



Northeast Newsletter

Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes

Volume 13, Issue 6

Holiday Edition

December 2020

Due to the public health situation, we will not have Coffee with the Commissioner in December.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

As we conclude what will be a year to remember, we look forward with hope to 2021. The rollout this week of the COVID-19 vaccine offers a "shot in the arm" for some relief from a pandemic that has consumed our year. Tarrant County continues collaborations with many local partners from the business, social service, government, healthcare, and education communities to help our residents find the continued support and relief from any hardship or obstacle being faced. The holiday season resurrects a sense of comfort and joy, and I hope you will take time to recharge and disconnect from the everyday chaos that seems to be our temporary normal.

The new year also brings a new term for myself in the role of Tarrant County Commissioner of Precinct 3. I want to thank the Northeast Tarrant community for the continued trust and partnership in electing me as your representative to the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. My mission as your County

Commissioner continues to be to provide the leadership required to make Precinct 3 the premier area of Tarrant County and the most desirable area to live and work in the Metroplex. You can see more of our office's initiatives on page 2.

I hope you enjoy our holiday edition of the Northeast Newsletter. Read on for updates and information on Empowering Seniors, the City of North Richland Hills, Community Enrichment Center, Precinct 3 Maintenance Center, and area assistance programs.

We unfortunately will not be hosting a Coffee with the Commissioner this month due to the ongoing pandemic. I look forward to a time where we can have everyone back at the Northeast Courthouse for coffee and conversation! Until then, have a Merry Christmas and stay healthy and safe!

Gary Fickes

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Question of the Month

Question: Which three presidents had to re-take the oath of office?

(Answer on page 6)

The Quote of the Month - "Texas has four seasons: drought, flood, blizzard, and twister. That old saying isn't far from wrong. Because of its sheer size, Texas experiences all kinds of weather – sometimes all at once. Out in West Texas, the weather can be drier than the heart of a haystack and windier than a fifty-pound bag of whistling lips. A dust storm is dubbed "Panhandle rain." – Anne Dingus

Tarrant County, Precinct 3



Precinct 3 is the fastest-growing precinct in the county, exceeding a population of 500,000. We consider it an honor to serve the residents of Precinct 3 in Northeast Tarrant County. Most people are surprised to learn the wide range and the great number of services that Tarrant County provides for our citizens. Our office can help you understand how to navigate and access these community resources to help you, your friends, and your loved ones.

Commissioner Fickes' most important priority is providing the best quality of life and the appropriate resources for the residents and businesses in Northeast Tarrant County. His main focus is on four areas:

1) Transportation is a critical issue. The ability to move throughout our area smoothly and safely is of the utmost importance. My office has assisted in the now-completed DFW Connector, and the NTE I-35W project is open and operating, fully connecting with the NTE TEXpress lanes along I-820 (north loop) and Airport Freeway (121/183). At any given time, we have over a dozen projects going on, from replacing existing roads and bridges to coordinating road projects with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local municipalities, and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). For the past 11 years, we have held the Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit in February, but due to the pandemic, we plan to hold off until 2022. In the meantime, please visit our Tarrant Transportation Summit website [here](#) to learn about some of the new and innovative things happening in transportation.

2) Healthcare involves everyone in our community and is a major issue throughout Texas and the United States. The Commissioners Court oversees the operation of the Tarrant County Hospital District/JPS Healthcare System, our public hospital and clinic system that covers the residents of Tarrant County. It has over 30 satellite facilities throughout the county, with a JPS Clinic near you. Currently the most concerning health issue facing the Tarrant County Commissioner's Court is Covid-19. We are working hand-in-hand with Tarrant County Public Health to minimize the effects of Covid-19 on the citizens throughout Tarrant

County. For more information, please visit Tarrant County Public Health [here](#).

3) Seniors represent a higher percentage of the Northeast Tarrant County population than any other precinct. In 2009, I formed a Senior Task Force and asked what we could do to serve seniors better. The Senior Task Force asked us to create a local event to provide information, resources, and healthcare screenings. In response, my team and I developed "Empowering Seniors," which is held each October and now attracts over 3,000 attendees for free healthcare screenings, senior-focused topics, and exhibitors that serve the senior market. Responding to requests, we expanded the scope to those 50 and over to include caregivers and soon-to-be seniors who would also need this information. To keep everyone safe, we held the 12th Annual Empowering Seniors as a virtual event in October. You can access the recorded LIVE event, Ask the Doctor workshops, celebrity guest videos, the virtual expo and much more at www.empoweringseniors.com.

New content and games are added monthly over the next twelve months, so be sure to check it out.

4) Quality Economic Development is key to providing the continued growth we enjoy in Northeast Tarrant County. By demanding quality, we receive long-term value. Our Economic Development Department works with the cities in Precinct 3 to enhance their ability to attract development that fits our citizens needs. Precinct 3 has been leading in developments from the Alliance area to all terminals and development at DFW International Airport and everything in between.

Commissioner Gary Fickes
Precinct 3

Northeast Courthouse
645 Grapevine Hwy., Ste. 200
Hurst, Texas 76054
817-248-6295

www.tarrantcounty.com



Road Project Discussion



Northeast Transportation Summit 2020



Attendees Enjoying Empowering Seniors, October 2019



Presentation for Community Leaders

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Thank you to our sponsors for their support of our 12th Annual Empowering Seniors Event. We are thankful we were able to bring Empowering Seniors to everyone as a virtual event this year, allowing everyone to enjoy it safely from their home.

Everyone has access to the information and videos from the live event for the next 12 months at www.empoweringseniors.com. New content and games with prizes are added periodically, and you can look forward to a new and improved Empowering Seniors website experience on January 1, 2021.

Presenting Sponsor



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[Metroport Meals on Wheels](#)

[ONCOR](#)

[UnitedHealthcare Medicare Solutions by MLC Ins.](#)

[United Way's Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County](#)

Empowering Seniors Continues Online for the Next 12 Months

Check out the great videos from our special guests, the Ask the Doctor Panels, cooking, entertainment and more. New content and contests coming December 21st, and throughout 2021, so be sure to check back periodically. You can look forward to a new and improved Empowering Seniors website experience on January 1, 2021. Thanks to everyone for making this event possible.

ENJOY This Year's
2020 VIRTUAL EMPOWERING SENIORS EVENT
From the Safety of Your Home!



Presenting Sponsor
care@care
Insurance Company, Inc.

www.EmpoweringSeniors.com

Thank you to our special celebrity guests for joining us, and for taking us for a walk down memory lane, and for sharing their expertise to help us make good decisions. What great stories and information they have to share.



Entertainment custom made for our seniors. A special thanks to:



Ken Nelson



The Vanderveer Brothers String Band

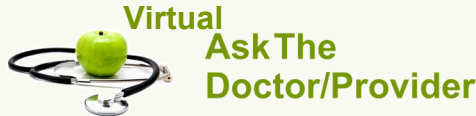


Taps 'n Tunes



Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Alumni from the '70s

A special thanks to our doctors for taking time out of their busy schedules to hold two "Ask the Doctor/Provider" sessions addressing questions from our attendees.



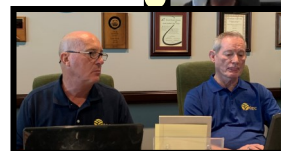
Over **\$2,500 in prizes awarded** during the live event thanks to our door prize donors. And, great news, there are **more prizes to come!**

Join us for new games taking place periodically over the next 12 months. You could be

our next lucky **WINNER!**

www.EmpoweringSeniors.com

Fun with our favorite bingo caller from the CEC, Ronnie Parrish and Randy Clinton. Thank you!



There's more to come...

Welcome to our series "Northeast Tarrant County Cities," where we share information about one of the cities located in Precinct 3 in each newsletter. It's impossible to share everything on one page that makes a city great, but we hope to scratch the surface on what makes each city a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Northeast Tarrant County is home to 16 municipalities in one of the most urbanized regions in the State of Texas. Commissioner Fickes, along with Tarrant County, partners with many entities, including our cities. With these partnerships, our communities continue to thrive via road projects, economic development, public health services, public safety, and emergency management.

North Richland Hills is a dynamic, growing city centrally located within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. With nearly 70,000 residents, 1,200 businesses, and 30 major employers, they are the third-largest city in Tarrant County. Residents enjoy their welcoming and neighborly atmosphere and family-friendly amenities, including a public library and recreation center, more than 800 acres of parkland, 30 miles of hike and bike trails, the award-winning Iron Horse Golf Course, and NRH₂O Family Water Park.

The city was recognized in 2016 by the Dallas Morning News as one of the ten best neighborhoods in DFW. The newspaper scored more than 300 communities in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, and Tarrant counties on several factors, including safety from crime, affordability of homes, good schools, well-maintained and quiet neighborhoods, rising home values, pet-friendliness, places to shop and things to do, commute, walkability, trees and landscaping, and parks and greenspaces. The newspaper stated that "North Richland Hills prides itself on being a welcoming and neighborly community. Quality of life is important here, and it shows."

The NRH Library offers programs for all ages, and during this time, several of them are virtual, including Storytime, NRH Community Read, Book Break, and Pinterest Parties, and many more. The NRH Library is also home to a unique area known as The Maker Spot. Located on the Library's second floor, The Maker Spot offers 4,500 square feet as a community workspace where Library cardholders can come to create, explore, collaborate, and innovate.

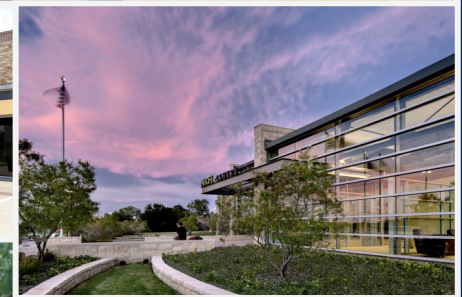
This area was funded by a \$75,000 Special Projects grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (2015).

The NRH Police Department earned "Recognized" Status, first attained in December 2011; they held the distinction of being the 48th agency in the state to reach that benchmark set by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program. Four years later, the Police Department demonstrated compliance in 166 standards, and on January 26, 2016, was again awarded the recognized status in this exemplary class. The Recognition Program assures the Council, City Management, and the citizens they serve that their Police Department embodies the very best of what the law enforcement profession represents.

Also recognized as a leader, the NRH Fire Department received a Class 1 rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) effective May 1, 2019. They were also awarded a "Recognized" status from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association Best Practices Recognition Program on February 15, 2018. It was such an honor to be the sixteenth department in Texas to receive this recognition.

Two school districts serve the NRH area, the Birdville ISD with more than 23,500 students, and the Keller ISD with more than 35,000 students.

Whether a longtime resident, new to the community, or just visiting, learn more about North Richland Hills at www.nrhtx.com/31/Explore-NRH, and enjoy all they have to offer.



City of North Richland Hills
4301 City Point Drive, North Richland Hills, Texas 76180
817-427-6000

- Animal Services 817-427-6570
- Code Compliance 817-427-6663
- Human Resources 817-427-6100
- Library 817-427-6800
- Municipal Court 817-427-6700
- Parks & Rec Admin 817-427-6620
- NRH Centre 817-427-6600
- Emergency 9-1-1
- Police Non-Emergency 817-427-7000
- Fire Department 817-427-6900

www.nrhtx.com



The Community Enrichment Center

The Community Enrichment Center’s vision is to break the cycle of poverty and family violence, which drives all the programs they design. Born from a food pantry in the closet of a church, the CEC has grown to provide multi-staged, multi-generational program services for homeless and low-income individuals and families and victims of domestic violence. They also operate one of the largest food pantries in Tarrant County and utilize 206 CEC-owned properties to offer affordable housing for participants in their programs.

Program services are administered through the Working Families Success



CEC Class

service delivery model, where programs are bundled into three core services: Employment Coaching, Financial Coaching and Income Support. This model has been implemented nationwide with great success. Studies show participants receiving 2 of 3 core services are 3 to 4 times more likely to achieve significant economic outcomes such as increased income, decreased debt, purchase of a home or car and improved credit score.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CEC teams quickly pivoted to deploy the Pathways program. Recognizing the tremendous loss of income and employment in our community, Pathways was designed to provide short-term certification/training for people in a new career path who have suffered from a loss of income due to COVID-19. The program offers assistance with living expenses during the program, as well as financial and employment coaching. Initial support for this program was provided through CARES Act funding from Tarrant County, which will conclude at the end of this year.



CEC Staff

Investing in the marginalized populations in our community demonstrates the CEC’s belief that someone’s current situation doesn’t define who they are, or their potential. Their program strategies illustrate how overcoming adversity inspires greater resolve in people, strengthening generations to come.

Article provided by Lisa Mund, CEC Grant Administrator

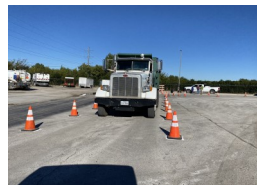
Congratulations!



Pictured left to right: Richard Schiller, Director, Field Operations; James Mercado (3rd Place); Anthony Jaramillo, Assistant Director, Field Operations; Dwight Everett (2nd Place); Bernard Jackson (1st Place).

At Precinct 3, safety is a priority. We continue to discuss, train, and emphasize safety on every project, every day and in everything we do. On October 30th, we held our annual “Truck Rodeo.” For this event, our equipment operators practice maneuvering dump trucks through several obstacle courses that mimic driving and construction situations to develop further and improve their driving, backing, and communication skills. The event concluded with a competition for the top driver, awards, and lunch.

A special thank you to the sponsors and congratulations to the Precinct 3 Annual Truck Rodeo’s top three winners: Bernard Jackson - 1st Place, Dwight Everett - 2nd Place, James Mercado - 3rd Place. Great Job!



Question of the Month

Question: Which three presidents had to re-take the oath of office?

Answer: Chester Arthur, Calvin Coolidge, and Barack Obama

Arthur, who served from 1881 to 1885, was sworn in by a justice of the New York State Supreme court in a private ceremony following the assassination of President James Garfield. Arthur was sworn in a second time by the U.S. Supreme Court’s chief justice two days later at the Capitol.

Coolidge took the oath of office at his father’s Vermont home following the death of President Warren Harding. Coolidge’s father was a notary public and administered the oath. Concerns about Coolidge’s father’s jurisdiction led to Coolidge taking a second oath later in Washington, D.C.

At his swearing-in on January 20, 2009, Obama improperly recited the oath because he was repeating after Chief Justice John Roberts, who transposed the words "faithfully" and "execute." He had to re-take the oath the following day.



TIS
THE
SEASON
TO
Give



Area Assistance Programs

2-1-1 Help

www.unitedwaytarrant.org/2-1-1
2-1-1 or 877-541-7905

6Stones

www.6stones.org
817-868-7400

Catholic Charities - Fort Worth

www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org
817-534-0814

Center for Transforming Lives

www.transforminglives.org
817-332-6191

Community Action Partners

www.fortworthtexas.gov/cap
817-392-5720

Community Enrichment Center

www.cechope.org
817-281-1164

Community Food Bank

www.food-bank.org
817-924-3333

Community Storehouse

www.communitystorehouse.org
817-431-3340

DFW Toys for Tots

www.dfwtoysfortots.org
214-330-2828

Fort Worth Hope Center

www.fwhope.org
817-451-6288

GRACE

www.gracegrapevine.org
817-488-7009

Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County

www.mealsonwheels.org
817-336-0912

Metroport Meals on Wheels

www.metroportmow.org
817-491-1141

Mid-Cities Care Corps

www.midcitiescarecorps.org
817-282-0531

Mission Central

www.missioncentraltx.org
817-595-0011

NEED

www.need-tarrant.com
817-280-0286

SafeHaven

www.safehaventc.org
1-877-701-7233

Salvation Army DFW

www.salvationarmytx.org
817-344-1800

Samaritan House

www.samaritanhouse.org
817-332-6410

SNAP

www.yourtexasbenefits.com
817-563-3800

Tarrant Area Food Bank

www.tafb.org
817-857-7100

Tarrant Cares

www.tarrantcares.org

The Christmas Wish Project

www.christmaswishproject.com
817-925-3264

The Gatehouse

www.gatehousegrapevine.com
817-912-0317

The Salvation Army

www.salvationarmydfw.org
817-624-3111

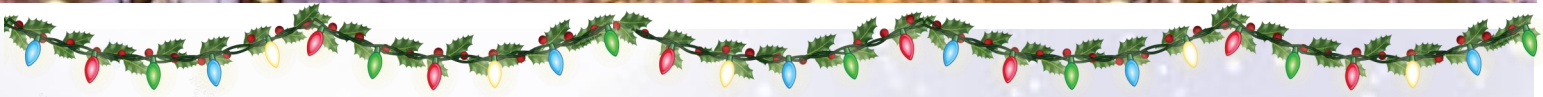
Union Gospel Mission

www.ugm-tc.org
817-339-2553

Veterans Coalition of Tarrant County

www.veteranscoalition.org





2020 has brought many challenges for all of us. We want to express how grateful we are for each one of you, and to let you know we appreciated all you do, especially your assistance to the residents of Tarrant County during such an unprecedented time.



Northeast Tarrant Transportation Summit



Virtual Empowering Seniors



Healthcare Workers



First Responders

Tarrant County & Credit Union Employees



Thank You!



Happy Holidays