

# Northeast News

Tarrant County - Precinct 3



"Working together for a better tomorrow"

August 2008

Volume No. 1 ~ Issue No. 2

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Welcome back to the second edition of our *Northeast News*! Our first edition was very well received and our thanks to all of you who emailed comments back to us. We enjoy putting this together because we feel we are creating a vehicle that provides useful information to the citizens of Precinct 3.

This edition will focus on transportation. As your Commissioner, I feel we need to look at all types of alternatives available to reduce congestion, improve mobility, and improve the quality of the air we breathe. I believe that to ignore this issue and not look at all possibilities is a great disservice to you, the taxpayer. We must see what other communities have done and what works and what doesn't work. No shoe fits every foot and no system will work for every community.

What I do know for sure is that the average commuter in the DFW area spends 57 hours a year stopped in congested traffic. That's almost one and a half weeks away from your job

and time spent away from family and friends. According to the North Central Texas Council of Governments, this congestion costs our region over \$6 billion dollars a year. That's about \$1,000.00 for each man, woman and child in the Metroplex per year. Traffic congestion is also the number one cause of poor air quality. For these reasons alone, we must look at every feasible mode of transportation for moving people and goods. Our health, economy, and sanity demand that we pursue this.

Also in this edition, we'll discuss Regional Rail for Tarrant County and the DFW area, and High Speed Rail, to connect major metropolitan areas in Texas. These two modes of rail transportation represent two very different types of mobility.

Our Economic Development article will focus on the City of Keller, and our Historical Moment is written by Joyce Gibson Roach, editor of *The Pathfinder*, the historical preservation journal of the Town of Westlake.



Commissioner Gary Fickes and Rex

**Question of the Month:** Name the three elected Presidents of The Republic of Texas (1836 - 1845). Email your answers to: [ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com)

Age: 5 years old  
Where I Came From: Rescued from the Animal Shelter in Springtown, TX.  
Gender: Male (neutered, but he doesn't know it)  
Breed: Lab, Catahoula, Blue Heeler—some other stuff... who cares?  
Favorite Snack: Puppy tenders from Chicken Express.  
Least Favorite food: Broccoli  
Favorite Person: The person who fed me last!  
Favorite Non-Person: My pet frog that lets me carry him around and lays in the shade with me, watching birds. He hops off when he gets bored.  
Favorite Toy: My stuffed bear, Muffy.



**Rex Facts**



### Precinct 3 Fundraiser for United Way of Tarrant County

**Friday, October 10th, 11:30 - 1:30 at the NE Sub-Courthouse 645 Grapevine Highway in Hurst**

>>> **\$5.00 for a Brat or Hot Dog, Chips, Soda and Cookie** <<<

Opportunity to win one of our gift baskets. Tickets 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10 available between Tuesday, September 30th and Friday, October 10th at the Commissioner's offices in the NE Sub-Courthouse and Southlake Town Hall. Drawing is Friday, October 10 at 1:30 P.M. **Need not be present to win**

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# Employee Spotlight

I was born and raised in a sport-fishing community called Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, New York. Graduated from James Madison High School and hold an Associates Degree in Political Science from Tarrant County College.

My first job was with Pan American World Airways in New York City followed by twelve years with British Airways where I met and married my husband, Ted, in Los Angeles, California. Prior to marriage, I was never home—wanted to see the world and I did—from Australia and the Fiji Islands to Viet Nam, Bangladesh, South Africa and many places in between.



**Mary Ann Rike, Executive Secretary for Commissioner Precinct 3.**

After leaving the aviation industry when our daughter, Karen, was born, I owned and operated a donut shop in Belton, Texas, for nine years prior to moving to the Fort Worth area.

In addition to delivering

Meals On Wheels once a week, and donating platelets at Carter BloodCare Center a couple of times a month, I volunteer as an usher at the Bass Performance Hall where I get to see many wonderful performances for free!

## On a more personal note ~

What do you like most about your job? *“Interacting with people, both within Tarrant County and with the public.”*

What do you do for fun? *“Travel with my grandson, ride recumbent trikes with my husband, crochet baby blankets.”*

Favorite movie? *“Lots, but probably ‘Gone With The Wind’ and ‘The Never-Ending Story’”*

Favorite Restaurant? *“Steak and Ale (I love a good prime rib!)”*

Vacation Spot? *“Anywhere along the ocean”*

Last Book Read? *“Flashback” by Penny Coleman*

People would be surprised to know... *“I was an avid skydiver in my youth with over 77 freefall parachute jumps to my credit.”*

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



For organ donation information, please visit: [www.donatelifetexas.org](http://www.donatelifetexas.org)



**Trent Petty**

## JPS Board Appointee

Precinct Three County Commissioner Gary Fickes has appointed Trent Petty, President of Petty & Associates, Inc. - a consulting firm for economic and municipal development - to the Tarrant County Hospital District Board which oversees the JPS Health Network.

Petty previously served as Westlake's Town Manager and Grapevine's City Manager. He was co-founder of the Westlake Academy, serving as its Chief Executive Officer from 2002-2006.

“Trent is well-qualified and well-credentialed to serve

on this important board,” says Fickes.

He has served on the Baylor Regional Medical Center-Grapevine Board of Trustees since 1999, where he chaired the Economic Development Task Force and Finance Committee before being selected as Chairman of the Board in 2006. He also chaired the Northeast Leadership Forum, the Metroport Cities Partnership and the Faith Christian School Board. He has been a member of the GRACE Board of Trustees, the Metroport Rotary Club, the Grapevine Rotary Club and the International City Management Association.



It was another big win for the Transplant Recipient Team, marking the 14th annual Texas Rangers Organ Donor Game, held at the Dr Pepper Youth Ballpark. Liver transplant recipient and Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes coached the Recipient Team to its big win over the Media Team, and he also helped the Southwest Transplant Alliance thank the Texas Rangers for their continued support of organ donation.

## Mayor Bradley Retirement



Mayor Scott Bradley receives a plaque from Commissioners Court on June 21st.

Tribute was paid to Mayor Scott Bradley of the Town of Westlake by his friends and colleagues on the

occasion of his retirement after serving the Town for over 29 years, first as Chairman of the Town Planning and Zoning Commission, and then as Mayor.

Mayor Bradley was instrumental in bringing the Fidelity Investments Corporate Campus to the Town of Westlake and in establishing the state's first and only municipally operated school, Westlake Academy.

Scott will continue residing at Paigebrooke Farm in the Town of Westlake with his wife, Kelly, and enjoying the pleasures of his family and the antics of his grandchildren.

## Tarrant County Veterans Services Administration Benefit Outreach

Assistance free of charge.

Every Tuesday  
12p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Call for an appointment:  
817-531-5645

NE Sub-Courthouse  
645 Grapevine Hwy.  
Hurst TX 76054

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

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - KELLER

## Keller Town Center & Old Town Keller



### KELLER TOWN CENTER

**K**eller boasts two distinct business districts that help make the city a vital part of northeast Tarrant County.

The pieces of the 330-acre Keller Town Center are coming together: municipal services, recreational amenities, established retail stores and offices mingle with new retail/residential developments under construction. The denser construction similar to metropolitan areas mixes with open space more in line with suburban planning.

The dynamic atmosphere got the at-

ention of *D Magazine*, which ranked Keller as one of the Top Ten best Dallas-area suburbs in its July 2008 issue, and CNN's *Money Magazine*, which rated Keller as one of the 50 best places to live in the U.S.

Anchored by Keller Town Hall, Town Center boasts more than 70 businesses, medical offices, town homes, single-family homes, senior housing and apartments. Recreation facilities include The Keller Pointe, the city's recreation center, Keller ISD Natatorium and hike-and-bike trails. The growing residential component is boosting the viability of all businesses in Town Center.

The city's other distinct business district is Old Town Keller, fitting within the footprint of the original town site. Old Town features historic storefront buildings along Main Street and charming cottages along side streets. Antique and specialty boutiques, restaurants and other businesses call the district home.

Newly constructed structures are designed to blend with the classic architecture. Positioned near the intersection of

U.S. 377 and Keller Parkway, Old Town offers a convenient respite from everyday life. A public park will soon be added to the mix, which will enhance the regular events coordinated by the members of the Old Town Merchants Association.

Both districts are vital to Keller and demonstrate the diversity, vibrancy and excitement of the city's business community. They help make Keller a tremendous place to live, work, play and shop.



### OLD TOWN KELLER

For information on the City of Keller:

[www.cityofkeller.com](http://www.cityofkeller.com)



### Watauga Clinic Dedication



**CLINIC DEDICATION** Pictured above at the Ribbon Cutting are Jessie Barrow, 101 year old sister of Gertrude Tarpley, Mayor Harry Jeffries, Commissioner Fickes, Steve Montgomery, Judge Glen Whitley, and other distinguished guests.

A vision becomes a reality a year and a half later with the dedication of the new Gertrude Tarpley JPS Community Health Center located at the corner of Rufe Snow and Watauga Road, (6601 Watauga Road) in Watauga.

The Commissioners Court of Tarrant County and the JPS Board of Managers named the new center the "Gertrude Tarpley JPS Community Health Center" in honor of Mrs. Tarpley's

exemplary service and dedication to the citizens of northeast Tarrant County.

The health center houses 2 family practice physicians, 1 internal medicine physician, 1 obstetrics/gyn nurse practitioner, and support staff. Some of the services offered are lab, full pharmacy, radiology, social work, and financial screening. Tarrant County Public Health WIC Clinic provides services as well.

The clinic hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday.



Family members of Gertrude Tarpley pictured left to right: son-in-law W.L. Pete Peterson, M.D.; son, Jack Tarpley; daughter, Linda Kay Peterson; and sister, Jessie Barrow along with Commissioner Gary Fickes.

## The Value of the JPS Health Clinics

The afternoon of July 22, a young lady came into our Hurst office in the NE Sub-Courthouse asking where she could get her baby immunized. While our secretary fed her baby, we drew a map on how to get to the Gertrude Tarpley Community Health Center in Watauga and then showed her the street that would take her straight there. The Commissioner gave her his card and asked her to have the Clinic call and let him know she had made it safely. She was concerned about gas and getting lost in the heat of the afternoon with her small child. We are happy to report she made it safely and she was extremely relieved to know there was a clinic close by.

The JPS Community and School-based Clinics make it possible for families to get the care they need without the worry and expense of going downtown.

For more information on JPS Health Centers and Tarrant County Public Health, please visit the following websites:

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

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

# TRANSPORTATION

## REGIONAL RAIL

Regional Rail. . .What is it? Where does it go? Where does it stop? When will it start?

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (also known as "The T") has been developing a regional rail plan for the Tarrant County area since 2006. The planned Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor is part of The T's 2005 Strategic Plan to develop a new rapid regional rail service to provide additional transportation options for people living, working, and visiting in Tarrant County.

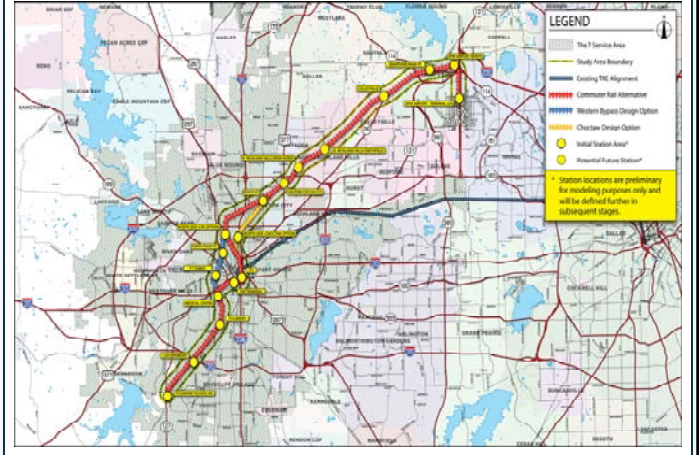
The proposed system will transport passengers along a rail line from southwest Fort Worth to northeast Tarrant County into D/FW International Airport. This system would include numerous stations along this route. Proposed stations could include: D/FW International Airport, D/FW Airport North, Grapevine, Colleyville, North Richland Hills (2), Richland Hills (existing), Haltom City, Beach Street, North Side Station, North Main, Seventh Street, Medical Center, TCU/Berry, I-20 Granbury, and Sycamore School Road.

The DFW Regional Rail plan would include The T Plan, the DART Plan, along with the Denton County Transportation Authority Plan. The T's type of equipment would be on existing rail lines and would not be like the DART light rail system. Proposed plans call for the Southwest-to-Northeast route to be in service to D/FW International Airport as early as 2012, with a DART route to D/FW in 2013.

There are still a lot of options and questions, including "quiet zones", additional stations, and overall cost.

For more information concerning The T project, go to [www.sw2neRAIL.com](http://www.sw2neRAIL.com)

### Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor



## Texas High Speed Rail

### High Speed Rail for Texans

The Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation (THSRCTC) is a not-for-profit corporation consisting of local transportation and elected officials from across the State in a grassroots, collaborative effort to realize the first-ever high-speed rail passenger system in Texas.

What is High Speed Rail? A transportation system that travels 180-200 mph with Steel-Wheel technology and up to 300 mph with Mag-Levitation technology. Both systems are in place and being used by millions of riders a day in Germany, France, Spain, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China. This mode of transportation has a 40 year track record of safety and on time travel.

The THSRCTC concept is to provide service from airport to airport along a system that would connect DFW Airport to Temple, Austin and San Antonio, with a line from Temple to College Station/Bryan and on to Houston's Bush International Airport. This configuration



creates a "T", which is the shortest distance between three points, (DFW/Houston/San Antonio). This proposed route will serve 75-80% of all Texans when built.

This project is proposed to be operational by 2020. The plan would call for a 70' - 80' right-of-way on or near I-35. This plan is not part of the Trans Texas Corridor which needs over 1,200' of ROW.

After September 11, 2001, airline transportation changed for all of us. The demand for short air trips of one hour or less has been greatly reduced. Many people would rather drive than go through the time required to pre-board an airplane. Because of this dramatic change in flying habits, the time for High Speed Rail is right. For this reason two of Texas largest airlines: American Airlines and Continental Airlines are part of our ever-growing organization. They are joined with cities and counties along the route. Also included as Resource Partners are the Texas Southern University Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Texas A&M's Texas Transportation Institute and The George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M.

For further information concerning High Speed Rail: [www.thsrc.com](http://www.thsrc.com)



# An Historical Moment In Time

## County History Corner

Northeast Tarrant County along Denton and Bear Creeks may rightly lay claim to being an area of earliest settlement. Bird's Fort (1841), Watson and Johnson Stations (possibly around 1843), were in evidence but several growing communities developed in the northeast portion of the county with now-forgotten names such as Medlin Mound, Elizabeth, Bugtown (all of which evolved into Roanoke), Halford Prairie, Dove, Double Springs, Zion (Smithfield), Jellico, Athol (Keller), Dunnville (Grapevine), White's Chapel and others. All of these early settlements, some of which later became small towns, were infused with immigrants from Missouri known as the Missouri Colony, some of the pathfinders arriving as early as 1841. These settlements were in existence before 1849 when Tarrant County came into existence and therefore were in places that became other counties such as Denton and Dallas.

No single surname name is better known in the area than Medlin. Almost immediately after the Medlin families related by blood and marriage—names such as Foster, Gibson, Halford, Hood, Brown, Smith, Durham, Roberts, Throop, Freeman, and others—arrived in earnest around 1846, they began to settle along the

northeast Tarrant County line and south Denton line on and between Denton and Bear creeks. According to Pearl Foster O'Donnell writing in her book, "Trek To Texas: 1786-1886", which is now out of print and considered rare primary source material; "These were not frontier driftwood as tax lists reveal. They were not wealthy nor did they crave wealth and power. They were church oriented people, and active in establishing law and order on the frontier as the first lists of elected officials." She adds; "Most of these early settlers were either farmers of a kind or combination rancher and farmer."

One group of Medlins who settled near Roanoke almost on the Denton/Tarrant county lines was Charles and Lewis Medlin along with Mary Medlin, their mother. A cemetery was established on the land of Charles Medlin which still is known as Medlin cemetery. Thirty-eight Medlins are identified with markers, although others are buried in early cemeteries such as Mount Gilead and Lonesome Dove. The Medlin Cemetery also contains the graves of many of the Bob and Almeda Jones family, Negroes who were people of substance and land owners important in the area.

Hall Medlin settled close to Grapevine

Springs (Coppell) in what was known as the Halford Settlement. He and his mother, Rachel, and his sisters' families: James and Nancy Gibson, Ambrose and Susanah Foster, Andrew and Sally Halford, were charter members of the Lonesome Dove Baptist church founded in 1846 and which is still viable today.

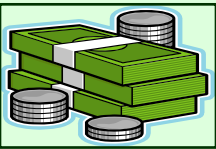
Hall was apparently living near Grapevine Springs (Coppell) in 1856. E.F. Bates in his book, "A History of Denton County" (date unknown, quoted in "Trek to Texas") stated that "the last buffalo was killed by Hall Medlin in 1856 near Grapevine Springs. The buffalo almost killed Hall, however. It gored him to the extent that he was practically disemboweled and he had to crawl several miles for help holding his intestines in with one hand." Hall recovered and lived for nearly another thirty years.

The name of Freeman was among those related by blood or marriage to the Medlin clan. Because of research conducted by Jack Wiesman, associate editor of "The Pathfinder", historical journal of Westlake, something of the cabin and the techniques of early building is known.

Article submitted by Joyce Gibson Roach, editor of "The Pathfinder", historical preservation journal for Town of Westlake.

## ECONOMIC STIMULUS MONEY

Did you get yours? Have your elderly neighbors, disabled family members, or others received theirs? Many retirees and veterans, people who have not needed to file an IRS tax return for several years, remain unaware that they need only file a brief form in order to claim their economic stimulus monies.



For additional information call: **CALL 2-1-1**

The form and instructions are also available on the IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

### Question from previous issue was:

There are 18 cities in Precinct 3. How many can you name? Some are partial portions of a city denoted by \*.

**Answer:** Arlington\*, Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Flower Mound\*, Fort Worth\*, Grand Prairie\*, Grapevine, Haltom City\*, Haslet, Hurst, Keller, N. Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Southlake, Trophy Club, Watauga, Westlake.



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



Precinct 3 crew placing asphalt on Plantation Road in Colleyville with the aid of the Texas heat.

### A Short Course in Road Repairs 101

The summer months are the best time of the year for constructing roads as high

temperatures make the asphalt easier to work with. The temperature of the asphalt when we place it on the roadbed is between 310 and 325 degrees. Add the ambient temperatures in the high nineties and low 100's and you have a pretty hot environment. We do the same road work during the other seasons but the environment is not as conducive to road construction as the summer months.

In addition to maintenance and reconstruction work on eleven roads in our area of unincorporated Tarrant County, we have completed an additional eleven projects performed through Interlocal Agreements with various cities in Precinct Three. These projects included major road base repairs, asphalt overlays, and complete rehabilitation of roads.

To rehabilitate a road, we grind up the original asphalt surface and mix it in with the

dirt. Since most of our roads carry a lot of truck traffic, we add several inches of rock to the road base for stability, followed by cement for a solid base under the new asphalt layer to provide a smooth riding surface.



Placing flex base on Wagley Robertson Road in Fort Worth

# BULLETIN BOARD

**Veteran's Benefit Fair**  
 Where: Resource Connection  
 Conference Center  
 2300 Circle Dr. #2300  
 Fort Worth, TX 76119  
 Time: **Saturday, Aug. 23rd**  
 10 am to 2 pm  
 Questions? 817-531-5645

**\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\***  
**Tarrant County Prescription Discount Card**  
 Save an average of 20% on your pharmacy drugs. **There is no enrollment form and no membership fee.** One card per family is all you need. You and your family members may use your discount card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance.  
 Call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancex.com>



\$\$\$\$\$  
**Tax Free Weekend**  
 Get your school supplies  
**Aug. 15, 16 & 17th**

It's Back to School Roundup  
**Aug. 23rd 8am-4pm**  
 Amon G. Carter Exhibit Hall  
[www.backtoschoolroundup.org](http://www.backtoschoolroundup.org)



**LABOR DAY**  
 Sept. 1st  
**County Holiday**

Grandparents Day!  
 Sept. 7th

**Patriot Day**  
 Sept. 11

First day of Autumn  
 Sept. 22nd



Last day to Register to Vote!  
**October 6th**

**National Boss' Day**  
**October 16th**

**October 31st**

**Tarrant County Commissioners Court**  
 Every Tuesday at  
**10:00 a.m.**  
 100 E Weatherford  
 Fort Worth, TX  
 Unless otherwise stated

**August**  
 5, 12, 19 & 26th

**September**  
 9, 16, 23, 30th

**October**  
 7, 14, 21 & 28th



## Transportation

- Tarrant County Transportation Department ..... [www.tarrantcounty.com](http://www.tarrantcounty.com)
- Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition ..... [www.trtcmobility.org](http://www.trtcmobility.org)
- Fort Worth Transportation Authority ..... [www.the-t.com](http://www.the-t.com)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments ..... [www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org)
- North Texas Tollway Authority ..... [www.ntta.org](http://www.ntta.org)
- Texas Department of Transportation ..... [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)
- Texas High Speed Rail Transportation Corporation .. [www.thsrc.com](http://www.thsrc.com)

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](mailto: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

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

### Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

Gary Fickes, Commissioner  
[ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:ggfickes@tarrantcounty.com)

**Staff**

Carolyn Sims, Precinct Administrator  
[cssims@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:cssims@tarrantcounty.com)

Mary Ann Rike, Exec. Secretary  
[mriike@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:mriike@tarrantcounty.com)

Theresa Parsons, Exec. Secretary  
[tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:tcparsons@tarrantcounty.com)

**Northeast Sub-Courthouse**  
 645 Grapevine Highway #6  
 Hurst TX 76054  
 817-581-3600

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

## NE County Contacts

	NE Sub-Courthouse	Southlake Town Hall
Constable	817-581-3610	817-481-8059
County Clerk	817-581-3604	817-481-8179
Passport Office	_____	817-481-8190
Justice of the Peace	817-581-3625	817-481-8132
Juvenile Services	817-581-3645	_____
Travel - Public Health	_____	817-321-4707
Tax Office	817-581-3636	817-481-8141

Precinct 3 Maintenance Center 817-514-5000

**Public Health Centers**

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

Tarrant County Website: [www.tarrantcounty.com](http://www.tarrantcounty.com)