

October 2011

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Thanks to all of you who attended the "Empowering Seniors 2011" event last Friday (October 7). We had a fantastic time with all those who attended. We experienced great music, entertainment, food, and even a few Belly Dancers. Thanks to our local hospitals and health care providers: JPS Health Network, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, North Hills Hospital, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital HEB and Spine Team Texas who provided vital health screenings for all participants.

This event is in its third year and has grown exponentially every year. We had over 1,200 in attendance. This year we decided to add a few youngsters to the mix and opened it up to those age 50 and better. With the current growth of "Boomers" (my generation), this event has the opportunity to introduce us to issues and programs that many of us are not aware of and can also give many of us insight into how to better help our aging parents. Special thanks to all of our sponsors who continue to make this such a great free event for our seniors.

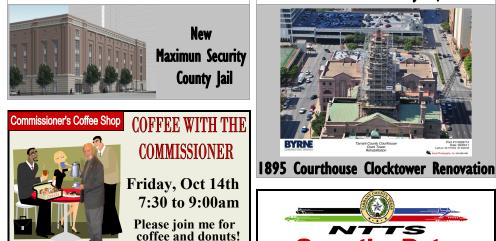
In a review of Commissioners Court action, the past 8 weeks have been dominated with budget discussions. We approved a balanced budget with minimal service decreases and no increase in taxes. I want to thank all the dedicated Tarrant County employees for all their efforts to

Northeast Sub-Courthouse

645 Grapevine Hwy., #6, Hurst, TX

save the taxpayers' money by working more efficiently and putting the customers first. The new maximum security jail is nearing completion in the downtown area. This is the building we had designed to NOT look like a jail. It is located appropriately next to the Tim Curry Criminal Courts Building. The other project in the downtown area is the 1895 Courthouse tower renovation. The tower had badly deteriorated over the past 115 vears and was in need of major renovation. This project will be completed in early spring. If you are a courthouse history buff, we have a great display of this renovation with photos and details in the Commissioner's Office in Hurst. Our Tarrant County Courthouse is considered one of the finest courthouses in the country. The pink granite is the same as the granite on the Texas State Capital in Austin.

Road construction is obviously going on in most parts of Northeast Tarrant County. Many of the medium size projects will be nearing completion during 2012. They include North Tarrant Parkway--Spring 2012, Golden Triangle Boulevard-late 2012, and FM 1938 Westlake Phase 1--Summer 2012. The completion of these projects will have a great impact on our local mobility and reduce many years of road congestion.





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Commissioner Gary Fickes

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Question of the Month

Question: How many Indian reservations are there in Texas and what are the tribes?

Answer on page 2

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Employee Spotlight

Ron Wright



Tarrant County Tax Assessor/Collector



Ron Wright is a sixth generation resident of Tarrant County. After graduating from Azle High School in 1971 he moved to Arlington to attend UTA. He has been active in civic affairs for 30 years and has received numerous awards for his efforts, including the Man of the Year Award for Community Service in 1994.

He has a passion for public service. He has served on a number of boards and commissions, including as president of the Arlington Night Shelter, Chairman of the Tarrant County Historical Commission, Commissioners, the Mansfield Education Foundation Board, the Executive Committee of Arlington Human Service Planners, the Arlington Historical Society Board, the Arlington Sports Authority, and as founding president of the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation. From 1995 to 2000 he was a weekly columnist for the Star-Telegram newspaper.

Ron served at-large on the Arlington City Council from 2000 to 2008, including the last four years as Mayor Pro Tempore. After 25 years in the business sector, he was the District Director for U.S. Congressman Joe Barton from 2000 to 2009 and was the congressman's Chief of Staff from January, 2009 to May, 2011. In May, Ron left Washington to accept appointment by Commissioners Court to replace Betsy Price as the Tax Assessor/ Collector of Tarrant County.

As Tax Assessor/Collector, he is committed to providing the highest level of

the Arlington Housing Authority Board of customer service to the people of Tarrant County at the lowest possible cost. To Ron, the taxpavers are not only his customers, but also the owners of the enterprise. Every employee of the Tax Office is there to serve them.

> Ron and his wife, Susan, have three children and seven grandchildren. They live in Southwest Arlington with an old, cranky Border Collie named Annie.

On a more personal note -

What do you do for fun? Historical Research Favorite Restaurant? El Rancho Grande Favorite Movie? "Lord of the Rings - Return of the King"

Last book read? "Fort Worth Characters" by **Richard Selcer**

Favorite vacation spot? *Cruise Ship*

People would be surprised to know... Competed in Rodeo.



In July 1996, the Birdville Foundation for Educational Excellence was established as a result of visionary leaders who approached the Birdville ISD about granting Freeport Exemption status to eligible companies in the taxing district. The plan provided start-up money for a Foundation supporting BISD students by preventing revenue shortfalls to BISD for a period of 3 years.

Now called the Birdville Education Foundation, the Board of Directors of the Foundation implemented in 2001 a Teacher Grant Award program for innovative teaching ideas that directly impacted instruction. This grant program provides funds beyond the district's normal operating budget for educational programs and activities that benefit students and staff.

education foundation To date, the Birdville Education Foundation has awarded \$900,000 in grant money to over 650 teachers in 31 BISD campuses. The number of children served by Foundation grants each year is well

over the 12,000 mark. Some projects awarded have been Smart Boards for math classes, preparation programs to master TAKS objectives, ropes course equipment for a bullying initiative, science lab sets, reading manipulative devices, iPods for deaf students and language programs for Spanish speaking students.







On Saturday, January 21, 2012, the Birdville Education Foundation is honoring former Richland High School teacher, Congresswoman Kay Granger, and 3 graduates from Richland HS: Senator Wendy Davis, and Representatives Vicki Truitt and Kelly Hancock at the Tribute to Leadership. Ticket and sponsorship opportunities can be found on the Foundation's website at www.birdvilleeducationfoundation.com.

Kelley Pledger, Executive Director

Answer to Ouestion of the Month

Question: How many Indian reservations are there in Texas and what are the tribes?

Answer: There are three (3): Alabama-Coushatta tribe near Livingston, Tigua tribe near El Paso and the Kickapoo tribe near Eagle Pass.



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Northeast Newsletter



Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford is a 296-bed hospital providing quality, compassionate care to northeast Tarrant County for more than three decades. Its 1,700 employees, 180 volunteers and 450 members of the medical staff are dedicated to improving the health of the people in the communities they serve. This commitment was recently recognized by the HEB Chamber of Commerce, which honored Texas Health HEB with its "2011 Large Business of the Year" award.

Early this year, Texas Health HEB announced its commitment to achieving Level III Trauma Facility designation, the first such effort in Northeast Tarrant County and a move that will make all the difference to patients and families by

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford Economic Development

providing trauma care close to home. Local ambulances will be able to respond to emergency calls more quickly, a lifesaving benefit to those who are seriously injured.



Texas Health HEB had 7 Great 100 Nurses honored in 2011 by the Texas Nurses Association.

Texas Health Springwood Hospital continues to be a regional leader in behavioral health, with plans to expand the size of its chemical dependency unit and open a new Senior Care Unit focusing on the unique needs of adults 55 and older. Springwood's five satellite programs

providing trauma care close to home. Local provide crucial behavioral health services ambulances will be able to respond to throughout North Texas.

Texas Health is designated as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and a Cycle III Chest Pain Center by the Society of Chest Pain Centers. It's one of Tarrant County's first hospitals to offer cardiothoracic surgery using the Da Vinci® Surgical System.

After months of construction and much anticipation, Texas Health HEB celebrated the opening of the Payton Family Lobby, Helen Payton Chapel and The Anderson Meditation Garden. Our new lobby is bright, airy and colorful and even boasts a Starbucks coffee bar. The new chapel is a serene place for employees and visitors to visit and creates positive space for healing to begin.



1600 Hospital Parkway, Bedford, TX 76022 817-848-4000

www.texashealth.org

Roanoke Senior Center



The Roanoke Senior Center is provided by the City for seniors age 55 and older. The center offers programs targeting this age group. Membership at the Center is simple! There are no dues, membership cards or annual renewals. If you are at least 55 years old, simply attend your choice of senior activities at the center and complete the emergency contact information form in the front office.

The Center offers these ongoing activities. A monthly calendar is provided and available on the first Wednesday of every month

GAMES: 10:00AM Monday & Friday

This group enjoys a variety of games. They often pack a lunch and stay on into the early afternoon. **<u>EXERCISE</u>**: Volunteer-led classes designed for <u>ALL</u> seniors using a chair for support & balance.

• Cardio- 9:00AM Monday & Friday

Exercises designed to increase mobility, flexibility, balance, strength & endurance.

- Chair Yoga- 9:00AM Tuesday & Thursday
- Low-impact yoga class.
- Line Dancing- 1:00AM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- Flexercise- 11:00 AM Thursday

Gentle stretching helps maintain normal range of motion.

PIC'N & GRIN'N: 7:00PM Thursday

Musicians & listeners enjoy this weekly free evening of entertainment. Coffee & snacks supplied through your donations.

<u>SENIOR</u> <u>CRAFTS</u>: 10:00AM Fridays

Seniors informally work on a



variety of craft projects. Some scheduled classes require sign-up and a supply list.

SENIOR PAINTING: 2:00PM Fridays

Learn to paint in acrylic, oil or water colors.

WEDNESDAYS AT THE CENTER!

THE ROANOKE SENIOR CENTER IS A METROPORT MEALS-ON-WHEELS LUNCHEON SITE. MMOW is a volunteer advocate for seniors, working to alleviate hunger & isolation in our communities. The cost for lunch is:

Age 55+ \$4.00

Age 54 & under \$6.00

<u>BINGO</u> 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Following the luncheon, diners are invited to stay to play for prizes!

<u>BLOOD PRESSURE</u> <u>& BLOOD SUGAR</u> <u>CHECKS</u> 3rd <u>Wednesdays</u> Offered by the Roanoke EMS.





The Grapevine Public Library provides programs, materials and access to information for all age groups in our community. Programming begins with My First Storytime for birth to 18 months, progresses to Toddler Time for 18 months to 36 months and then moves into Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years. For working parents there is also Family Storytime on Thursday evenings for all ages. Teens have a monthly program with a variety of activities. Adult programs vary by topic each month and include crafts, history or current affairs.

The Library provides access to information 24/7 through multiple online databases for career searching, automotive repair, legal forms, literary criticism, health and wellness, antique collecting and pricing, newspapers, learning a foreign language and even access to World Book. For the most up to date list look at the Online Resources page on our web site. Live online homework help is even available after the library closes!

Electronic resources include downloadable audio books or e-books for free. There are thousands of titles available through two vendors to help you utilize your new devices.



Tech talk is a monthly program to help you learn about your new devices and how the library can help you use them cost effectively. There are also titles available for children.

There are still over 200,000 real books, CDs, DVDs and audio books on cd if that is your preference to take home and enjoy for our three week circulation period. Call ahead or reserve online and pick up at our drive thru window during library hours.

Grapevine houses an extensive collection of genealogy books, periodicals, CDs, microfilm and databases (in-house and remote) to help you research your family, and offers assistance and expertise of on-site staff.

Grapevine's Important Volunteer Effort (G.I.V.E.) provides an opportunity for adults and teens to help us expand services to the community. Come by and check us out!

Grapevine does charge an annual \$25.00 non-resident fee.

Grapevine Public Library 1201 Municipal Way Library Hours Grapevine, TX 76051 Sunday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday –Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Library phone 817-410-3400 Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

www.grapevine.lib.tx.us Facebook : Grapevine Public Library



An Historic Moment In Time Lonesome Dove, Texas



Lonesome Dove Baptist Church

Lonesome Dove, Texas, or the Missouri Colony, was a real community here in Northeast Tarrant County. Located in the area that is now northern Southlake and Grapevine, Lonesome Dove had a blacksmith shop, school, church, and restaurant with a Woodmen of the World hall upstairs. The community existed on the edge of the Cross Timbers. Many descendants of the original families still live in the area today.

The area now is surrounded by expensive homes and trendy shopping areas, but one remaining recognizable remnant still standing is the Lonesome Dove Baptist Church and cemetery. Both are settled among a grove of oak trees to provide a perfect setting. The church was established in 1846 by a group of settlers from Platte County Missouri, who came to Texas by ox-drawn wagons and formed the Missouri Colony. Lonesome Dove Baptist Church was the first church in Tarrant County and the only Protestant church between the Trinity River and the Pacific coast.

This area was not a tame place to live in the 1840-1850's. Church records reveal that the original wooden church was burned by unfriendly Indians who were killed after being caught. Another historical event in Lonesome Dove's past was when the church's first clerk was gored by a bull buffalo. He had the honor of being Tarrant County's first surgery patient. Lonesome Dove Cemetery is the resting place of some of Tarrant County's first elected officials after the county organized



Torain Cabin

e county organized in 1850. Also reflecting the dangers of this time on the Texas prairie is the church's report that the walls at the back

of the building were often lined with members' guns, brought to church in case of sudden

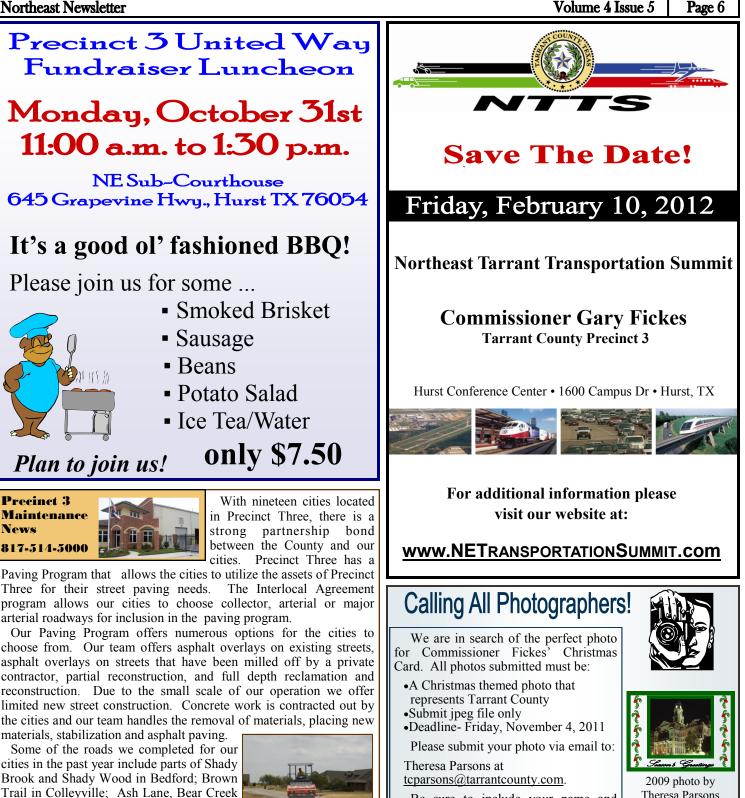
Indian attack. This community was a vibrant, exciting place to live and its inhabitants reflected the true pioneer spirit on the North Texas prairie of over 160 years ago.

An American Flag Flown in Afghanistan



An American Flag Flown in Afghanistan was presented to Commissioners Court in appreciation for the County's collection of items (66+ boxes) that were sent to support the Combat Stress Hospital in Shindand Afghanistan.

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Be sure to include your name and contact number so we can reach you.

If selected, your picture will be featured as the front cover of Commissioner Fickes' Christmas Card for 2011 with your name proudly displayed below! Winner will be notified within a few weeks following the deadline of Friday, November 4th, 2011.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing your pictures!

Gary Fickes

Theresa Parsons



2010 photo by Lissa Willis

Neal Welch, Director of Field Operations

and Lakewood in Euless; Blue Mound Road

in Haslet; Precinct Line Road and Nor-

wood Dr. in Hurst; Whitley Road in Keller;

Agreement Paving Program for our cities.

Southlake.

Willman and Faith Creek in Richland Hills; and Morgan Street in

We are in the process of preparing estimates and Interlocal

Agreements with the cities for inclusion in the FY 2012 Paving

Program. Projects have been selected in Euless, Grapevine, Richland

Hills and Southlake, with a selection process on-going with our other

cities. 2012 is shaping up to be another great year with the Interlocal

Northeast Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 5 Page 7 Transportation Northeast Tarrant County 1) In August, the new eastbound SH 114 to northbound SH 121 bridge opened to the public! **DFW Connector Project** Construction of this new structure took less than one year to finish and will double the existing lane Hotline: 877-411-4212 capacity in the area once the project is complete. www.dfwconnector.com 2) Currently, the paving group is working to widen the north and southbound SH 121 lanes between IH-111 635 and FM 2499. They have completed various paving tasks around Sign up for e-alerts! the project including the westbound SH 114 frontage road at William D. Tate Avenue and the westbound SH 114 on-ramp at Texan Trail. 3) We are currently starting work on the new eastbound SH 114 to southbound SH 121 bridge. 4) Finally, NorthGate Constructors continues to highlight work zone safety. Please visit http://www.dfwconnector.com/workzonesafety.php to learn about our initiatives, as well as what you can do to stay safe while driving through the project. It is not hard to see that construction along the entire 13.5 miles of the North Tarrant Express North Tarrant Express project has ramped-up considerably. Construc-Hotline: 888-683-2015 tion in both the west (820) and east (181/121) segments will continue to www.northtarrantexpress.com increase so please stay informed on lane, ramp and bridge closings by 111 visiting the project website - www.northtarrantexpress.com - or the Sign up for e-alerts! project Information Center at 8713 Airport Freeway. Please drive safe in the work zones and know before you go! North Tarrant Parkway While all lanes are not yet open for traffic, the vast majority of the pavement is in place. With only a small amount of concrete paving left to complete, NRH 817-427-6400 the project focus has expanded to include items such as sidewalks, lighting, www.nrhtx.com landscape structures and final grading. Sidewalks are well underway in both cities. Traffic signal hardware has been installed at three of the four signal-Keller 817-743-4080 ized intersections. In the coming weeks retaining walls and landscape feawww.cityofkeller.com tures will be constructed as the contractor works towards project completion. The FM 1938 contractor has continues pouring sections of the enhanced pavement at the Solana and FM 1938 Vaguero Club Drive intersections. The treatments and the colors are part of the Council approved FM **TxDot - N Tarrant Office** 1938 streetscape plan that we had prepared by Schrikel Rollins (an engineering and landscape architec-817-399-4300 ture firm) in 2008 in anticipation of this project. The northern half of the www.txdot.gov Solana intersection is expected to be completed within the next two weeks, which includes the center medallion and crosswalks. Once completed, we Westlake 817-490-5717 will start to see traffic diverted to the newly constructed sections in order for www.westlake-tx.org the contractor to begin working on the southern half of the intersection and connection to Capital Parkway. Over the last several weeks, the northbound lanes were poured from Sabine to Dove Road. Crews also continue to work on retaining walls, storm drains, and dirt excavation. Golden Triangle Blvd. Pictured is the new roadway near the Union Pacific Railroad tracks ready for concrete pavement. The contractor is finishing the asphalt underlayment **TxDot - N Tarrant Office** 817-399-4300 and will start pouring the concrete payement on the future eastbound lanes www.txdot.gov next week. They will start on the east end near US 377 and working west Fort Worth 817-392-8485 towards IH-35W. www.fortworthgov.org/ tpw/info/?id=39130 Crews have begun to apply the asphalt base on the northbound side of SH 26. Highway 26 When the base is complete, nearly a foot of concrete will be poured on top of **TxDot - N Tarrant Office** it to form the roadway. Extensive drainage improvements along the length of 817-399-4300 the project continue, as does the work to improve the intersection of SH 26 www.txdot.gov and Mustang Drive. Motorists will be shifted to the new northbound lanes summer of 2012 so that

the southbound lanes can be reconstructed. Throughout construction two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction.

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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	John Peter Smith Hospital Clinics Northeast Tarrant County <u>Health Clinics</u>
Tarrant County Holiday Closing	Gertrude Tarpley JPS Health Center 817-702-6600 6601 Watauga Road, Watauga 76148
Thanksgiving Nov 24 & 25th Christmas Dec 23rd & 26th	JPS Health Center Northeast 817-920-6400 837 Brown Trail, Bedford 76022
)))))	School-Based Clinics
Calendar of Events	Birdville
Oct 14 "Coffee with the Commissioner" - Precinct 3 Northeast Sub-Courthouse	Grapevine/Colleyville
Oct 14 "Legacy of Women"	Birdville
Oct 14-15 "CPR Fall Blitz"	HEB 817- 399-3500 3115 W. Pipeline Road #B, Euless, TX 76040
Oct 15 "GRACE Gala" <u>www.gracegala.org</u> Oct 21 "Shining Stars Luncheon" <u>www.shiningstarsartsleague.com</u>	Georgia Kidwell - HEB 817-399-3366 3115 W. Pipeline Road #D, Euless, TX 76040
Oct 29"SNAP Gala - Masquerade Ball" <u>www.ntxsnap.org/calendar.html</u> Oct 31 "United Way Fundraiser Luncheon" NE Sub-Courthouse, Hurst	For a complete list of Health Clinics and School–Based Clinics log onto: <u>www.jpshealthnet.org</u>
Nov 3 "Fesitval of Friends"	
Nov 4 "Heart of North Texas Business Conference" 817-515-6502	Northeast Social Service Agencies
Nov 9 "Season of Hope Luncheon" www.thecec.org	6 Stones Mission Networkwww.6stones.org
Nov 11 "Taste of Northeast" www.artscouncilnortheast.org	Community Enrichment Center <u>www.thecec.org</u> GRACE <u>www.gracegrapevine.org</u>
Nov 11 "NE Chamber Annual Banquet" <u>www.netarrant.org</u> Nov 17 "An evening with George Bush" <u>www.realchoicesdfw.org</u>	Community Storehouse. <u>www.communitystorehouse.org</u> United Way of Tarrant County

Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

www.donatelifetexas.org

Texas

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

TARRANT CARES tion on services, health tips and education materials for all ages ... www.TarrantCares.org

NE Tarrant County Contacts

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

Public Health Centers

Watauga Public Health Ctr. 6601 Watauga Rd, Watauga, TX 76148 817-702-6600 Tarrant County Website: www.TarrantCounty.com