22)
Completed Jan. 22

Onyx Dr. <u>Richland Hills</u> Rufe Snow Dr. <u>Southlake</u> Sam Bass Ridge Rd. <u>Watauga</u> Miles Dr. Mass Lr

Keller

Shady Ln. (North)

Stonybrooke Dr.

**North Richland Hills** 

Miles Dr. Moss Ln. Haney Ct. Bernadine St. Willowview Dr. Redbud Dr. Jerri Lynn Dr. Quail Run Pine St. Tammy Ct. Kennedy St.

<u>Westlake</u> Roanoke Rd.

Pearson Rd.

#### Birdville ISD

Richland High School Lot (Scheduled Sep. 22)



As a reminder, your safety and the safety of our crews and their families are of the utmost importance. When encountering any type of roadway construction or maintenance, please be patient, drive slowly through the construction area, and be keenly aware of the equipment and personnel working around you to make your commute safer for everyone.

> Article courtesy of, Richard Schiller Director of Field Operations



## **SENIOR NEWS**

## February is American Heart Month



## What is the purpose of American Heart Month?

American Heart Month is observed to raise awareness on the importance of a healthy heart, and to encourage good habits that help reduce the risk of heart disease.

#### Things You Can Do Today to Show More Love to Your Heart!

- ♦ Control your high blood pressure and cholesterol.
- $\diamond$   $\;$  Work with your doctor on a treatment plan to manage diabetes.
- ♦ Don't smoke.
- Eat a healthy diet, low in sodium and trans fats and high in fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Get 150 minutes every week of a moderate intensity exercise such as brisk walking.
- ♦ Maintain a healthy weight.

Click <u>here</u> for more heart healthy tips.



American Heart Association

For more information visit: <u>https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/</u>

## **TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE**

#### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



VITA is an IRS supported, free income tax preparation program for low- to moderateincome individuals and

families. Community volunteers, certified by the IRS, help taxpayers prepare their tax returns at no cost and make sure they claim valuable tax credits for which they're eligible, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC).

VITA helps taxpayers who make less than \$60,000 per year and need to file a return for the prior or current tax year.

VITA helps individuals keep more of their hard-earned money and brings millions of dollars back into the local economy through refunds and tax credits.

There are three ways to apply for VITA services: in-person at select locations, curbside drop-off and online.

## **In-person Help**

Traditional, in-person service will be offered at three locations. Taxpayers must have an appointment; no waiting rooms are available. Schedule an appointment <u>online</u> or by calling 682-428-2939. **Do not call the centers directly,** you will be redirected to the appointment line.

- MLK Community Center 5565 Truman Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76112
- Community Enrichment Center 6250
  Northeast Loop 820North Richland Hills, TX 76180
- Southside Community Center
  959 E. Rosedale St., Fort Worth, TX 76104

## **Curbside Drop-off Service**

Curbside drop-off allows taxpayers to drop off their tax documents beginning in early January at a choice of several VITA locations. Schedule a drop-off appointment <u>online</u> or call 682-428-2939.

## **NORTHEAST TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES** *Transportation for Seniors, Disabled and Low-Income*

TTS provides assistance to the following transportation agencies in our area.

### **Call A Ride Southlake**



CARS provides service for senior citizens and disabled adults who live in Southlake for non-emergency medical and dental purposes within a 25-mile radius of Southlake, and a seven-mile radius for non-medical, social, business and personal needs. Services provided by volunteers who supply their own vehicle, time and gas. Established in 2000.

#### CARS was established in 2000.|817-798-4022|callaridesouthlake.org

## **HEB Transit**



HEB Transit provides transportation for disadvantaged people in Hurst, Euless, and Bedford and access to employment destinations within those cities and the Hurst/Bell and CentrePort/DFW Airport Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Stations. Services provided by Catholic Charities. Established in 2006.

#### HEB Transit was established in 2006. | 817-336-8714 | catholiccharitiesfortworth.org

## **Mid-Cities Care Corps (MCCC)**



MCCC's mission is to preserve the independence of senior neighbors in Northeast Tarrant County by providing transportation (for routine medical), Helping Hands projects, and social outreach to break isolation for senior citizens age 65+. Established in 1981.

#### MCC was established in 1981. 817-282-0531 midcitiescarecorps.org

## **Northeast Transportation Service**



NETS provides transportation services to older adults (55 years of age or older) and individuals with disabilities in Northeast Tarrant County for medical, work, social service, senior centers, education, and shopping. Services provided by both the Fort Worth Transportation Authority and Catholic Charities. Established in 2002.

NETS was established in 2002. |817-336-8714|ridenets.com

## Social Transportation for Seniors

STS provides non-emergency transportation for seniors 62 years and better in North Richland Hills for leisure and social activities with the purpose of re-engaging isolated seniors back into the community. Services provided within a seven-mile radius by volunteers. Established in 2009.

#### Calendar

Feb 10 Tarrant Transportation Summit Feb12 Haltom City: 2022 Haltom Stampede <u>www.haltomcitytx.com</u>					
Feb 14Valentine's Day					
Feb 17 Colleyville Chamber Awards Banquet <u>www.colleyvillechamber.org</u>					
Feb 21President's Day					
Feb 25 Southlake Chamber: Aim for Safety <u>www.southlakechamber.com</u>					
Feb 25-27 The Cowtown Marathon <u>www.cowtownmarathon.org</u>					
Feb 26 Alliance for Children: Let's Play Bingowww.allianceforchildren.com					
Feb 26 Town of Trophy Club: Fun Run 4 Kindnesswww.trophyclub.org					
Feb 26 Colleyville Rotary Club: Dancing for the Stars <u>www.colleyvillerotaryclub.org</u>					
Mar 3 NE Tarrant Chamber Annual Awards Banquet					
Mar 6 Keller Chamber: Kids Summer Expo <u>www.kellerchamber.com</u>					
Mar 26 Metroport MOW: Party On The Peninsulawww.metroportmow.org					
Mar 28 Cesar Chavez Day					



**Centered** in Care **Powered by Pride** 

#### **Locations In Northeast Tarrant County**

#### **Health Clinics**

Grapevine/Colleyville Health Center ... 817-251-5751 3050 Timberline Drive, Grapevine 76051

Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center .. 817-514-5036 6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148

JPS Medical Home Northeast Tarrant 817-702-1100 3200 W. Euless Boulevard, Euless 76040

> For a complete list of Health Clinics visit: www.jpshealthnet.org



Valentine's Day Events

Feb 8 City of Keller: Anti-Valentine's Day Crafts.....www.cityofkeller.com Feb 11 City of Roanoke: Valentine's Day Dance......www.roanoketexas.com Feb 11 Haltom City: Night of Romance for Adults......www.haltomcitytx.com Feb 11 City of Watauga: Daddy Daughter Dance......www.facebook.com Feb 12 City of Bedford: Smooches with Pooches......www.bedfordtx.gov Feb 12 City of Grapevine: Valentine Craft Party......www.grapevinetexas.gov Feb 19 City of NRH: Daddy Daughter Dance......www.nrhtx.com

#### **Chambers of Commerce**

Colleyville Chamber of Commerce ...... www.colleyvillechamber.org Greater Keller Chamber ...... www.kellerchamber.com NE Tarrant Chamber of Commerce ...... www.netarrant.org Southlake Chamber ......www.southlakechamber.com

#### **Senior Centers**

Bedford Senior Center Colleyville Senior Center Euless Family Life Sr. Center Grapevine Active Adults at The REC Haltom City Sr. Citizens Center Haslet Senior Weekly Meetings Hurst Sr. Citizens Activities Center Keller Senior Activities Center	(817) 503-1195 (817) 685-1671 (817) 410-3465	www.bedfordtx.gov www.colleyville.com www.eulesstx.gov www.gograpevine.com www.haltomcitytx.com www.haslet.org www.ci.hurst.tx.us www.cityofkeller.com
		www.ci.hurst.tx.us www.cityofkeller.com www.nrhtx.com www.richlandhills.com www.ci.southlake.tx.us www.ci.watauga.tx.us

(Please note, center opening and hours have changed due to the public health situation. Be sure to call them for current information concerning their center.)

### COUNTY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

February 21, 2022 President's Day

March 28th Cesar Chavez Day

#### **Commissioner's Office** Precinct 3

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