

# Kortheast Kewsletter

Carrant County - Precinct 3

"Working together for a better tomorrow"



October 2009

Volume 2, Issue 5

#### COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

This month is really going to be exciting here in Precinct Three. This Friday, October 9, we will be hosting a United Way Breakfast and Lunch at our offices on Grapevine Highway in Hurst. This is our Annual United Way Fundraiser. breakfast, we will be serving burritos, Chick-fil-A chicken biscuits, hash browns, and coffee or juice. For lunch, we'll have fried catfish, coleslaw, hushpuppies and iced tea. Come early, stay late, and have fun! We'll also have four (4) Gift Baskets that you can win.

"Empowering Seniors '09", Northeast Tarrant County's Senior Conference, is an event that you don't want to miss. This event will be on Thursday, October 29, at the Richland Hills Church of Christ. If you're a senior citizen, this will be your opportunity to attend workshops on Finance and Legal Issues, Employment, Caring for the Caregiver, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, ID Theft and Scam Awareness, and other issues. There will be health screenings, door prizes, exhibitors, entertainment, and food. A continental breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 and a great luncheon as well, with keynote speaker Patricia Gleason-Wynn, Ph.D, discussing "Aging Positively". During the workshops in the morning, we'll have some of the best and brightest speakers in their respective fields. We will also be presenting an award for "Outstanding Senior Leadership" to a very deserving individual. Our Senior Task Force has been working on this event for six months and we're all very excited about it. You must be registered to attend. See below for registration information.

In other Tarrant County news, the Commissioners Court approved the FY 2010 Budget. This coming year's Budget is about \$10 million less than last year. This was a tough year financially for everyone. That includes you the taxpayer, and all local governmental organizations. I am proud to say that we will be able to maintain the same level of service you have come to expect. We didn't award any salary increases and didn't lay off any employees. I congratulate our great employees for the job they do every day.

Have a great month, and I hope to see you at one of our events.

Gary Fickes

# **Empowering Seniors**

Presented by Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3 ~ Northeast Senior Task Force Northeast Tarrant County Senior Conference

Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Richland Hills Church of Christ, 6300 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND. Registration is limited to the first 300. See page 3 for details. For more information call 817-581-3600 or please visit our website at: http://www.tarrantcounty.com/ecommissioner/cwp/view.asp?&q=458419

Continued on page 3

#### Breakfast Burrito Precinct 3 United Way Fundraiser Northeast Sub-Courthouse Chick-fil-A 645 Grapevine Hwy., Hurst, Texas 76054

Catfish Hushpuppies, Cole Slaw & Beverage

Chicken Biscuit, Hashbrowns, Coffee or Juice

\$3.50

Friday, October 9th

\$5.00

Breakfast 7:30 - 10:30 ~ Lunch 11:00 am - 1:00 pm / something

Plus... an opportunity to win one of our gift baskets. Tickets available in Commissioner's Office at Northeast Sub-Courthouse or Southlake Town Hall. Drawing to be held Nov. 2nd. Need not be present to win.

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Commissioner Gary Fickes

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# Question of the Month ?



Who was the "Savior of the Alamo"?

(Answer found on page 6)

# Limployee Spoulight



B. Glen Whitley Tarrant County Judge

Born and bred in North Texas, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley is a civic leader and certified public accountant whose first job, when he was 15, was

He graduated from Grand Prairie High School in 1971 and earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1976. He began his career at Ernst & Ernst and cofounded the Whitley Penn accounting firm with offices in Fort Worth and Dallas in 1983. He was elected a County Commissioner representing Northeast Tarrant County in 1996 and County Judge in 2006. Judge Whitley is a regional and state

scooping ice cream at a Carnation store in

Grand Prairie, the town where he grew up.

leader on matters of efficiently run government, transportation, sustainable communities, air quality and youth and children's issues.

He is currently chair of the metropolitan planning organization for the North Central Texas region and a past president of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties. He is the National Association of Counties 1st Vice President and a member of the state Task Force on Indigent Defense.

Judge Whitley has long been active in education, health and social services issues. He helped create the Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus and served for many years on the board of the Alliance for Children. He is a former Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district trustee and served on the Texas Health Resources board and its executive committee.

A little known fact about Judge Whitley is that he was a Mouseketeer. His father was stationed at the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station in the early 1960s and the Whitleys lived in Anaheim, California, about two miles from Disneyland. The Judge even went to the Walt Disney Elementary School in Anaheim. "Whenever

anybody came to California to visit from Texas, I was their Disneyland tour guide," he said.

Judge Whitley and his wife, Brenda, live in Hurst, Texas, and have three grown children and three grandchildren.

#### On a more personal note ~

What do you do for fun? "Play with my grandchildren"

Favorite Movie? "The Patriot"

Favorite Restaurant? "Italianni's in Hurst"

Favorite Book? "Ike's Final Battle" by Fort Worth native Kasey Pipes

Favorite vacation spot? "Northern California Wine Country"

Favorite Quote? My father always said "Whatever you get out of an effort or organization is directly proportional to what you are willing to give"

People would be surprised to know... "I served in the Navy Reserve as an air traffic controller and took flying lessons while working out of Naval Air Station Dallas"

## TARRANT COUNTY CLERK



Pictured left to right: Rebecca Farris, Clerk; Suzanne Henderson, Tarrant County Clerk; and Patrick Jordan, Manager.

The County Clerk's Office is committed to the delivery of high quality, cost efficient services to citizens. This is evidenced by the myriad of services available at the sub-courthouses, including those located at: 645 Grapevine Highway in Hurst, and 1400 Main Street in Southlake. There you can register a business name, obtain a marriage license, or get certified copies of those documents and

birth and death records. It is important to note — birth certificates obtained from these locations are produced from a remote access system operated by the State of Texas, and are considered an "abstract" copy. They are official and satisfy the requirements of most government offices, except those of the U.S. Passport Office. For passports, you'll need a "long form" of your birth certificate, which can only be purchased through the Registrar's office where the birth took place. It is the goal of the County Clerk's office to make the full form birth certificates available from the sub courthouses in the future.

Since 1850, the County Clerk has been the "KEEPER OF THE RECORDS" for Tarrant County as well as the Clerk of the Commissioners Court. Additional duties of the County Clerk include: maintaining accurate records of real property, supporting criminal courts, civil court and probate courts.

The County Clerk's Office has been very innovative in its use of technology to man-

age their records, preserve them from deterioration, and protect them from natural disasters. It has also enabled citizens to transact business from their homes or business using the internet.

In 1993, the County Clerk's Office established a highly recognized Recycling Program. It was one of the first of its kind in the nation. Originally, the program focused on the recycling of paper within Tarrant County governmental offices through recycling at individual desks. It has since grown to include interlocal agreements with 44 outside entities. In that time over 15 million pounds of paper have been recycled that would have otherwise been in our landfills.

For more information please visit our website at: <a href="http://www.tarrantcounty.com/">http://www.tarrantcounty.com/</a>
<a href="http://www.tarrantcounty.com/">eCountyClerk/site/default.asp</a>



# **Empowering Seniors '09**

Presented by Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3 & Northeast Senior Task Force Northeast Tarrant County Senior Conference Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Richland Hills Church of Christ ~ 6300 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

#### YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND! <<<

# Agenda

Continental

**Breakfast:** 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Expo: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Health

**Luncheon:** 

**Screenings:** 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Workshop 1: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Break: Workshop 2: 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Break: 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

> **Keynote Speaker** Patricia Gleason-Wynn, Ph.D. "Healthy Aging Positively"

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



#### **EXPO**

Agencies Resources **Transportation** 

Meals Senior Centers

Hospice

# Workshops

The 2009 Empowering Seniors' Event will feature educational workshops on the following topics at the designated time:

- Social Issues/Isolation - 9:15 a.m.
- ID Theft and Scam Awareness 9:15 a.m.
- **Grandparents Raising** - 9:15 a.m. Grandchildren
- Financial and Legal Issues - 10:30 a.m.
- **Employment** - 10:30 a.m.
- Caring for the Caregiver - 10:30 a.m.

Entertainment ~ Door Prizes ~ Goodie Bags!

"Due to the generous participation of event

sponsors, we are able to

offer this entire confer-

ence at no cost to our

seniors," adds Fickes.

### "Empowering Seniors '09" drawing early registrations

"We knew that this event would be popular, but I had no idea that it would catch on so well in such a short amount of time," says Precinct 3 Commissioner Gary Fickes.

The half-day seminar will begin with a continental breakfast served 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Northeast Tarrant County seniors will also enjoy free health screenings, choices of six breakout sessions, and a delicious seated hot lunch featuring keynote speaker Dr. Patricia Gleason-Wynn.

Dr. Wynn, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Nurse, will address "Healthy Aging." As the Texas Chapter President of the National Association of Social Workers, she is an in-demand speaker who addresses audiences throughout the United States. Dr. Wynn is an officer of the Advisory Board of the Area Agency on Aging for Tarrant County, and oversees the implementation of the county's Healthy IDEAS project.

Commissioner Fickes is working in conjunction with the Northeast Senior Task Force in order to bring awareness to services and opportunities available to seniors in Northeast Tarrant County. "Due to the generous participation of event sponsors, we are able to offer this entire conference at no cost to our seniors," adds Fickes.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER**

You must be registered to attend. Registration is limited to the first 300 and should be submitted to:

Commissioner Gary Fickes 645 Grapevine Hwy, #6, Hurst, 76054 or fax: 817-581-3603 or email: mrike@tarrantcounty.com

If you have any questions concerning this event, please call **817-581-3600** or visit our website at:

www.tarrantcounty.com

Early response indicates that this is likely to be an early sell-out, so you are encouraged to register immediately, as seating is limited to the first 300 guests who register in advance.

We are grateful for the participation of our sponsoring healthcare facilities and sponsors. Attendees may visit a wide variety of booths from local agencies such as Meals On Wheels, United Way Northeast, and The Area Agency on Aging, as well as senior service businesses such as financial and legal services, pharmaceutical, fraud protection, retirement centers, home health care, and hospice.

The hospitals will provide physicians to answer questions and medical staff to conduct free health screenings during the expo.

"I'd also like to thank the staff of Richland Hills Church of Christ for offering to provide their facility." says Fickes. "Just like me, they appreciate the role that seniors have played and continue to play in our community, so they wanted to do something special for them.

"With the kind of response that we have seen so far, we definitely look forward to an expanded event for next year."

## Sponsored by













# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - BEDFORD**

Bedford continues to grow as a medical and health care hub for the Dallas/ Fort Worth Metroplex. Texas Health Harris Methodist HEB is undoubtedly the anchor for this business sector. Close behind is the headquarters for Texas' largest blood center Carter Blood-Care, employing over 800 people. A number of medical-related developments are adding to the trend. The construction of a new specialty hospital and a specialty clinic is underway, complementing the wide array of medical services now available in Bedford.

### Caddis Partners, LLC to Develop Reliant Mid-Cities Rehabilitation Hospital in Bedford, TX



Caddis Partners announced the scheduled development of Reliant Mid-Cities Rehabilitation Hospital, a three-story facility consisting of 65,000 square feet, in Bedford, TX. Construction financing was secured August 28, 2009 and groundbreaking was September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, with an anticipated 12 month construction timeline.

The hospital will be a state-licensed, acute freestanding 40 bed rehabilitation hospital and will also include a separate in-hospital unit consisting of 20 skilled nursing beds for a total of 60 beds. The state-of-the-art facility

will provide nursing and therapy staff, ancillary services, and supplies to treat patients who require intensive inpatient rehabilitative care and accommodate selected skilled nursing patients with a primary need for limited rehabilitation services.

The development site is on the northeast corner of State Highway 121 and Bedford Rd. and is an ideal location for an inpatient rehabilitation hospital due to its close proximity to Harris Methodist HEB Hospital, North Hills Hospital, and Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. The tenant is a joint venture between Reliant Healthcare Partners and a group of physicians. The rehabilitation hospital will accommodate the current undersupply of rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities in the Mid-Cities region.



Ground breaking ceremony for the new Reliant Mid-Cities Rehabilitation Hospital

### The Shops At Cheeksparger

Bedford's newest shopping center has also seen the addition of a couple of health and medical related businesses. **Vasques Chiropractic** and **Med Spa** both moved to this center shortly after its completion in the fourth quarter of 2008. Located off Highway 121 and Cheeksparger Road, this 27,000 square foot retail center has proven to be "over the top" with regard to its architectural design and land-

scaping. Additional tenants in this center include boutique shops such as **Hoola Hoops** a clothing and unique gifts store, and **That's Haute**, a full interior design service.



# Specialty Surgery Center and Clinic



Veritas Medical Properties is developing a specialty surgery center and clinic in Bedford, Texas. Located on Airport Freeway in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, the 15,000 square-foot facility will be comprised of a 10,000 square-foot ambulatory surgery center and a 5,000 square-foot clinic. Completion is expected in the fall of 2009. The center will operate under the name Brown Medical Center Inc. for Special Surgery.

For more information please visit: <a href="www.ci.bedford.tx.us">www.ci.bedford.tx.us</a>

#### Precinct 3 Maintenance News 817-514-5000





Rehabilitation of Lonesome Trail

# Precinct 3 Busy With Road Projects

We recently completed rehabilitation of Lonesome Trail and Katy Road between Oak Haven and Mt. Gilead as well as the surface rehabilitation on Bonds Ranch between Highway 156 and Harmon Road. In late September we started the rehabilitation of Old Denton Road between Thompson and Heritage Trace Parkway. On October 5th we began the rehabilitation of Westport Parkway between Highway 156 and Intermodal Parkway. The projects on Old Denton Road and Westport Parkway will take us past Thanksgiving and possibly past Christmas if we have any inclement weather.

Normal road maintenance projects will be on-going during the winter months including trimming trees back out of the rights-of-way for sight distance safety, and sealing the cracks in the asphalt pavement to prevent water from damaging the road base. We are in the process of working with the cities in Precinct Three to identify street projects for rehabilitation and asphalt overlays to begin in the spring and summer of 2010.

**Neal Welch, Director of Field Operations** 

# Keller Independent School District

Keller Independent School District is one of the fastest growing school districts

in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex serving 51 square miles of students from Keller, Fort Worth, Watauga, Haltom City,



Keller ISD students

North Richland Hills, Southlake, Hurst, Westlake and Colleyville. In fact, Keller ISD is now the largest school district in Northeast Tarrant County, tripling its student enrollment over the past 15 years from 10,000 to more than 31,000 students.

Keller ISD has opened 21 new campuses since 2000, including two new elementary schools, which opened for the 2008-09 school year, and the district's



District's fourth high school, Timber Creek, opened its doors August 24th.

fourth high school, which opened its doors on August 24, 2009. Design work is wrapping up on two other major facility projects: an intermediate-middle school campus and a multipurpose instructional facility both set to open in fall 2010. The district's 22nd elementary campus is also planned for a 2011 opening.



Not only is Keller ISD widely known for its athletics, fine arts and Career Technology programs, the district has a long-time commitment to educational excellence that attracts many families as well. KISD's long list of exemplary and recognized schools continues to rise each year as our outstanding students and teachers excel on state and national standards. In

2007-08, Keller ISD proudly earned a TEA Recognized status. In addition, test results for the 2008-09 school year confirmed that 32 of the district's 34 assessed

campuses received a TEA Exemplary or Recognized status.

Moreover, the district is home to two state teachers of the year - Fossil Ridge High School teacher Nika Maples was named the 2006-07 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year and Hidden Lakes Elementary School teacher Grant Simpson was named the 2007-08 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year. Also this past year, Keller ISD

g r a d u a t e s were offered \$37 million in scholarships, a figure up more than \$20 million in the last five years. Each of our 36 schools is committed to



Each of our Keller ISD graduating 36 schools is students

continually providing exceptional educational opportunities for the children of our community. At Keller ISD, in everything we do, with everything we have, we strive to be *Intentionally Exceptional*.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.kellerisd.net



# OPEN ARMS PROGRAM

Hope New Beginning Safety

Enjoying pizza at the Back to School Carnival

Formed in 1988, the Community Enrichment Center's Open Arms Program is one of only a few programs in Tarrant County providing long-term care to victims of domestic violence. The program's goals are to help victims heal and successfully transition to a healthy life away from violence and abuse. The two-year program can provide safe shelter to 24 women and their children at any point in time.

In addition to housing, families receive case management, professional counseling, group therapy, food and clothing, and education and employment assistance. Open Arms encourages women to work towards self-sufficiency by improving their education and job skills so they can support their families on their own and

not return to their abusers.

CEC Staff Members listed left to right, Missy Wolfinger, Lou Ann Pressler and Tina Williamson.

In addition to providing direct services to victims, Open Arms staff members answer hundreds of emergency calls each year from women seeking assistance and referrals to resources in Tarrant County. Staff members also speak to churches, schools and community groups about recognizing signs of domestic violence and how to help victims and their children.

Some of the ways the community can help women and children in Open Arms are:

Make a financial contribution to the program.

Donate food, household items and/or furniture.

Volunteer to help with child care during group therapy or volunteer at special events.

Sponsor the Seasons of Hope event benefiting families in Open Arms.

Host a food drive anytime during the year.

"Adopt" a child or a Mom during Christmas to provide clothing and gifts for the holidays.

Victims in Northeast Tarrant County can call Open Arms for assistance at 817-238-9469 or visit <a href="www.thecec.org/open-arms.html">www.thecec.org/open-arms.html</a>. For information about how you can support Open Arms, please call 817-281-1164 or visit <a href="www.thecec.org">www.thecec.org</a>.

# An Historical Moment In Time

## HERON CASTLE

On the south shore of Lake Worth stands a castle—a castle with a storied past of gambling, ghosts, a suicide, and para-normal activities.



The castle began as a two-room rock cabin with a connecting dog trot built in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The first to enlarge the cabin was a wealthy Irishman named McPherson who spared no expense in importing wrought iron from Ireland, stained glass windows, decorative fixtures, and furnishings from Europe. Mr. Samuel E. Whiting purportedly won the property in a poker game from McPherson in the late 1920s. Mrs. Elizabeth Whiting personally designed and supervised the construction of the house, which included the rear tower and the round crenellated front wing, and named their home "Inverness" or "Whiting's Castle". It is believed that Whiting's son committed suicide in the castle and that may account for the rumored ghostly sightings on the property. A major fire seriously destroyed the castle in 1939.

From 1944 to 1954, Vultee Aircraft Corporation (now General Dynamics) leased the property to entertain visiting businessmen and it served as a private club for their employees.

The next noteworthy period for the Castle was in the mid 70's when Tony and Marian Vann took possession of the property and undertook some major restoration work. Marian Vann learned how to work with stained glass and set about repairing and replacing the broken or missing win-



dow panes.
The Vanns
offered adult
s e l f improvement
programs to
the public and

named their home "Castle St. Michael". Unfortunately a second fire gutted the building causing major damage to the structure.

Once again, the castle arose from its ashes when Mr. John Pigenburg and his

brother-in-law, Richard Ruiz, of Hawaii purchased the property in the mid 80's. They began an extensive modernization and renovation project over a three-year period that included roof repair, rewiring, replacing loose stone, and adding unique

architectural features. It was their intention to open the castle to the public for tours on weekends, but the project



was not completed.

In its heyday, the castle was a magnificent structure that hosted such notables as then General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Eleanor Roosevelt, and actor Jimmy Stewart during filming of "Strategic Air Command" at nearby Carswell Air Force Base. Today, only remnants of the castle's former glory remain. According to the City of Fort Worth, the current custodian of now "Lake Worth Castle" has plans to make the facility into a bed and breakfast. There is some activity on the premises presently with new hope for a brighter future for this unique structure.

Information for this article was gathered from a variety of newspaper sources and historical documents.

# YVIE NOYEMBER BRE

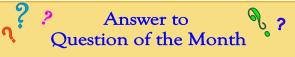
On November 3rd, we will be voting on eleven changes to our Texas constitution. If there is a question on what the changes mean to our State, please click here for more information:

www.hro.house.state.tx.us/focus/amend81.pdf

Also,

For information on <u>Important Dates</u>, <u>Voter Registration and Verification</u>, <u>Early Voting</u>, <u>Sample Ballots</u>, and <u>Polling Places</u> for Tarrant County, please visit our website at:

www.tarrantcounty.com/evote/site/default.asp



**Question:** Who was the "Savior of the Alamo"?

**Answer:** In 1903, Clara Driscoll put up thousands of dollars necessary to prevent the sale of the Alamo to a hotel company. In 1905, the entire property was given to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas who still hold ownership today.



If you had the ability to save someone's life... would you?

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





Constable Pct. 3

County Clerk

# **Transportation**

Helpful links to what's going on with transportation in and around Precinct 3.

If you received a copy of the newsletter through a source other than our office (i.e. Chamber of Commerce) and would like to receive a copy of the newsletter direct, please send your email address to:

#### tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com

If you do not want to receive a copy of our newsletter, please let us know and we'll take you off our list.

Please feel free to email any comments, questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you and have a great day!

817-884-1470



NE Sub-Courthouse Southlake Town Hall

www.tarrantcu.org

817-481-8059

817-481-8179

#### Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

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#### Staff

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#### **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**

817-581-3610

817-581-3604

County Cicik	017-301-300 <del>-1</del>	017-701-0177
Passport Office		817-481-8190
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	817-581-3625	817-481-8132
Juvenile Services	817-581-3645	
Travel - Pub. Health		817-321-4707
Tax Office	817-581-3636	817-481-8141
Maintenance Center	817-514-5000	
Constable Pct. 1 Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	817-884-1385 817-884-1395	Serve a section of Haltom City, Hurst, Fort Worth, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, and Watauga

#### **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: <a href="https://www.tarrantcounty.com">www.tarrantcounty.com</a>