

Northeast Newsletter

Carrant County - Precinct 3

"Working together for a better tomorrow"



December 2010

Volume 3, Issue 6

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

I want to thank all of you who have followed along with us during 2010 on the happenings in Precinct Three. I'm proud to say that Tarrant County continues to have the highest bond rating (AAA) of any county in Texas. Our budget is stable, with no tax increases in the last four years, with increased services where needed and decreased costs where possible. Many of our major highway and road projects are under construction and some are nearing completion: DFW Connector, North Tarrant Express, North Tarrant Parkway, FM1938 Phase I Extension, Golden Triangle Boulevard, and FM 156. Other projects that we hope will be moving forward are SH 26 Grapevine/ Colleyville, FM1938 Phase II, Avondale/ Haslet Road, and Baker Boulevard in Richland Hills.

Our Empowering Seniors 2010 was great...with over 900 participants, 80 vendors, outstanding speakers and fantastic sponsors...thank you. We are already planning and looking forward to our 3rd Annual Empowering Seniors in 2011.

Transportation is becoming a major challenge for our seniors here in Northeast Tarrant County. Many seniors are no longer able to drive their automobiles. This has created a tremendous need for a system to transport seniors for such activities as physician appointments, trips

to the pharmacy, shopping, hair appointments, banking, employment and many other routine daily activities. In NETC we are fortunate that we have a number of agencies that are working to fill that gap with support from donations and grants from local cities and faith-based organizations. This past year, we met with five of these groups. Our goal was to find out who they served, what areas, and how many individuals they served. We then asked how we could help them provide better service to the seniors in their areas. After reviewing all the information, Tarrant County was able to provide a total of \$80,000 this fiscal year to help these organizations accomplish their goals of providing increased assistance to those who need it most. The organizations are: HEB Transit, North East Transportation Services (NETS), Mid-Cities Care Corps, Call A Ride Southlake (CARS) and Social Transportation Services (STS).

Please remember two upcoming events: <u>Coffee with the Commissioner</u> this Friday morning, December 10th, at the Hurst office 7:30-9:00 a.m. and the <u>Northeast Tarrant Transportation</u> <u>Summit on Friday, February 18, 2011 at the Hurst Conference Center.</u>

Have a great **Christmas**, and a wonderful New Year and remember...

GO FROGS!

Gary Fickes

COFFEE WITH THE COMMISSIONER Please join me for coffee and donuts:

Friday, Dec. 10th ~ 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.



Northeast Sub-Courthouse 645 Grapevine Highway, Suite 6 Hurst, Texas 76054



Question of the Month

What is the only county in Texas named for a woman? **See page 5**





Season's Greetings from Commissioner Fickes and his staff. Pictured: Mary Ann Rike, Roselee Kerr, Carolyn Sims, Commissioner Gary Fickes, Theresa Parsons, Rebecca Barksdale, and Neal Welch.

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Remember those less fortunate this holiday season



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Spotlight on the Mayor



Mayor Oscar Trevino

North Richland Hills

Oscar Trevino has served as Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills since 2002. Prior to being elected as Mayor, he served as a City Council Member, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member and Teen Court Advisory Board Member.

While serving as Mayor of North Richland Hills, Mr. Trevino has been a vocal advocate for improving transportation and air quality throughout North Texas. He is a current member and past chair of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition. He also serves on the National League of Cities Transportation Infrastructure & Services Steering Committee and is a past chair of this group, the Regional Transit

Initiative Committee, the Texas Transportation Institute Advisory Council and is a past member of the Coalition for Better Transportation. He is a past chair of the Regional Transportation Council and past President of the North Central Texas Council of Government.

The Mayor also serves on or has served on the board of several other local organizations including North Hills Hospital, the Northeast Leadership Forum, Birdville ISD Foundation of Educational Excellence, and the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Mr. Trevino graduated from Texas A&M University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is president and owner of O. Trevino Construction, a heavy-highway contractor. He is married with two grown children. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church and a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

Earlier this year, Mayor Trevino was honored with the William J. Pitstick Re-

gional Excellence Award presented by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. He was also awarded the 2008 Transportation Excellence Award in Mobility from the North Texas Commission and received the Northeast Leadership Forum's 2008 Distinguished Leadership Award.

On a more personal note -

What do you do for fun? *Golf and travel* with family.

Favorite Movie? "Patton"

Favorite Restaurant? *Uncle Julio's on Camp Bowie or La Fogata in San Antonio*

Favorite Book? "The Bourne Objective" by Robert Ludlum

Favorite vacation spot? Alaskan Cruise

People would be surprised to know... I have been taking up biking and have participated in organized Bike Rides/Tours in Dallas, Texas Motor Speedway, Rockwall, Italy (TX) and even a part of the Wichita Falls Hotter 'n' Hell 100. Also have been riding the bike trails in NRH and surrounding communities.

Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office



Fire Marshal Randy Renois, Office Manager Tonya Dean, Deputy Fire Marshals Mike Rehfeld and Larry Ingram

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office is located at 2750 Premier Street in Fort Worth, Texas.

Randy Renois has been the Fire Marshal since 1998 and has two Deputy Fire Marshals Larry Ingram and Mike Rehfeld. All three are Texas State Certified Fire Inspectors, Arson Investigators, Peace Officers and Firefighters. They hold additional certifications and training in Hazmat and Explosives Recognition and Post Blast Investigations.

Tonya Dean is the Office Manager for the Fire Marshal's Office.

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for all fire/explosive

investigations in the unincorporated areas of the county. They also assist many cities in Tarrant County with fire/explosive investigations and coordinate the Tarrant County Arson Task Force. They work closely with other local, state, and federal agencies in dealing with fire/explosive incidents.

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office conducts fire safety inspections in unincorporated areas with the inspections of commercial businesses, schools, day cares, nursing homes, foster homes, county buildings, and quarterly inspections of the Tarrant County jails.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducts fire safety training at schools, county departments and businesses.

The TCFMO coordinates all of the fire and EMS responses in the unincorporated areas of the county. They are the liaison between the Tarrant County Emergency Services District #1 and the 20 fire departments that contract for fire and EMS coverage in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. They also work with the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District making sure that the 911 system has the proper information to notify the fire and EMS responders in these areas.

During the July and December fireworks seasons the Fire Marshal's Office inspects approximately 58 to 60 fireworks stands each year.

The Fire Marshal's Office is an active member of the Tarrant County Emergency Management Operations.

Mission Statement

The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's office operates under the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 352, Subchapter B "County Fire Marshal". We are committed to enforcing the law and to the prevention and investigation of fire and explosive incidents in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. We work with our state, county, federal, and local fire and law enforcement agencies. Our goal is to protect and serve the residents of Tarrant County.

For further information please call: 817-838-4660 or log onto www.tarrantcounty.com/eFireMarshal/site/dault.asp



Make a difference . . . save a life . . .

For organ donation information, please visit: www.donatelifetexas.org

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GRAPEVINE SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER



The Grapevine Senior Activities Center (SAC) is supported by the City of Grapevine and membership is FREE to any senior age 55 and over. Our pleasant facility offers a variety of programs from bingo to bowling, crafts to quilting, and embroidery to exercise. We have something for everyone!



The SAC provides transportation for Grapevine residents to and from the Center Monday through Friday. The SAC also

provides opportunities for transportation to the bank, grocery store, post office, mall shopping, and various Center activities. Senior*Movers* is a volunteer based program that assists with the medical and dental transportation needs of the Grapevine senior population. A 48 hour notice is required along with pre-registration and riders must require minimal assistance. *Friends of the Grapevine Senior Activities Center* (FOGSAC) is a 501 (c) (3) tax-deductible membership based organization. Donations are used to improve technology, supplement recurring programs, and further

educational opportunities for seniors in the area. The Grapevine Senior Citizens Advi-



sory Board is a City Council-appointed board that meets to address senior issues in our community. This is an open

meeting that takes place the first Tuesday of each even numbered month at 3:30 PM.

Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, Inc. provides hot lunches that supply one-third of the recommended dietary allowance for older adults. Lunch is served daily Monday through Friday at 12 PM. For those ages 60 and over, these meals are available for a suggested contribution of \$2. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. Our SAC offers a variety of field trips from supper club to museums, concerts, festivals, shopping, domestic and international travel. Special events consist of holiday celebrations, tournaments, income tax preparation assistance, benefits counseling and more. monthly newsletter, The Grape Affair, is free to Grapevine residents who wish to subscribe and highlights all upcoming events.

The SAC offers a wide variety of computer training classes led by professionals who volunteer their expertise. These free classes cover many topics including: keyboarding, Word, EXCEL, burning CDs, digital camera use, surfing the net, and more. Each registered participant will learn computer skills from comfortable, individual computer workstations provided

by the City of Grapevine. We invite you to come and learn with us in this hands-on, friendly, no pressure environment. A wide variety of



exercise classes are offered to keep balance, mental acuity, and flexibility in check. We offer SilverSneakers®, chair exercises, MindFitTM, T'ai Chi, summer water aerobics and senior strength training, as well as daily walking. Join us; we're having fun!



Grapevine Senior Activities Center 421 Church St, Grapevine, TX 76051 817.410.8130

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 AM – 3 PM <u>www.gvpard.com</u>

Call A Ride of Southlake (CARS)

Transportation Services in NE Tarrant County



Yes, there really is a "free ride" available. For whom? Southlake adult seniors (55+) and adult disabled.

CARS, is an 11 year old non-profit corporation, formed to offer transportation to those in need for a variety or purposes. We take people to medical appointments up to 25 miles from Town Square. CARS does social trips within 7 miles of Town Hall for such events as shopping, hair care, visiting friends, banking, voting, movies and special events.

Users call for rides to our executive director, CARS only paid employee. She does the scheduling among a group of 20+ drivers who volunteer their vehicles and their time.

The contribution of these drivers is immeasurable. Many are empty nest moms. Several are retirees. All have a wonderful "give back" attitude. We have drivers who have been with us since CARS inception.

We have users who request our service multiple times per week. CARS now has one user in his 90s who we transport daily to have lunch with his wife in her advanced Alzheimer's facility. He and several others among our users have established their own special relationships with our drivers.

Pressure to drive is non-existent. We take whatever time the driver/donor can make available to us. God bless them all!

Funding is important and our community has been fantastic. Our sponsor group includes the City of Southlake, Tarrant County, Watermere Retirement Community, Baylor Hospital, Texas Health Harris Methodist, Toastmasters Club, Southlake Womens Club, and Chase Bank.

Do we have any special needs not totally fulfilled? Absolutely! We need more drivers. Attrition and moves out of area have added to a heavy load. CARS has had months as high as 180 rides. Divided by 20 drivers, this is a heavier load than we like. We need more volunteers.

Call us at (817)798-4022 to volunteer and enjoy a great life experience.



CARS volunteer Julie Dennis picks up a rider, Mr. James Morgan .

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Commissioner Gary Fickes Tarrant County, Precinct 3

Friday, February 18, 2011

Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit

Hurst Conference Center

Agenda

9:30 a.m. Registration

SEMINARS

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. High Speed Rail in Texas

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. DFW Airport Expansion and Improvements

11:45 a.m. Lunch

Updates on: • DFW Connector and North Tarrant Express

• IH-35 and Tower 55

North Tarrant Parkway, Golden Triangle Boulevard, and FM1938

Keynote Speaker:Mike Berry

President Hillwood Properties























\$25/person

Make your reservations through one of the Chambers of Commerce listed below:

 Colleyville
 - (817) 488-7148
 Fort Worth Hispanic
 - (817) 625-5411
 FW Metropolitan Black
 - (817) 871-6558

 Grapevine
 - (817) 481-1522
 HEB
 - (817) 283-1521
 Keller
 - (817) 431-2169

 Northeast Tarrant
 - (817) 281-9376
 Northwest Metroport
 - (817) 837-1000
 Southlake
 - (817) 481-8200

For additional information please visit our website at: www.NETRANSPORTATIONSUMMIT.com

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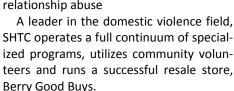
SafeHaven of Tarrant County is a nonprofit organization that exists to end family violence through safety, support, prevention and social change. SafeHaven's two emergency shelters, one in Arlington and one in Fort Worth, accommodate a combined 174 women and children, making SHTC one of the largest shelters in

Texas. In 2009, SHTC sheltered over 2,500 and child victims and pro-

Victoria Rodrigues meets with a client.

services through our Resource Centers to more than 3,800 other clients seeking emotional, legal and practical support to move from "victim" to "survivor". Staff

and volunteers answered 50,120 hotline calls in 2009, a nearly 20 percent increase over 2008. In addition to protecting victims and creating opportunities to achieve independence and self-sufficiency, SHTC also educates approximately 32,000 individuals annually. The majority of these are students who learn warning signs of relationship abuse



For more information on how you can visit our website www.safehaventc.org or call 817 535-6462.

For immediate assistance regarding domestic violence, please contact the 24 hour toll free crisis hotline at 1-877-701-SAFE (7233).



The Mid-Cities Supporters - SOS Group (pictured) makes a laundry donation to SafeHaven.

An Historical Moment In Time Vanishing Towns of Tarrant County

So you say you're from Avondale, or Bransford, or maybe Dido or Isham Chapel. Where have these "vanished" towns gone? Avondale was a railroad town large enough to have a three-teacher school and a girls' basketball team that managed to win two-yes, two--state championships. When State Highway 81 bypassed the town in 1920, the post office and the last remaining store closed. All that remained for many years was a sparsely populated rural community, located at the junction of Avondale-Haslet Road and US 287. Today this is becoming one of the more developed areas in north Fort Worth.

Bransford was initially established along the Cotton Belt Line in the early 1870s with a general store and post office operated by Felix G. Bransford. When the tracks were extended to nearby Red Rock in 1888, the post office and store moved operations there and brought with it the name of the abandoned community. At its peak, there were four general stores, four physicians, two blacksmiths, and a livery stable. Sadly Bransford's decline was as rapid as its growth due mainly to the development of Colleyville. By 1913,

Bransford joined the ranks of other vanished towns in Texas and now no longer exists as an organized

Once again the route of the railroad led to the demise of another town—**Dido**, named for the mythical Queen of Carthage. All that remains today is the Dido Methodist Church, the oldest church in Tar-

rant County, and the 1,000-grave Dido Cemetery. Each year, nearby residents and former residents gather in the cemetery on the last Sunday in April to celebrate "Dido Days"—the annual cemetery cleanup and picnic. Dido is located on the east side of

Dido Texas Cemetery Eagle Mountain Lake, north of Peden Road.

adult

non-

vided

residential

Isham Chapel was founded when the Reverend W. Marion Isham and his family arrived in Tarrant County in 1870. The town was located east of Fort Worth and south of present day Hurst. Reverend Isham founded the Isham Chapel Methodist Protestant Church and donated a one acre plot of land for a community cemetery. In 1941, an additional five acres were added and are currently maintained by the Isham Cemetery Association. In 1952, Isham Chapel was relocated to Hurst and is now known as the First United Methodist Church of Hurst.

Next edition, we'll report on other "vanishing towns" in Tarrant County.



Rev. Isham and Isham Cemetery marker



Answer to Question of the Month

Question: Question of the Month: What is the only county in Texas named for a woman?

Answer: Angelina County. Lufkin is the county seat. When Spanish friars established their mission in the area, San Francisco de la Tejas, they took in an Indian child who they named Angelina. Angelina was baptized and learned to speak Spanish. She later became an interpreter for Spanish explorers. There is also a river and national forest named for her.



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Transportation Northeast Tarrant County

DFW Connector Project Hotline:

1-877-411-4212

www.dfwconnector.com





Sign up for e-alerts!

Crews continue to place columns and caps on bridges and are preparing to set girders on the new Main Street bridge mid-way through November. To date, NorthGate crews have installed over 45,000 square feet of temporary wire walls and over 40,000 square feet of mechanically stabilized earth walls.

The asphalt paving of the affectionately named "Gumby" detour at the DFW Airport median has been completed.

On October 11, NorthGate began paving permanent concrete pavement in certain areas of the SH 114 median. This area will become the future east and westbound managed lanes of SH 114. During the month of October NorthGate installed approximately 3,100 linear feet of reinforced concrete pipe, primarily in the median of SH 114 and on DFW Airport property. October also marked the completion of more than 3.5 miles of drainage pipe and box culverts installed in the

North Tarrant Express Hotline: 1-888-683-2015

www.northtarrantexpress.com







Sign up for e-alerts!

North Tarrant Parkway NRH 817-427-6400

www.nrhtx.com

Keller 817-743-4080 www.cityofkeller.com

SH 114 median.

Construction on the North Tarrant Express is officially underway. The recent project Open House was visited by more than 750 people who saw the latest schematics, aerial overlays and digital animation of the new highway. Commuters and residents will begin to see signs and activity in the major interchanges along the segments of 820, 183 and 121 over the next two months with ramped-up construction in early 2011. Please visit the project website at www.northtarrantexpress.com for the latest lane

closure and traffic updates, as well as other information about local companies working on the NTE and procurement opportunities. Also visit the project Information Center at 8713 Airport Freeway or call the hotline at 888-NTE-2015.

The North Tarrant Parkway project is wrapping up Phase I of the planned four-phase project. The future three lanes of concrete pavement for eastbound traffic are largely in place from Rufe Snow to the east end of the project (near Davis Boulevard). The Contractor will continue making sidestreet connections and soon will transition traffic onto the new concrete in preparation for construction of the west-bound lanes.



FM 1938

TxDot - N Tarrant Office 817-399-4300

www.txdot.gov Keller 817-743-4080 www.cityofkeller.com

Southlake 817-748-8097 www.ci.southlake.tx.us

Westlake 817-490-5717 www.westlake-tx.org



Work on the FM 1938 project continues to move along. Over the last several months the contractor has installed underground storm drains across Dove Road, Solana Blvd, and existing Precinct Line Road. Crews have also been installing storm drain pipe on the south end of the project and hauling excess dirt from the project. The Town lowered a 12" water line to accommodate underground storm drain pipe installation on Dove Road. There were several engineering design changes that were required to accommodate some unknown existing utilities and groundwater issues.

The original estimated completion date of October for the section of FM 1938 roadway between SH 114 and Solana Blvd is now anticipated in January. The contractor has started working on the retaining walls in several locations, one of which is for the pedestrian underpass tunnel that will provide a major regional connection point for Westlake, Southlake, and Keller.

Golden Triangle Blvd.

TxDot - N Tarrant Office 817-399-4300

www.txdot.gov

Golden Triangle Boulevard from I-35W to U.S. 377: TxDOT held a pre-construction meeting with the contractor Sept. 14. Construction started in October 2010 and will be complete in summer 2012.

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONTACTS

Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T)...... www.the-t.com North Central Texas Council of Governments www.nctcog.org North Texas Tollway Authoritywww.ntta.org

Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition .. www.trtcmobility.org Texas High Speed Rail Transportation Corp.....www.thsrtc.com TxDotwww.txdot.gov

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"Very professional, well-organized and lots of fun!"



"Great speakers! Enjoyed every minute!"



"Excellent attendance! We loved being a part of it!."

Empowering Seniors 2010

Over 900 in Attendance!

15 Workshops!



Thank you to our 80 + Vendors!

10 Health Screenings!



"Very informative. This was a fantastic event!"

Another Fantastic Year!

Wonderful **Door Prizes!**



Great Entertainment!

Thank you to our sponsors!











Star-Telegram





MATURE*TEXAN

Carter BloodCare • Community Enrichment Center Office Depot • Tarrant County Credit Union • Wells Fargo Bank

Event photos are now available on our website at: www.empoweringseniors.com

Save the date >>> The 3rd Annual Empowering Seniors on October 7, 2011!



"Looking forward to next year!"



"Hospital screenings were wonderful! Great job by all!"



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Tarrant County Commissioners Court Meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. (Unless otherwise stated)

100 E Weatherford, Fort Worth, TX www.tarrantcounty.com

<u>Please note</u>: There will be no Commissioners Court meetings on December 21st and January 4th due to the holidays.

Texas Association of Counties "Best Practice Award"

Commissioner Fickes and his staff were recognized at Commissioners Court on being presented with the Texas Association of Counties "Best Practices Award for Delivery of Services" for the *Northeast Newsletter*, the first newsletter in Texas to receive this award.



Pictured left to right: Mary Ann Rike, Tax Assessor/Collector Betsy Price, Commissioner Gary Fickes, Roselee Kerr, Theresa Parsons, Carolyn Sims and Rebecca Barksdale.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 10 "Coffee with the Commissioner - Precinct 3	
Northeast Sub-Courthouse 7:30 am - 9:00 am	817-581-3600

Dec 19 "The Big Texas Toy Run"- MHMRTC.....<u>www.thebigtexastoyrun.com</u>

Jan 16 "Annual Celebrity Chefs Benefit"-Mid Cities SOS Org www.mid-citiessos.org
Feb 6 "Super Bowl XLV"......www.nfl.com/superbowl/45

John Peter Smith Hospital Contacts

NE Tarrant County JPS Clinics

Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center ... 817-702-6600 6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148

NE Tarrant County School-Based Clinics

For a complete list of Health Clinics and School–Based Clinics log onto: www.jpshealthnet.org

Child Abuse Hotline 800-252-540	00
Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-723	33
Foster Care Adoption Recruitment 800-228-822	26
United Way of Tarrant County2 - 1 - 1	

Tarrant County Holiday Closings

ChristmasDec 24th & 27th
New Year'sJan 3rd
Martin Luther King Jr.....Jan 17

Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

Gary Fickes, Commissioner ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com

Staff

Carolyn Sims, Precinct Administrator cssims@tarrantcounty.com

Rebecca Barksdale, Community Outreach Coord. rbarksdale@tarrantcounty.com

Mary Ann Rike, Executive Secretary mrike@tarrantcounty.com

Theresa Parsons, Executive Secretary tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com

Northeast Sub-Courthouse

645 Grapevine Highway #6 Hurst TX 76054 817-581-3600

Southlake Town Hall

1400 Main St #410 Southlake TX 76092 817-481-8234

NE Tarrant County Contacts

	NE Sub-Courthouse	Southlake Town Hall
Constable Pct. 3	817-581-3610	817-481-8059
County Clerk	817-581-3604	817-481-8179
Passport Office		817-481-8190
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	817-581-3625	817-481-8132
Juvenile Services	817-581-3645	
Travel - Public Health		817-321-4707
Tax Office	817-581-3636	817-481-8141
Maintenance Center	817-514-5000	
Walltenance Center	817-314-3000	
Constable Pct. 1	817-884-1385	
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	817-884-1395	

Public Health Centers

NE Public Health Ctr. 813 Brown Trail #6, Bedford, TX 76022 817-285-4155 Watauga Public Health Ctr. 6601 Watauga Rd, Watauga, TX 76148 817-702-6600

Tarrant County Website: www.tarrantcounty.com