

COUNTY JUDGE Quarterly

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



Tarrant County Judge B. Glen Whitley

America isn't broken and neither are its people

As I approach the last months of my term as County Judge, I have had the opportunity to make a few "farewell addresses" around Tarrant County. Recently, as I prepared to speak to an audience and share some parting thoughts, I was inspired to read President Washington's own farewell address. I won't presume to equate the role of County Judge with our nation's first president, but his words struck me as astonishingly relevant.

"[Partisanship]...agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, [and] foments occasionally riot and insurrection…" Those words, spoken by President George Washington 226 years ago, could have just as easily been written today.

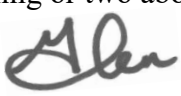
We live in a fractured time. A time of fraying institutions and a gridlock that threatens any meaningful progress to combat our most serious challenges. Pew research shows trust in elected officials is at an all-time low, all while most people are still looking to their government to perform its basic institutional functions. We know that we need leadership, and we know we can do better.

> *"[Partisanship]...agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, [and] foments occasionally riot and insurrection..."*
>
> *— President George Washington*

Our political party system is no longer serving the purpose of promoting good governance or incentivizing serious problem-solving. Partisanship, the kind that President Washington warned us about, is driving policy to the fringes and failing to represent most people.

I don't have all the solutions, but one idea I am very interested in is the non-partisan blanket primary. In this system, all the candidates that would normally be on either a Republican or Democratic primary ballot run in the same election, allowing all voters one full slate of candidates. This is working in other states, and I believe it can work here in Texas. A non-partisan blanket primary would allow Texans to take back a little of the control currently held by our parties. Political parties are interested primarily in fundraising and winning the next race – often at the expense of bold leadership or commonsense compromise.

America isn't broken and neither are its people, but it's time for the political parties to get out of the way so that our best and brightest can move forward to tackle real challenges and lead America into tomorrow. Maybe Washington knew a thing or two about leadership, after all.



JPS Health Network Re-Verified as Level 1 Trauma Center



On July 11, 2022, JPS leaders proudly announced the health network has been re-verified as a Level I Trauma Center – the highest of four levels – by the American College of Trauma Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

JPS is the only Level I Trauma facility in Tarrant County and is one of just 20 such designated facilities in Texas.

This is the fourth time the designation has been renewed since JPS was originally named a Level I Trauma Center in 2009 by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). The designation lasts until 2025.

This re-verification means that JPS continues to lead Tarrant County and surrounding areas in the field of trauma care.

"Every person deserves to have timely access to exceptional trauma care. The Level I Trauma program is an important distinction for JPS and is reflective of JPS Health Network's commitment to providing the highest level of service to our community," said Trauma Medical Director Rajesh Gandhi, MD, PhD, FACS, FCCM. "To JPS, the Level I designation is a source of pride and shows the community that we are dedicated to comprehensive trauma care."

Having a Level I Trauma Center in Tarrant County ensures our community has access to the highest acuity and quality of trauma care.

"As a Level I Trauma Center, JPS provides the most comprehensive trauma care, and ensures that every specialist, nursing unit, and support service that is involved in a patient encounter is prepared to address the specialty needs of injured patients," said Cassie Lyell, DNP, RN, TCRN, Executive Director, JPS Trauma, Acute Care Surgery, & Forensic Nursing Services. "Essentially, every department at JPS contributes to the Trauma Center."

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 1987, the College of Trauma Surgeons' Consultation and Verification Program for Hospitals promotes the development of trauma centers in which participants provide not only the hospital resources necessary for trauma care, but also the entire spectrum of care to address the needs of all injured patients from the prehospital phase through the rehabilitation process.

The re-verification process is rigorous. A team of four surveyors – two trauma surgeons, one emergency physician, and one trauma nurse leader – review patient care, interview staff, and tour JPS. That group, and then the Committee on Trauma, verify that JPS is meeting all 311 criteria to be a Level I Trauma Center.

In addition to trauma patient care, JPS Trauma Services provides injury and violence prevention programs such as Stop the Bleed courses for the public, offers trauma education for clinicians, and sponsors a national Annual Trauma Symposium.



JPS Health Network Emergency Department

The Tarrant County Hospital District, known as JPS Health Network, is a tax-supported organization serving the healthcare needs of families in Tarrant County. Home to Tarrant County's only Level I Trauma Center, JPS provides adult inpatient care at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, and offers comprehensive services including primary care, behavioral health, and pharmacy at more than 25 community locations. JPS is governed by an 11-member Board of Managers, whose members are appointed by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court.

JPS was named the Best Hospital for America by Washington Monthly magazine and the Lown Institute in 2020, and Outstanding Healthcare System by D CEO Magazine.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Easier Access to Life-Saving Services



Nationally, the suicide rate has climbed thirty percent since 1999. In 2020, 2.4 million calls were made to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Out of these calls, 189,494 were from Texas with 43,312 being transferred to the Veterans Crisis Line and 4,916 requesting the Spanish Language Line. Additionally:

- In 2020, the U.S. had one death by suicide every 11 minutes.
- For people ages 10–34, suicide is a leading cause of death.
- Suicide is most often preventable. For every one person that dies by suicide annually, 316 people seriously consider suicide.

Behind each of these data points, there are people, families and communities who have been impacted. Yet, in the face of these urgent realities, there is hope.

On July 16, 2022, Tarrant County joined the rest of the United States in beginning to use the 988 dialing code. 988 is an easier-to-remember number for people to access a strengthened and expanded network of crisis call centers. While 988 is the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800 -273-TALK (8255) will not go away. Dialing ***either phone number*** will reach the Lifeline.

The Lifeline connects people to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress in multiple languages. The chat feature, currently only available in English, will be available through the Lifeline's website at https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat..

Crisis centers are a key component of mental health care within each county and state across the United States. The centers act as a safety net for those at serious risk, especially those with nowhere else to turn. Texas will have five crisis centers supporting the Lifeline including the ICARE Call Center of MHMR of Tarrant County. Crisis Centers are free of charge and serve the entire community 24/7.

Calls will be routed to their closest center based on area code with the goal of connecting callers to counselors in their own state and community. Counselors at these local crisis centers are familiar with resources within their community and can provide referrals to local resources.

People can use 988 if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The Lifeline works! Since the Lifeline began in 2005, it has served as an invaluable resource, helping thousands of people overcome suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress every day. With 988, these life-saving services will be even easier to reach.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

There is hope.



988 LÍNEA DE PREVENCIÓN DEL SUICIDIO Y CRISIS

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

United Way of Tarrant County

Serving Tarrant County For 100 Years

We spent some time with Leah King, President and CEO of United Way of Tarrant County, discussing the organization's 100th anniversary, her career, and the next 100 years.

Q: ***Celebrating 100 years is impressive. What is the United Way of Tarrant County's greatest achievement in the last 100 years?***

A: Serving this community for 100 years straight, without interruption, would have to be it. United Way of Tarrant County has been there through some of our community's and nation's toughest times. During the Great Depression the organization stood strong and provided unemployment relief and lunches for children in need. During World War II, United Way of Tarrant County distributed government flour and raised War Chest funds. Less than a decade after the Older Americans Act was signed into law, United Way of Tarrant County was designated by the State of Texas as the Area Agency on Aging for Tarrant County. And, of course, most recently responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri, United Way of Tarrant County remains here to serve the needs of our beloved community.

Q: ***How did your career lead you to becoming CEO of United Way?***

A: Lucky for me, most of the organizations where I've worked over the years partnered with United Way of Tarrant County, so I was already engaged in volunteer activities and as a donor. I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to work here, let alone lead the organization. My professional background in investor relations, marketing communications, and public affairs would turn out to be the ideal experience needed to lead this amazing organization.



"We hope our second century of community service is catalyzed by all of Tarrant County knowing what we do and participating with us to get it done!"

Q: ***What do you wish more people knew about United Way of Tarrant County?***

A: I wish people knew the number of ways we touch our community. Gone are the days of simply raising money to "pass it through" to other nonprofits. While that remains an important part of our work, we also support the community directly in a variety of ways. We are here to identify issues through research and inform our community of our findings. The research data, coupled with community input, directs our community investments, and we invite others to engage with us through volunteering, as a donor, or in the manner that most resonates with the individual or organization. So, what does that look like in action? Our Mission United team supports other veteran services organizations but also directly supports active-duty military members, veterans and their immediate families in addressing their needs. Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has brought back $150 million in tax refunds to our community's residents over the past 13 years. The Area Agency on Aging continues to provide vital services, such as home modifications, medical supplies, and support to residents of long-term care facilities by advocating, investigating and resolving complaints. We provide advice, guidance and counsel to a number of organizations directly and through our community assessment research.

Q: ***2-1-1 is a vital resource for some of our older citizens. Can you explain what services 2-1-1 provides?***

A: It is important to know that 2-1-1 is powered by a team of compassionate people who are highly trained in accessing community resources. They are available 24/7 to help any resident regardless of age, income or where they live and connect them to local resources like housing, food, transportation, and health care. They also connect callers directly to the Aging and Disability Resource Center for additional assistance.

Q: ***What is the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity facing United Way of Tarrant County right now?***

A: Our community continues to grow very rapidly which brings about a diverse set of needs. We need to help our County continue to rebuild following the ravages of the pandemic and address ongoing needs exacerbated by current inflation so that our entire community can be safe and healthy, free from hunger and fear with a heaping dose of inclusivity regardless of one's level of ability, where you live, who you love, or where you worship. We truly are so much stronger when we unite in support of our community.

County Approves $25M in Small Business Grants

Applications Close August 31st



The Tarrant County Commissioners Court recently allocated $25 million in federal recovery funding to assist small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with workforce, retention, recruitment, training, and development efforts.

"We know that small businesses continue to bear the brunt of the economic impacts of the pandemic," said Judge Whitley. "These funds will help more local businesses stay open, keep their employees, grow their success, and continue to be a strong force in our county."

Impacted small businesses that had 50 or fewer employees during the first quarter of 2020 can apply for grant amounts up to $27,500 based on eligibility requirements.

Funding is limited and applications will be processed in the order they are received. Applications opened on July 11th and the deadline to apply is August 31st at 5 p.m., or until funds are depleted.

For more information, visit: www.tarrantcounty.com/recovery.

Tarrant County History

Across

3. The Historic 1895 Courthouse is made from what type of stone?

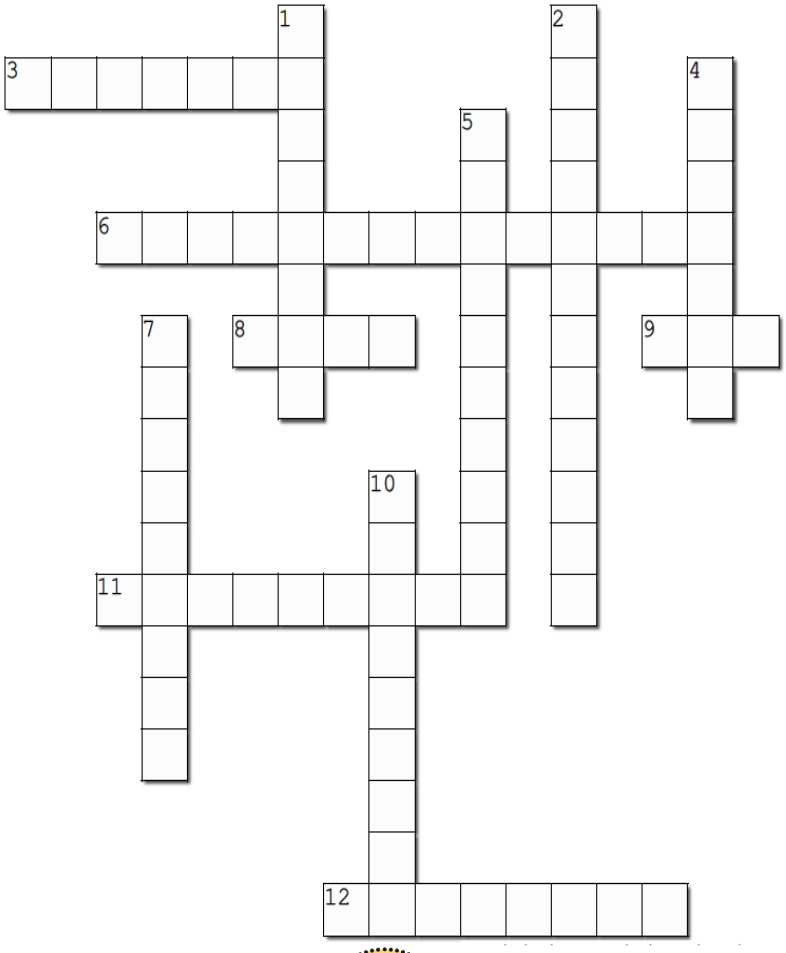
6. What general is the county named after?

8. How many soldiers from Tarrant County have received our nation's highest honor for valor?

9. Number of years it took to build the 1895 Courthouse.

11. What city is the county seat of Tarrant County?

12. This street is considered to be a part of the Chisholm Trail which came through central Fort Worth from the south.



Down

1. Internationally famous dancer, Vernon Castle, was killed near what city training Canadian pilots in WWI?

2. Tarrant County is one of 26 counties created from this colony in 1849.

4. Fort Worth is also known as what name after becoming a major center for buying and shipping livestock.

5. Type of transportation used by train passengers to continue their journey west.

7. People drove their cars on this lake when it froze over in 1930.

10. Original county seat until special election in 1860.

Answer Key on page 6.

FIFA World Cup Coming to Arlington



The 2026 FIFA World Cup is coming to Tarrant County. AT&T Stadium in Arlington will serve as a host site in one of 16 cities selected worldwide, according to the announcement made in June.

This is the second time North Texas will be a host city for the FIFA World Cup. Dallas hosted a World Cup quarterfinal match in 1994 at the Cotton Bowl. The 2026 event is expected to bring in nearly $400 million in revenue in the DFW region while creating as many as 3,000 new jobs.

"Few venues can compete with our world-class AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Field, which are surrounded by upscale hotels, dining, shopping and entertainment," said Arlington Mayor Jim Ross during the announcement. "We are proud of strong partnerships here in North Texas that have helped us attract and put on some of the most successful and unforgettable high-profile events, including the Super Bowl XLV, NCAA Final Four, the World Series and WWE WrestleMania. This region is prepared to come together and host the best FIFA World Cup yet."

FIFA World Cup 2026 sites also include Atlanta, Boston, Guadalajara, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Monterrey, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, and Vancouver.



Panorama view of ATT Stadium during 2009 Gold Cup Soccer match July 19, 2009.

Across

3. The Historic 1895 Courthouse is made from what type of stone? *(granite)*

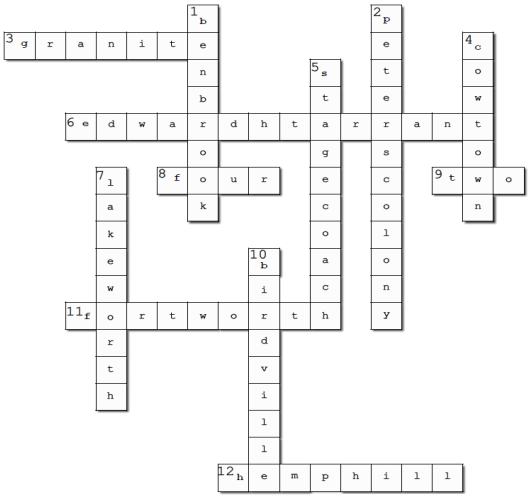
6. What general is the county named after? *(edwardhtarrant)*

8. How many soldiers from Tarrant County have received our nation's highest honor for valor? *(four)*

9. Number of years it took to build the 1895 Courthouse. *(two)*

11. What city is the county seat of Tarrant County? *(fortworth)*

12. This street is considered to be a part of the Chisholm Trail which came through central Fort Worth from the south. *(hemphill)*



Down

1. Internationally famous dancer, Vernon Castle, was killed near what city training Canadian pilots in WWI? *(vernoncastle)*

2. Tarrant County is one of 26 counties created from this colony in 1849. *(peterscolony)*

4. Fort Worth is also known as what name after becoming a major center for buying and shipping livestock. *(Cowtown)*

5. Type of transportation used by train passengers to continue their journey west. *(stagecoach)*

7. People drove their cars on this lake when it froze over in 1930. *(lakeworth)*

10. Original county seat until special election in 1860. *(birdville)*

MHMR of Tarrant County

Providing A Path To Employment For People With Intellectual Disabilities

For over 20 years, ABG has been known for timely work and excellent customer service. Customers across Tarrant County rely on ABG to fulfill mail-room and service needs with reliability, attention to detail, and ability to customize jobs.

ABG was created to support people with disabilities to work and earn money in a noncompetitive work environment. These businesses consist of ABG Fulfillment and Document Destruction.

- **ABG Fulfillment**: Assembly and packaging for various businesses across the U.S. This business employs 28 workers with disabilities.
- **Document Destruction**: Provide bins to businesses that need paper documents destroyed on a regular basis. A driver and a worker pick up full bins from businesses, which are brought back to ABG to complete destruction. This business employs six workers with disabilities.

Supported Employment can be a path to employment for people with intellectual disabilities like autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other conditions. People with disabilities can build job and social skills while participating in day habilitation programming. Texas Workforce Commission-VR offers many employment services for people with disabilities.

MHMR is a provider of many of these services. For people with disabilities, building skills can lead to a competitive job opportunity in the Tarrant County community.

ABG is always open to new business opportunities and contracting locally and across the U.S. To inquire about ABG's services, call 817-569-4800.



An ABG participant is sorting information flyers, coupons and samples for contract work at ABG.

9th Annual SENIOR SYNERGY EXPO

Thank you to all of the sponsors for the 2022 Senior Synergy Expo! Over 2,400 attendees were able to receive much needed resources and services all due to your generosity and commitment to the community.

TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

County Administrator	817-884-1267
County Clerk	
Criminal / Misdemeanor Records	817-884-1066
County Courts at Law	817-884-1101
Passports	817-884-1408
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	817-884-1550
Criminal District Attorney	817-884-1400
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	817-838-4660
Human Services	817-531-5620
Public Health	817-321-4700
Resource Connection	817-531-7600
Sheriff's Office	817-884-3009
Jail Information	817-884-3116
Victim Identification	817-884-8463
Warrant Division	817-884-1320
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes	817-884-1100
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	817-894-1945
Veterans Services	817-531-5645

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 C. Brooks, Precinct 1	817-370-4500
Commissioner Devan Allen, 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

Tarrant County Legislative Delegation

Texas House

District 90 Representative: Ramon Romero, D-Fort Worth	ramon.romero@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0740
District 91 Representative: Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth	stephanie.klick@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0599
District 92 Representative: Jeff Cason, R-Bedford	jeff.cason@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0522
District 93 Representative: Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth	matt.krause@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0562
District 94 Representative: Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington	tony.tinderholdt@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0624
District 95 Representative: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth	nicole.collier@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0716
District 96 Representative: David Cook, R-Arlington	david.cook@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0374
District 97 Representative: Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth	craig.goldman@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
District 98 Representative: Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake	giovanni.capriglione@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0690
District 99 Representative: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	512-463-0610
District 101 Representative: Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie	chris.turner@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0574

Texas Senate

District 9 Senator: Kelly Hancock, R-Westlake	kelly.hancock@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0109
District 10 Senator: Beverly Powell, D-Fort Worth	beverly.powell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0110
District 12 Senator: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound	jane.nelson@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0112
District 22 Senator: Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury	brian.birdwell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0122