

Winter 2016

# COUNTY JUDGE Quarterly

News & Notes from the Tarrant County Judge  
and important information from Tarrant County

Vol. 3, No. 3

## TARRANT COUNTY: OUR NORTH TEXAS HOME



Tarrant County Judge  
B. Glen Whitley

### Tarrant County: A Great Home for Colleges and Universities

It's a brand new day for higher education in Tarrant County.

Our county is growing quickly and the opportunities for higher education in Tarrant County are growing with it.

A new medical school, an exciting public-private partnership between TCU and the UNT Health Science Center, is on the way. The medical school expects to take applications in

2017 and teach its first class the following year.

Texas A&M established a presence in downtown Fort Worth three years ago with a law school.

Tarleton State University is building a new 80-acre campus off Chisholm Trail Parkway in far southwest Fort Worth.

Texas Wesleyan University has created a grand new entrance to its campus on East Rosedale Street.

Great counties need great colleges and universities. Great colleges and universities need a great county.

Tarrant County is no exception.

It is true that we are very fortunate to have new schools and opportunities to educate Tarrant County residents.

But, we also need to recognize that the strong local economy and our hallmark collaborative way of working together in the common interest of our community makes Tarrant County a desirable place for these schools to locate and grow.

Our established colleges and universities are doing well; increasing enrollment, establishing new degree programs and enhancing online learning capability.

The University of Texas at Arlington, a center of research, especially in engineering, is at the heart of an urban village transformation of downtown Arlington.

I would also include the University of North Texas in Denton, even though it is in the next county to the north, because many of our residents attend that great school. And, of course, UNT has the Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Tarrant County College, a vibrant institution, serves Tarrant County residents studying college prep courses or subjects as diverse as welding, cooking, firefighting and police work. Many at the school are involved in continuing education classes and take advantage of online offerings.

Most of our colleges and universities have noteworthy programs for veterans, giving our heroes a solid opportunity to reconnect with their families and their communities.

In Tarrant County, our colleges and universities do a great job helping the next generation make a successful transition to adulthood.

They also help people in the midst of their lives who want or need to find a new job or change careers. A chance to return to school can mean everything to those folks.

That is especially important as we continue to move deeper into a knowledge-based economy. The fast pace of scientific discovery and technological advances, continually changes the world of work, creating new jobs and erasing existing ones.

Higher education provides both a backstop and a road to the future. It helps everyone in our Tarrant County community flourish. It enables families to find opportunities and helps them to secure a fulfilling and successful life.

Our colleges and universities deserve our full support. They step up and play a significant role helping Tarrant County and all of North Texas meet the changing demands of a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> century.



The clock tower on Brown-Lupton University Union at Texas Christian University. TCU and the University of North Texas Health Science Center are collaborating on a new medical school, one of several innovative higher education developments in Tarrant County.



# New County Veterans Service Officer Advocates for Tarrant County Vets



Tarrant County Veterans Service Officer Tom Belton

Tom Belton, Tarrant County’s new Veterans Service Officer, is passionate about helping the men and women who serve our country. He can be impatient when it comes to bureaucracy.

“I don’t know doesn’t work for me as an answer,” said Belton, who has energized the county office since he took over in May.

The office now takes walk-ins instead of seeing veterans only by appointment, Belton said. The

automated phone system has been removed and calls are answered by the second ring. For the first time, walk-ins exceed appointments.

“Nobody is turned away, regardless of residency or purpose of the visit,” he said.

Veterans who have an appointment are seen first, but walk-ins see the next available counselor. The office has tripled its traffic under Belton’s leadership. In the first three months of the year, about 500 veterans sought assistance. The number now stands at 1,500 veterans from July through September.

A county veterans service office helps veterans deal with all kinds of issues they may face and helps them file claims.

The office serves recently discharged veterans who may have seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those from earlier eras like Vietnam, Korea and even World War II. It is the local link in an intergovernmental chain serving the country’s 22 million veterans.

Most veterans claims submitted for VA benefits come through a county veterans service office. Belton has three assistants trained to gather information and paperwork to support claims and file any necessary appeals.

Local offices of the Texas Veterans Commission, and of veterans organizations like the VFW, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans have service officers who can also process claims.

Tarrant County has about 115,000 veterans, more than any other North Texas county. About 38 percent are Post-9/11 and Gulf War veterans. Nearly two-thirds of those are under the age of 44 and were younger than 30 years old when they

deployed. Between 12 and 16 percent of those recent veterans are women.

There are about 300,000 veterans in the four core counties of the Metroplex.

Belton enlisted in 2004 and spent nine years in the Marines, with one deployment to Libya and another to Kuwait.

After his third son was born - he watched the birth on Skype from Kuwait - Belton left the Marines to care for his family.

He landed a job just north of Austin working in a county veterans service office, learned quickly, and came to Tarrant County to take charge of the office here.

There’s a clock with the Superman logo in his office and a small Captain America figure on his desk that holds business cards. “My boys like that,” he said. There’s a folded American flag in a shadowbox on the wall and the name Thomas Belton under it. It is a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol to honor his grandfather, a Korean War veteran.

On the opposite wall is a famous quote from Ronald Reagan that begins, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction...” There’s a picture of Belton, the Marine in uniform, returning home from deployment at the airport, hugging his son, Logan, then three years old.

On active duty, Belton served as a suicide-prevention coordinator and a victims-assistance advocate for those involved in domestic violence.

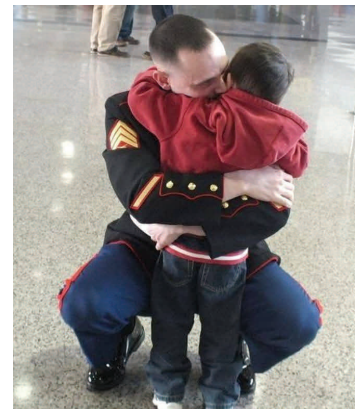
“If a vet is suicidal and comes in our office, we don’t let them leave,” he said. “I might say, ‘Let’s make a phone call together,’ hand off the phone, and step out of the room.”

Women veterans, and those who have experienced sexual trauma, are referred to nonprofits in the community that can provide counseling and services for them.

“We are reshaping and rebuilding the veterans service office in Tarrant County,” Belton said. “We are changing how we portray ourselves to veterans, the public and the county. We are exceeding expectations and have a lot of room to grow.”

The Veterans County Service Officers Association of Texas recently appointed Belton director of the North Texas Region. He wants to improve outreach to the many younger veterans who don’t typically access benefits or services.

“We need to initiate more conversations about services and benefits with Post-9/11 veterans,” Belton said. “They may need help and not know how to get it.”



Belton arriving at the airport: Home from deployment and hugging his son.

## Veterans Crisis Line 1(800) 273-8255

2015 Veterans Resource Guide

<http://unitedwaytarrant.org/veteransguide>

Tarrant County Veterans Service Office (817) 531-5645

[www.tarrantcounty.com/eveterans](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eveterans)

Veterans Coalition of Tarrant County, VETCO

<http://veteranscoalition.org>





**TCU & UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**

# New Med School in Tarrant County Holds Great Promise

Even in Tarrant County, with its long history of collaboration and working together to improve the community, the launch of a new medical school by Texas Christian University and the University of North Texas Health Science Center stands out as exceptional.

The two great institutions are coming together in a dynamic, public-private partnership to begin teaching students to become physicians in 2018.

“We’re building an MD school that reflects the best of Tarrant County’s qualities — collaborative, forward-thinking and innovative,” said Dr. Michael Williams, the president of the UNT Health Science Center.

Williams called the new school “an extraordinary opportunity” to enhance the value of the health care education that both TCU and the Health Science Center already offer.

The new medical school joins the well-established Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences at TCU and the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at the UNT Health Science Center, and other health-related programs that both schools offer.

The new medical school will emphasize teamwork and patient-centered care, said university officials.

“Blending a medical education with liberal arts helps shape tomorrow’s physicians as ethical leaders who are skilled in interpersonal communication and nimble thinkers who thrive as

part of a team to treat patients in ways that consider the whole human condition.” said TCU Chancellor Victor J. Boschini Jr., at the time of the initial announcement about the new MD school.

The initial funding for the private-public partnership has been secured through a pledge of \$50 million from TCU’s endowment and another \$25 million from

private donors pledged to the Health Science Center.

State funding to support the MD school will not be needed because school costs, including those associated with physical infrastructure, faculty and staff, will be paid for from tuition, fees, an endowment and private gifts.

A search committee made up of representatives from both schools expects to name a dean for the medical school this year.

Classes will be taught on both the Health Science Center and TCU campuses. Existing educational and research facilities and full-time and adjunct faculty from both schools will be used, moves that will help reduce start-up costs, officials said.

The school expects 60 students in the first class and a full enrollment of 240 medical students when it gets rolling.

Leaders from the Health Science Center and TCU have formed committees to study curriculum, admissions and other educational issues. The curriculum, when it is developed, may require the hiring of new faculty, the officials said.



The UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth where some of the classes for the new MD school will be held.

In addition to the osteopathic school, the Health Science Center currently has graduate-level programs for physician assistants, physical therapy, pharmacy, public health and biomedical research.

The county’s JPS Health Network, which has the largest family residency program in the nation and currently works with the osteopathic school, will also work with the new medical school when it opens.

Affiliations with other hospitals and clinics will be arranged for medical student rotations.

It is expected that the new MD school may lead to an increase in residency program opportunities in Tarrant County and across North Texas for graduates of the existing Health Science College of Osteopathic Medicine program as well as the new MD school.

That may lead to more physicians establishing practices in North Texas, helping to ease a chronic shortage of doctors.

Texas has only 186 physicians per 100,000 residents, compared to a national average of 236 physicians, ranking the state 45th, according to the Texas Medical Association. The shortage is most severe in rural areas of the state.

Urban North Texas, which now has a population of about seven million people, is expected to grow to more than 10 million people by 2040, making it even more difficult to reduce the shortage, say health officials.

Even so, the new MD school is expected to help bring jobs and investment to the community, improving opportunities for publicly and privately funded research and improvements in healthcare.

“The new medical school has a great future ahead of it,” said Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, also a Regent of the University of North Texas System. “Tarrant County is proud of the collaboration of the UNT Health Science Center with TCU and the potential to strengthen the availability and quality of healthcare in our community.”



HIGHER EDUCATION

# Tarleton State Builds a Fort Worth Campus



Planning a new college campus from the ground up is an enormous undertaking, but it's an opportunity that Tarleton State University relishes.

Tarleton is pushing forward with its plans to build a campus on 80 acres near the intersection of the Chisholm Trail Parkway and Old Granbury Road in far southwest Fort Worth.

"We plan on hiring an architect to design the first building this coming year, but it will be at least 2018 before the campus opens," said Tarleton spokesman Harry Battson. "By the time we get in there, we will be ready to add more space."

Tarleton, a branch of Texas A&M University since 1917, has held classes in Fort Worth since 1978. It has about 1,750 students studying in leased space on Camp Bowie Boulevard and in the Medical District. It could have as many 3,000 students at the new campus when it opens, Battson said.

The main campus in Stephenville has about 9,000 students.

"The Fort Worth students are very excited because the new campus will add the feel of the college experience," Battson said.

Students and faculty were asked about what type of services they would like to see in the building. Adequate library resources, academic advising offices and study spaces were high on the list.

The existing Fort Worth campus currently offers courses in nearly 50 degree and certificate programs. Students can take classes in education, criminal justice, nursing, social work, business and other subjects.

Initial plans call for "an all-purpose, stand-alone building," Battson said. The state allocated \$39.6 million for its construction.

There will be additional buildings, with a special focus on engineering and science laboratories, Battson said.

Tarleton President F. Dominic Dottavio has called the new campus a "vital step forward for the university."

Broaddus Planning, which has worked on the campus in Stephenville, is developing a design for the evolution of the entire Fort Worth campus, Battson said.

The City of Fort Worth; the Walton Group of Companies, which donated the land; and the North Texas Tollway Authority, which operates the Chisholm Trail Parkway; are working with school planners on the design of streets and utilities.

There is discussion of creating a tollway exit for the campus.

"Tarleton State University will be building an outstanding public university campus in Tarrant County and the economic benefit to our county and region will be astounding," said State Rep. Craig Goldman, in whose district the campus will be built.

There are plans for mixed use commercial and residential development nearby.

Tarleton would be Fort Worth's only public university where a student could get an undergraduate or graduate degree. Also, the new school would be close to rapidly growing areas in Parker, Hood and Johnson counties.

Some of the medical technology programs that the school offers will continue to be taught in the offices located in the Medical District and on Camp Bowie.



An artist's sketch of the planned Tarleton State University Fort Worth Campus

## Glen Whitley Receives TxDOT Road Hand Award

For his work to build coalitions and partnerships to improve transportation in North Texas, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley received the Texas Department of Transportation's Road Hand Award at the Regional Transportation Council's December meeting in Arlington.

"Improving transportation has been a personal priority of Glen Whitley, desiring to grow the quality of life and economic vitality of our region," said Brian Barth, TxDOT's Fort Worth District Engineer.

"Glen Whitley helped to move transportation projects forward that had been stalled for decades, like Chisholm Trail Parkway," Barth said.

He was instrumental in moving forward the DFW Connector, the North Tarrant Express, State Highway 360 South, the Interstate 30-SH 360 interchange, and the makeover of Interstate 35W, Barth added.

"It's everybody around this table that has done all this," Whitley told the transportation council, after he was presented with the award. "The success of this region is that we enter this room, take off our respective hats, and work together to accomplish things that need to be done for the folks we represent."

Whitley, Barth said, through his consensus-building style, always raises awareness about our duty to improve our infrastructure and the need to find funding solutions to pay for future transportation needs.

Barth said that he appreciates Whitley's concern about future transportation projects and the need to preserve corridors and right of way, especially in West Tarrant County where exponential growth is anticipated.

Whitley helped to found the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, an organization that addresses transportation needs and promotes projects on the west side of the North Texas region, and served as its first chair.





**AGGIE LAW SCHOOL GROWS STRONGER**

# Texas A&M University School of Law in Tarrant County



Texas A&M School of Law Dean, Andy Morriss

The Texas A&M University School of Law is aiming for the top. What else would you expect from Aggies?

Texas A&M began operating the law school after acquiring it from Texas Wesleyan University in 2013. Now, some changes are being made.

The downtown Fort Worth law school is reducing class size, lowering tuition rates, increasing faculty and boosting scholarships. It plans to build a new

facility on parking lots just east of its current location on Commerce Street.

“We want people to recognize that we have exceptional students,” said Andy Morriss, the law school dean.

A smaller class size – going from 240 students to 140 students – means the school can spend more time and resources on each student, he said.

The university lowered the cost of attending the law school, cutting in-state tuition by more than 15 percent, to bring it in line with other public institutions and has dramatically increased the scholarship budget.

The school will take full advantage of A&M’s great strength in science, engineering and technology, Morriss said.

“A&M is on the cutting edge of so much. They are a great partner,” he said. “We are continually working to integrate into the university. It’s exciting.”

The school has hired 12 new faculty members. Five of them are intellectual property experts. One has a joint appointment in A&M’s college of engineering and the school is pursuing new hires with joint appointments in agriculture and architecture.

The law school does its part, too, to be on the cutting edge.

In October, the school had a symposium entitled, “Farm to Table - Agriculture Law in the Era of Sustainability.”

Another October symposium, “New Technology and Old

Law: Rethinking National Security,” covered issues such as the theft of intellectual property through cyber espionage, drone regulation, emerging biotechnologies and the impact of new technology, social media and the internet on the reasonable expectation of privacy.

The lawyers the school produces will have knowledge of the law and the 21st century modern world.

“We are looking for people who want to be leaders.” Morriss said. “As a land grant school we have a responsibility to translate what is happening on campus into impacts in the community, to make Texas a better place.”

The school is opening a new legal clinic in downtown Fort Worth, in the Star-Telegram building, at Throckmorton and West 7th streets. Law students, faculty and adjunct faculty will help people with legal issues concerning veterans, wills, patents, family law, benefits and other matters.

Plans call for a new law school building to be built on some



Texas A&M current law school building in downtown Fort Worth.

of the three parking lots that A&M leases from Texas Wesleyan near the existing school, Morriss said. The law school will work with the College of Architecture to design the building and begin raising money for the project later this year.

“It’s exciting for Texas A&M, Fort Worth and Tarrant County,” said Neal Adams, a longtime supporter of A&M and an appointee of former Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Committee, where he served as vice chair.

Adams, an attorney, said that he has been trying for 30 years to get a law school affiliated with the university.

“This is the last piece that Texas A&M needs to round out the school as a flagship, Tier 1 university,” he said.

Locating the law school in downtown Fort Worth is important because it gives students access to law firms that can provide internships and clerkships, Adams said.

Morriss agreed.

“It’s so important for the law school to be in an urban center,” he said. “There is no better place for a new law school than Fort Worth and Tarrant County, where there is such marvelous support for an institution like ours.”



**TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

# Crime Victims Get Assistance in Tarrant County



Sharen Wilson,  
The Tarrant County  
Criminal District Attorney

Victims of violent crime and their family members often need an advocate and the Victim Advocates office of Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson stands ready to help.

Victims of violent crime, or a close family member of a deceased victim, have rights within the criminal justice system.

The experience of a crime victim can be a scary and confusing time and often victims don't know where to get information or that they have a right to participate and be involved in the judicial process.

"We are tasked with prosecuting the criminal offenders in our county, but we must never lose sight of what the victims and the victims' families are going through," said Wilson "In many cases they are living through the worst experience they'll face in their lifetime, and our victim advocates are highly skilled, compassionate professionals here to provide support and guidance throughout the process."

The Victim Advocates office can help crime victims navigate the complex criminal justice system with compassion and competence.

The office can explain legal rights, assist with safety plan-

ning, make referrals and help in applying for assistance from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. It can help complete a victim impact statement, assist with protective orders, do other paperwork and arrange for accompaniment to meetings with the prosecutor or the court.

The compensation fund is administered by the Texas Attorney General's office and can help pay for certain medical expenses, counseling, funeral arrangements and in some cases, rental and moving expenses.

A victim advocate from the Criminal District Attorney's office can be assigned to a case to serve as a liaison between a crime victim or family member and the prosecutor and can assist with other tasks.

The advocate can assist victims in cases of sexual assault, kidnapping, family violence, aggravated robbery, property crimes, human trafficking and injury to a child, the elderly or the disabled. The advocate can also assist close family members of victims in death cases.

If the defendant in a case is arrested and booked into the Tarrant County Jail, a crime victim in the case can register to be notified should they bond out. Texas VINE, Victim Information and Notification Everyday, is a Tarrant County Sheriff's Office program to inform victims about a defendant's jail status.

## SOME OF THE VICTIM RESOURCES IN TARRANT COUNTY

**In an emergency or in immediate danger call 9-1-1**

**Victim Advocates**

Criminal District Attorney's Office  
Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center  
401 W. Belknap St., Fort Worth, Texas 76196  
7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday  
<http://cda.tarrantcounty.com>  
(817) 884-2740

**Texas VINE, Victim Information and Notification Everyday**

Register online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)  
(877) 894-8463 (TX4-VINE)

**The Women's Center of Tarrant County**

1723 Hemphill St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76119  
[www.womenscenterc.org](http://www.womenscenterc.org)  
(817) 927-4040

**2-1-1 United Way Helpline  
Dial 2-1-1, Press Option 1**

**Trauma Support Services of North Texas, Inc.**

[www.tssnt.org](http://www.tssnt.org)  
(972) 709-4904

**SafeHaven of Tarrant County**

[www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org)  
(877) 701-7233

**Alliance for Children**

[www.allianceforchildren.org](http://www.allianceforchildren.org)  
Fort Worth (817) 335-7172  
Arlington (817) 795-9992  
Northeast Tarrant (817) 427-3110

**One Safe Place**

[www.onesafeplace.org](http://www.onesafeplace.org)

**Tarrant Cares**

[www.tarrantcares.org](http://www.tarrantcares.org)



**TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

# New Campaign to Help People Quit Smoking

It's easy to quit smoking. "I know, because I've done it thousands of times," said Mark Twain, the great American humorist. Tarrant County's new anti-smoking campaign will probably produce a better result.

The new Live Tobacco Free program, initiated by the Public Health Department, is a step-by-step plan for quitting smoking – once and for all.

The free four-week program, taught at classes throughout the county and online, addresses key issues such as managing stress, nicotine withdrawal, weight control and long-term strategies for staying off tobacco. It is based on the American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking program that has been a success for 30 years.

Even though most people know smoking is bad for you, some folks still puff away. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and one of the leading causes of heart disease, lung issues, asthma and many types of cancer.

Anti-smoking programs have been a public health success. Nearly half of all Americans smoked in the 1960s, but the Surgeon General's warning in 1964 helped to bring the rate down. The number of smokers has dropped by about a fifth since

2005, when it was 21 percent of the American population. It continued to decline last year, dropping to 16.8 percent, down from 17.8 percent in 2013.

Millions of people have quit smoking. If you quit smoking, you'll save \$2,190 a year on \$6-a-pack cigarettes. Your home will be healthier and safer for your family, friends and pets. Everything will smell cleaner - your clothes, your car and you.

Next year at this time, you just might feel stronger, healthier, happier and richer. And, you might avoid the smoker's fate chronicled in this classic, 1947 Western Swing song by Merle Travis and Tex Williams:

### Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)

*Smoke, smoke, smoke that cigarette  
Puff, puff, puff  
And if you smoke yourself to death  
Tell St Peter at the Golden Gate  
That you hate to make him wait  
But you just gotta have another cigarette*



### Schedule of Classes

Tarrant County Public Health, 1101 S. Main St., Fort Worth, Mon. 6 - 8 p.m.  
Crowley Recreation Center, 405 S. Oak St., Crowley, Tues., 6 - 8 p.m.  
Green Oaks WIC Clinic, 2001 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, Thurs. 6:15 - 8 p.m.  
Northwest WIC Clinic, 3800 Adam Grubb Rd., Fort Worth, Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Live Tobacco Free Tarrant County is online and offered in English and Spanish. To learn more about the program call (817) 321-4976 or e-mail [smokefree@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:smokefree@tarrantcounty.com)**

## Tarrant County Public Health Honored With National Award

Tarrant County Public Health has been awarded the coveted national accreditation status from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

The county's public health department, which serves 1.9 million people, is the first nationally accredited health department in North Texas, the second in the state and among the first 100 in America to be recognized by the national board.

"We are honored to receive this national distinction," said Vinny Taneja, health department director. "The real winner is the community we serve."

The department provides services to promote and maintain a healthy community and partners with the county's 41 cities to make that happen, Taneja said. It has a staff of about 380 public health professionals and an annual budget of about \$58 million.

Public Health has programs that fight infectious and chronic diseases. It engages the community through outreach and

education on a wide range of health subjects and provides regional leadership on public health issues throughout North Texas.

The national accreditation program, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's more than 3,000 public health departments will be measured, so that they can continuously improve services and performance.

The board reviewed Tarrant County Public Health operations and performance and assessed its strategic planning, community planning and quality improvement measures.

"Credit for this outstanding recognition goes to the staff of Tarrant County Public Health," Taneja said. "They work tirelessly and meticulously every day to ensure their programs are correct, their procedures are sound and their practices are evidence based. Tarrant County leads the way."





# Tarrant County Lost Some Great Leaders in 2015

Some great Tarrant County leaders passed on in 2015. They were some wonderful people, dedicated community leaders and public servants. We should be grateful for all that they did for our county, Texas and the nation.

Community leadership and public service requires many long hours of work above and beyond what most of us do. It means giving time and energy to make our home a better place to live, work and raise families. It means leading by example.

These educators, business leaders and legislators, pillars of our community, to name a few, will be greatly missed by all who knew them, worked with them and benefited from their service. So many others who made contributions to our county were lost as well.

**Dee Kelly Sr.:** A founding partner of Kelly, Hart & Hallman, Tarrant County’s largest law firm, Kelly was mentored by U.S. House Speaker Sam Rayburn, and in turn mentored many others. He became an advisor to politicians and a friend to presidents, always acting as a strong supporter and advocate for TCU, his alma mater, Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Most recently, he helped the county with its new civil courts building.



Dee Kelly Sr.

**Jim Wright:** He represented Fort Worth in Congress for 34 years and rose to become U.S. House Speaker. Speaker Wright, a Golden Gloves boxer as a youth and a B-24 bombardier in World War II, was born in Weatherford and served in the Texas Legislature. As Speaker, he is credited with helping to broker a deal that led to peace and democratic elections in Nicaragua.

**Erma Johnson Hadley:** A trailblazer from segregation-era East Texas, Hadley rose to become chancellor of the multi-campus Tarrant County College. She began her career at TCC in 1968 and was named chancellor in 2010. Hadley was appointed to more than three dozen public, community or charity boards, often becoming the first woman to serve on a board and was often also the first person of color.



Erma Johnson Hadley

**Chris Harris:** He retired from the Texas Legislature in 2013 as the longest serving Republican senator. A graduate of Arlington High and TCU, Harris, a lawyer, was a tireless advocate for his hometown of Arlington, the University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County, first in the Texas House and then in the Senate. A fiscal conservative, Harris was also a steadfast supporter of healthcare for children and seniors.

## TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

### County Clerk

Criminal / Misdemeanor Records.....	817-884-1066
Probate Courts.....	817-884-1770
Records Intake / Deeds.....	817-884-1062
Records Library.....	817-884-1069
Vital Records: Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses, and Business Records/DBA's.....	817-884-1195

### District Attorney

### District Clerk

Civil Records.....	817-884-1240
Criminal Records.....	817-884-1342
Family Court / Divorce Records.....	817-884-1265
Jury Services.....	817-884-3820

### Fire Marshal

### Human Services

### Public Health

### Resource Connection

### Tax Assessor-Collector

### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

### Veterans Services

### Sheriff's Office

### Jail Information

### Victim Information

### Warrant Division

### Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes

### 817-531-7600

### 817-884-1100

### 817-884-1945

### 817-531-5645

### 817-884-3009

### 817-884-3116

### 817-894-8463

### 817-884-1320

**Commissioners Court meets every Tuesday at 10 am  
Tarrant County Administration Building  
100 E. Weatherford Street, 5th Floor**

County Judge, Glen Whitley.....	817-884-1441
Commissioner Roy Brooks, Precinct 1.....	817-531-4500
Commissioner Andy Nguyen, Precinct 2....	817-548-3900
Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3.....	817-581-3600
Commissioner JD Johnson, Precinct 4.....	817-238-4400

**GENERAL INFORMATION** 817-884-1111



For additional information, visit: [www.tarrantcounty.com](http://www.tarrantcounty.com)