

Northeast Newsletter

Tarrant County - Precinct 3

"Working together for a better tomorrow"



April 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

It looks like winter is over for the year. My buddy, Rex, decided that he was tired of taking goofy photos with me, so he's not with us this edition. We tried to get him in a canoe on a river with a lifejacket on. It wasn't pretty!

The past two months have been very busy here in the Commissioner's Office. With the Texas Legislature in session, we've spent a number of days in Austin. As with any legislative session, there are a number of bills that can affect counties and local government. Many of them can have an adverse effect on our citizens' lives and our County Budget. During the session, Tarrant County has a full time staff member in Austin who monitors all legislative action and reports daily to Commissioners Court. We have a great group of legislators representing Precinct Three. They include Senators Jane Nelson and Wendy Davis, Representatives Todd Smith, Vicki Truitt, Charlie Geren, and Kelly Hancock.

In this edition we have articles concerning the Tarrant County Historical Commission. I have been appointed as the Commissioners Court liaison to this important Commission. My degree is in History and I look forward to working

with this dedicated group of citizens. We are also focusing on a non-profit organization called SNAP or Special Needs Assistance Partners. Our plan is to introduce you to various non-profit groups that operate here in NETC. We will be featuring our great Independent School Districts in the upcoming months. We have six ISDs and in this edition we introduce the Grapevine/Colleyville ISD.

NETC had a big day at the Texas Transportation Commission meeting on March 26. The Commission awarded the contract for work to begin on the DFW Connector (Grapevine Funnel). This is great news for those who face this bottleneck going to work and coming home every day. Numerous people have worked for years to see this project started. Thanks to them—and especially to Jerry Hodge with the City of Grapevine for his dedication to this project.

Thank you for viewing our Newsletter. I hope you'll join us on May 16th for our LifeGift "Second Chance Run" to benefit organ donation.

Gary Fickes



Commissioner Gary Fickes

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Question of the Month

One of Sam Houston's sons was appointed to one of the highest offices in the state. Which son and which office?

(Answer found on page 6)



LifeGift Second Chance Run

Saturday, May 16th at 1701 River Run, Fort Worth TX

1 mile walk/run starts at 8:00 a.m. ~ 5K walk/run immediately follows.

If you would like to participate by joining "Team Fickes" for the 5K, please email: mriike@tarrantcounty.com or call 817-581-3600



One individual donor can save up to eight lives through organ donations, while tissue donations can enhance the lives of as many as 75 others.

www.lifegift.org

There are over 101,000 people who need an organ transplant today!

Employee Spotlight



Carolyn Sims

Precinct Administrator

As Precinct Administrator (Chief of Staff) for County Commissioner Gary Fickes and a native Texan (born in Dallas), Carolyn Sims has served Northeast Tarrant County in many different capacities which has led her to this position with the County. After graduating from the University of North Texas, she worked in a bank and then applied her education degree by teaching 8th graders how to type (yes,

typewriters not computers), was a middle school counselor, and had her own secretarial business (that is what it was called in the 80s). Being a mom of two wonderful kids - Trey and Kate - she went back to work full time as President of the Colleyville Chamber of Commerce for six years and then the Arts Council of Northeast Tarrant County for seven years.

Representative Vicki Truitt recruited her to serve as Chief of Staff in Austin during the 2003 session. After that session, she returned to the area to work for the Town of Westlake, Westlake Academy Foundation, and then the Northwest ISD Education Foundation. All of this has added to her awareness and education about Northeast Tarrant County and its people.

Carolyn loves being able to help others whether it is serving on boards and/or committees, listening to people's concerns, sharing job opportunities, or providing information to people on what Tarrant

County can do to assist them through Juvenile Services, MHMR, Resource Connection, Community Development, Human Services, Public Health, jail re-entry programs, CPS, and the list continues.

One of the many things that she has learned is that we grow by taking risks, and sometimes the most difficult risk is to be honest with ourselves and with others.

On a more personal note ~

What do you do for fun? *"I enjoy spending time with friends and family".*

Favorite Movie? *"Field of Dreams"*

Favorite Restaurant? *"Abuelos and Classic Café"*

Vacation spot? *"What a great idea!"*

Last Book Read? *"90 minutes in Heaven"*

People would be surprised to know... *"I tried out for Miss Denton."*

TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



What is the Tarrant County Historical Commission (TCHC)?

The Tarrant County Historical Commission (TCHC) is part of the county historical commissions authorized by the Texas Legislature for the objective of *"initiating and conducting programs for the preservation of the historical heritage of the county."*

The TCHC currently has thirty-three commissioners appointed to serve the Tarrant County area. The county's general governing body, the Commissioners Court, appoints interested individuals that meet the criteria to serve for two-year terms. The TCHC operates under its own bylaws with close association with the

Texas Historical Commission (THC) in Austin, Texas.

In Tarrant County we have four precincts, these appointed Historical Commissioners represent their precinct and Tarrant County. To view a map of the precinct, visit: <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eCommissioner/site/default.asp>

This site will provide the map of Tarrant County separated in precincts and will also list the County Court Commissioner representing your area.

To provide accessibility to your Tarrant County Historical Commissioner for your particular area, the TCHC's Public Relations Committee is launching an updated website that is under the county's main website. In the coming weeks, the PR Committee will also enhance the TCHC website by placing each appointed **Historical Commissioner's** profile so residents may contact them direct with any questions or projects related to historical preservation.

All TCHC members undergo an annual orientation meeting every February. The TCHC also meets regularly six times a year and these meetings are open to the public. In addition to TCHC meetings, various committee meetings, and public relations presentations, the commissioners are continuously working to recognize, publicize, educate and preserve your county's history.

The TCHC's ongoing joint efforts with the numerous historic and preservation organizations throughout Tarrant County strive to protect and preserve historic treasures for generations to come.

For direct contact:

Tarrant County Historical Commission
200 Taylor Street, 5th Floor
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 884-3272

by Juanita Gonzalez, 2009 TCHC Chair

For more information, please visit: www.tarrantcounty.com/eHistory/site/default.asp

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SOUTHLAKE



Southlake Town Square

The Southlake Town Square (www.SouthlakeTownSquare.com) developed by Cooper and Stebbins continues to be a strong regional draw for shopping, dining, and hospitality services. At approximately 1.3 million total square feet, Town Square is home to 100 retailers, 28 restaurants and other food & beverage establishments, a 14-screen movie theater, and over 90 additional businesses serving the region. The 248 room Hilton Dallas / Southlake Town Square hotel includes over 15,000 sq. ft. of convention and meeting space, and draws visitors to Southlake from

around the country for both business and leisure travel. Town Square also includes important government anchors, including the City / County Town Hall, the Southlake Library and the U.S. Post Office, as well as 43 Brownstone homes, which have established Town Square as a sought-after residential address. 2009 additions to the Square will include Vera Bradley, Crazy Eights and other national specialty retailers (subject to availability of space), as well as an expanded flagship Victoria's Secret store. Within the Brownstone District, new Brownstones are expected to be under construction by the end of the year.



Champion Crossing

Activity continues in Champion Crossing, a development by Champion Partners (www.ChampionCrossing.com) and leased by Glacier Commercial. The project includes six (6) buildings totaling approximately 114,500 square feet. Four of the six buildings have either been leased or sold. Buildings three (28,970 SF) and six (20,000) are still available and can satisfy tenants from 4,500 – 28,970 SF.



Carillon



The City of Southlake recently approved zoning entitlements for Carillon, a mixed-use project proposed by Hines, a privately-owned, international real estate firm (www.Hines.com). Located at the northeast corner of State Highway 114 and White Chapel in Southlake, Caril-

lon is a 285-acre mixed-use project that will include approximately 350,000 sf of class A office, 330,000 sf of restaurants and retail, a 200-key hotel, and 404 single-family residential lots. The 224-acre residential component of Carillon is comprised of single family homes ranging in size from 2,700 to 4,200 square feet villas in the Village District and 4,000 to 8,000 square feet traditional homes in the Chateaux District. Many of the homes in the Chateaux District are designed to include lake and park views. Approximately 68

acres of parks, lakes, trails, and open space are designed throughout the development.

The first of four phases in Carillon is expected to be complete in 2010.



For more information on the City of Southlake: www.ci.southlake.tx.us

Precinct 3 Maintenance News 817-514-5000



Precinct 3 Maintenance goes GREEN!



Precinct 3 Maintenance Center
7301 Precinct Line Road
North Richland Hills, TX

In the fall of 2008, the City of North Richland Hills' Cultural Arts Division initiated a grant funded program at Birdville High School called Green Teens. The Green Teens established a set of "green" criteria to help local businesses reach the "Green Teens Approved Business" status. A few months ago, an introductory letter was received by Neal Welch, Director of the Precinct Three Maintenance Center. As a group, the Precinct Three Maintenance Center Staff decided to take the challenge of "going

green"!

After implementing 23 actions, Precinct 3 Maintenance Facility has become a Top Tier Green Teens Approved Business. Some of the practices implemented were installing window tinting, programmable thermostats, motion sensors for lights, installing CFL (compact fluorescent lamps) bulbs where applicable, mulching flowerbeds, and using rechargeable batteries. "I'm proud of our team for caring about the future of our children and grandchildren. It's important for all of us to do what we can to preserve our air, water and land", said Neal.

Neal Welch, Director of Field Operations



North Texas SNAP, Inc. was formed in 1999 as a non-profit organization by a group of concerned parents to address the needs of teenagers and young adults with cognitive disabilities in Northeast Tarrant County. A cognitive disability is any disability that impacts an individual's ability to access, process or remember information.

SNAP's membership represents various types of disabilities such as Down Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, mental retardation, neurological impairment, developmental disability and autism.

By working in unison, SNAP has become a strong voice for change for its Members. SNAP's membership is comprised of individuals with cognitive disabilities (Members), their families (Family Members), and a group of friends, teachers and other people in the community (Affiliate Members). SNAP's Members have the same hopes and dreams as their peers without disabilities. These Members want to have jobs, friends, relationships and decent, affordable housing. SNAP is sincerely committed to helping these individuals live, work and play in their own community.

SNAP is committed to advocating changes in the public service system. SNAP's desire is to create support systems and integrated services within the cities located in Northeast Tarrant County that can impact the lives of those Members. By working with the local community, leveraging public and private resources, SNAP embraces the needs of its membership.

SNAP provides the following services:

- Affordable, safe housing with appropriate supports in place;
- Employment opportunities and support;
- Educational opportunities;
- Transportation services;
- Serve as a voice for the Special Needs Community;
- Maintain meaningful social and recreational activities.

Article courtesy of:

Shay Girard, SNAP's Executive Director

For more information: www.ntxsnap.org

North Texas SNAP's 1st Annual 5k Run & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, May 16, 2009

7:30 am Registration, 8:15 am Dog Costume Contest (Prizes!),
8:30 am 1 mile fun run/walk, 8:45 am 5K run

Bob Eden Park Euless, TX (East of 121 at Cheek-Sparger)

All proceeds go to help support programs such as: Housing, Transportation, Work internship programs, J.O.B.S. Club, Social activities, Educational opportunities. Register online at www.ntxsnap.org or for more information, please contact Shay Girard at 214-673-3294 or shaygirard@verizon.net

Tarrant County Veteran Services' Benefits Fair

Saturday, May 9th - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Registration begins at 10 a.m.)

Resource Connection Conference Center - 2300 Circle Drive, Bldg. 2300, Fort Worth 76119

For additional information, please call 817-531-5645

NE Tarrant County Events
City by City

Arlington www.ci.arlington.tx.us

Grand Prairie www.gptx.org

Richland Hills www.richlandhills.com

Bedford www.ci.bedford.tx.us

Grapevine www.grapevinetexas.gov

04/16 Volunteers of the Year Dinner
06/06 MasterWorks Concert Series
"Texas Gypsies" at Rosebud Park in RH

Colleyville www.colleyville.com

Haltom City www.haltomcitytx.com

Roanoke www.roanoketexas.com
Evening on Oak St / 2009 Concert Series
04/16 John Adams Group Jazz/Blues
05/14 Texas Gypsies Classic Rock
06/04 The Kildares Celtic Rock

Euless www.ci.euless.tx.us
04/13 & 06/08 MasterWorks Series
7pm/Euless Public Library/201 N Ector
(www.artsnetc.org)
04/25 - 04/26 Arbor Daze

Haslet www.haslet.org
Hurst www.ci.hurst.tx.us
04/23 & 5/28 Masterworks (outdoor)
(www.artsnetc.org)
04/25 & 05/02 Clean Up Hurst
7 am to Noon

Southlake www.ci.southlake.tx.us

Flower Mound www.flower-mound.com
04/17 & 18 Wild About Flower Mound
Bakersfield Park
05/23 Summer Splash Day
11am-2pm Community Activity Center

Keller www.cityofkeller.com

Trophy Club www.trophyclub.org

Fort Worth www.fortworth.com
www.willrogersmemorialcenter.com
www.fortworthconventioncenter.com

N. Richland Hills www.nrhtx.com

Watauga www.ci.watauga.tx.us

Westlake www.westlake-tx.org

Also see www.artsnetc.org for the surrounding area.





An Historical Moment In Time

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Jennings



Thomas Jefferson Jennings

On March 24, 2009, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court accepted from the Amon Carter Museum the donation of two portraits of early influential leaders in the County and Fort Worth. Believed to be the first portraits painted in Fort Worth, they were executed by Eugene Pierrot, a French immigrant who was probably living in Dallas at the time of the paintings. The subjects are Thomas Jefferson Jennings and his wife, Sarah Hyde Mason Jennings. Mr.

Jennings (1801-1881) was born in Virginia, and came to Texas in 1840, where he married Mrs. Sarah Hyde Mason, a widow, in 1844 in Nacogdoches. He served as Attorney General of the State from 1852-1856, later serving as representative of Cherokee County. He practiced law in Tyler, moving to Fort Worth about 1874. Having been in ill health for years, he died in 1881 in Fort Worth.

Sarah Hyde Mason Jennings (1816-1893) was a Texas War for Independence widow and entitled to Texas lands for her husband's service. She patented two large surveys (totaling 1280 acres) in Tarrant County on February 5, 1856. She sent her son, Hyde Jennings, to Fort Worth to manage her real estate interests in the early 1870's. Here he platted the 542 acre Sarah Jennings survey in what is now downtown Fort Worth. (this was approximately W. 7th Street south to Pennsylvania Avenue, bordered by Throckmorton & Jennings Avenue on the east and Summit Avenue on the west) In 1873, he and his father worked with E. M. Daggett, K. M. Van Zandt, and H. G. Hendricks to donate 320 acres to be used for railroad purposes as an enticement to bring the Texas & Pacific R. R. to Fort Worth. In 1876, she donated Block 1 in the Jennings East Addition to the city of Fort Worth to be for public use as a park. It was to be called Hyde Park in

honor of her parents and became the first park in the city. By 1901, plans to build a Carnegie Library on part of the site, split the property diagonally (at 9th Street), placing a small park across from the new library building. Today, the city plans to build a city square on the original library site.

It is likely that the Thomas Jennings portrait was done from a photograph following his death, while Mrs. Jennings's portrait was done from life. She is shown seated on the end of a sofa dressed in black with a wonderful white lace collar pinned at her throat. While gazing directly at the viewer, there is a softness in her gaze



Sarah Hyde Mason Jennings

not matched by her husband's sober staring look. He is dressed in a black suit, with his long beard touching to the top of his shirt. The pallor of his complexion and the drawn look of his eyes remind the viewer of his long time illness.

The paintings were given to the museum in 1971 by Edwin E. Bewley, Jr, great grandson of the subjects. Long displayed in the museum's library, they were rarely available to the public. Thinking this an unfortunate role for these two early civic leaders, museum administrators approached the County offering

the gift in hopes that they would be displayed in a more public site. The County is looking forward to placing them near the Commissioners Court chambers to further the present generation's understanding and appreciation for the County's rich history.

For more information, please contact
Tarrant County Archives at 817-884-3272.

www.tarrantcounty.com



ARTICLE COURTESY OF SUSAN PRITCHETT

Dallas Baptist University Patsy and Herman Smith Center

Commissioners Court of Tarrant County noted the dedication of the Patsy and Herman Smith Center of the DBU in Hurst-Colleyville on Thursday, March 26th, 2009. In 2005, through the long-standing generosity of Patsy and Herman Smith, DBU opened its first regional academic learning center in Tarrant County with the Hurst-Colleyville Campus. The new center will provide additional classroom space for the 450 students currently attending.



Pictured left to right: DBU President, Dr. Gary Cook; Pct. 3, Rebecca Barksdale; and DBU Exec. VP, Dr. Blair Blackburn.



Pictured from left to right: Roger Williams; Deb Powers; Managing Director of the Northern Region, Ron Ehrle; and Commissioner Gary Fickes.

The Commissioners Court proclaimed the month of April 2009 as National Donate Life Month in Tarrant County to draw public attention to this great need. More than 101,000 people in the US are in need of an organ for transplant with someone added to the waiting list every 12 minutes.



www.lifegift.org

**GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD
BUILDING ON LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE**



Dr. Kay Waggoner

**Superintendent
of Schools**

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

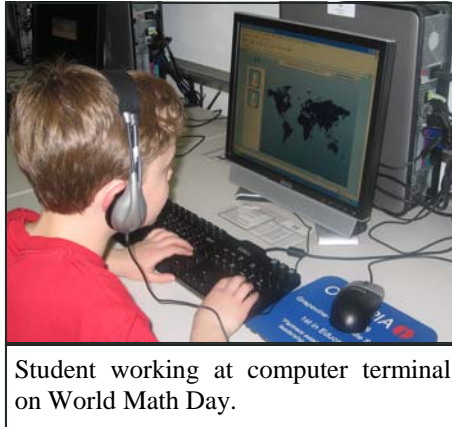


Grapevine-Colleyville ISD enjoys an abundant history, rooted in nearly 140 years of tradition. From the first area school built in 1869 to the renovations and upgrades taking place today under the current bond program, the GCISD communities long have felt a special connection to and sense of pride in their schools.

While GCISD is grounded in tradition, the focus is on the future and on success for all students. The 54.1-square-mile district consists of 17 traditional schools and two alternative campuses, and serves approximately 13,860 students and 1,850 employees. With a mission "to be THE BEST," Grapevine-Colleyville ISD is committed to educational excellence for all children.

The district is recognized for excellence at local, state and national levels. GCISD is rated a Recognized school district under the state accountability system. In addition, nine schools achieved the state's

highest rating of Exemplary. GCISD has 11 National Blue Ribbon Schools, including Heritage Elementary School, which earned the honor under the "No Child Left Behind" initiative. Eleven GCISD schools made the most recent list of higher performing schools as determined by the National Center for Educational Achievement in conjunction with Just for the Kids.



Student working at computer terminal on World Math Day.

Bransford Elementary and Timberline Elementary were included in the Texas Business and Education Coalition's Honor Roll for high-performing schools. Both high schools have been named to the lists of top high schools by *D Magazine*, *Texas Monthly* and *Newsweek*. Grapevine High

School also has been recognized with the College Readiness Award by the Texas ACT Council. GCISD students consistently perform at high levels on district, state and national assessments. In addition to excellence in the classroom, GCISD students earn top honors in extra-curricular and athletic activities. Our educators continually work to help each student achieve his or her best performance.

The district also supports employees, families and communities through programs including the Employee Childhood and Development Center (employee day care), JPS School-Based Health Clinic, and district-wide Environmental Stewardship program.

Through comprehensive efforts of educators, parents and community members, GCISD continues building on the legacy to provide a 21st-Century education for all students.



The Colleyville Heritage High School Panther Band Drum Line.

For more information please visit: www.gcisd-k12.org

It's Spring Cleaning Time!

Unincorporated Tarrant County Household Chemical Collection



The Tarrant County Transportation Department is proud to announce the following service to the citizens of unincorporated Tarrant County. The Environmental Collection Center (ECC), operated by the City of Fort Worth, is a regional effort by cities in Tarrant County to provide citizens a safe and effective way to dispose of household hazardous chemicals and wastes. This service is FREE to citizens of unincorporated Tarrant County and participating cities.

If you are a resident of unincorporated Tarrant County and would like to properly dispose of your household hazardous chemicals or waste, please contact Mr. Robert Berndt at 817-884-2634 or by e-mail at rberndt@tarrantcounty.com, before going to the ECC. If you would like further information, please visit the Tarrant County website at:

<http://www.tarrantcounty.com/etransportation/cwp/browse.asp?a=751&C=43605>

Question of the Month

Something different...

We are going to start giving the answer to the "Question of the Month" in the same issue so we don't have to keep you guessing! This issue will have the answer to February and April's "Question of the Month" to make this transition.

Now, I have just one question, "Have we confused anyone yet"?

Question of the Month from February:

What elected offices did Sam Houston hold during his life?

Answer to February's Question of the Month

(6), District Attorney-Nashville Tennessee, U.S. Congressman-Tennessee, Governor of Tennessee, President of The Republic of Texas (1836-1838, 1841-1844), Congress of the Republic of Texas, U.S. Senator-Texas, Governor of Texas.

Answer to April's Question of the Month

Andrew Jackson Houston (1854-1941) was appointed U.S. Senator from Texas in 1941 at the age of 87 upon the death of Senator Morris Sheppard. Senator Houston attended only one committee meeting and soon after died in Washington.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
COUNTY SERVICES**

Texas Association of Counties recently has a website focused specifically on Texas County government and how to get county services. Check out www.texascounties4u.org to view a series of "how to" videos.

Tarrant County Veterans Services Administration Benefit Outreach
Assistance free of charge.
Call for appointment 817-531-5645

LUNCH 'N' LEARN
Getting Your Records Organized
April 23 from 11:30am to 1pm
Tarrant County Plaza Bldg., 200 Taylor St (5th Fl) FW 76102
Register by Phone 817-884-1294, or Fax 817-884-1941, or email: tbell@ag.tamu.edu

BULLETIN BOARD



Good Friday
(County Holiday)
Tarrant County Offices closed
April 10



Cinco de Mayo
May 5



Flag Day
June 14



Mothers' Day
May 10th

Fathers' Day
June 21

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY
APRIL 22

Memorial Day
(County Holiday)
Tarrant County Offices closed
May 25



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

April
7, 14, 21, & 28th

May
5, 12, 19, & 26th

June
2, 9, 16, 23, & 30th

Transportation

- Tarrant County Transportation Department www.tarrantcounty.com
- Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition www.trtcmobility.org
- Fort Worth Transportation Authority www.the-t.com
- North Central Texas Council of Governments www.nctcog.org
- North Texas Tollway Authority www.ntta.org
- Texas Department of Transportation www.txdot.gov
- Texas High Speed Rail Transportation Corporation... www.thsrctc.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

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

Pct. 3 ~ Commissioner's Office

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gffickes@tarrantcounty.com

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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 Tarrant County Contacts

	NE Sub-Courthouse	Southlake Town Hall
Constable Pct. 3	817-581-3610	817-481-8059
County Clerk	817-581-3604	817-481-8179
Passport Office	_____	817-481-8190
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	817-581-3625	817-481-8132
Juvenile Services	817-581-3645	_____
Travel - Pub. Health	_____	817-321-4707
Tax Office	817-581-3636	817-481-8141
Maintenance Center	817-514-5000	
Constable Pct. 1	817-884-1385	Serve a section of Haltom City, Hurst, Fort Worth, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, and Watauga.
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	817-884-1395	

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